

Franklin, of Leland Stanford University; William Hoskins, chemical engineer of Chicago; Professor H. P. Talbot, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Ira Remsen, president emeritus of Johns Hopkins University; Professor F. W. Richards, of Harvard; Dr. Charles L. Parsons, of the Bureau of Mines; Dr. Reed Hunt, of Harvard; Professor W. D. Bancroft, of Cornell; Professor A. B. Lamb, of the Havemeyer Laboratory, New York University; W. K. Lewis, Chemical Engineer of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor C. A. Hulett, of Princeton; Yandell Henderson, of the Yale Medical School, and Dr. F. B. Underhill, of Yale.

In a letter dated June 26 to Dr. Van H. Manning, chief of the Bureau of Mines, notifying him of the coordination of war gas experimental work in the War Department, President Wilson wrote as follows :

I have had before me for some days the question presented by the Secretary of War involving the transfer of the chemical section established by you at the American University from the Bureau of Mines to the newly organized Division of Gas Warfare, in which the War Department is now concentrating all the various facilities for offensive and defensive gas operations. I am satisfied that a more efficient organization can be effected by having these various activities under one direction and control, and my hesitation about acting in the matter has grown only out of a reluctance to take away from the Bureau of Mines a piece of work which thus far it has so effectively performed. The Secretary of War has assured me of his own recognition of the splendid work you have been able to do, and I am taking the liberty of inclosing a letter which I have received from him in order that you may see how fully the War Department recognizes the value of the services.

I am to-day signing the order directing the transfer. I want, however, to express to you my own appreciation of the fine and helpful piece of work which you have done, and to say that this sort of teamwork by the bureaus outside of the direct war-making agency is one of the cheering and gratifying evidences of the way our official forces are inspired by the presence of a great national task.

WAR ACTIVITIES OF THE U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY

By executive order dated May 16, 1918, the President transferred to the service and jurisdiction of the Navy Department for temporary use the Coast and Geodetic Survey steamers *Patterson* and *Explorer*, including their equipment and personnel other than commissioned officers. These vessels have been employed for many years in surveys on the Pacific coast and chiefly on the coast of Alaska.

Since the beginning of the war the work of this bureau has been almost entirely for military purposes. Five vessels, three on the Atlantic and two on the Pacific coast, have been transferred to the Navy, and about twenty-three per cent. of the personnel has been transferred to some branch of the military service. Of the remaining force most of the field officers are engaged in land or hydrographic surveys for the Army or Navy, and a large portion of the office force is employed in reducing and publishing the results thus obtained.

A very important part of the office work is the preparation and production of charts, coast pilots and tide tables for vessels of the Navy and Merchant Marine, including those operated by the Shipping Board, the Railroad Administration, the Coast Guard and the Bureau of Lighthouses. The officers of the Survey are trained in work of triangulation, precise leveling, astronomic work, hydrographic surveying and chart construction, and are particularly available for service as navigation officers in the Navy and for duty with the Corps of Engineers, the Artillery Corps and the Aviation Service of the Army.

MAGNETIC OBSERVATIONS

THE various parties sent out by the Carnegie Department of Terrestrial Magnetism and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, have all reported securing successful series of magnetic observations during the time of the total solar eclipse of June 8. Magnetic observations were made by the Coast and Geodetic Survey at Green River, Wyo., Mena, Ark., and Orlando, Fla. In addition data will be obtained from the various magnetic observatories of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The stations at which magnetic observations were made by the observers of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism were: Goldendale, Wash.; Corona, Colo.; at an altitude of 12,000 feet; Moraine Lake, Colo.; Lakin, Kans.; Brewton, Ala., and Washington, D. C. At Lakin, furthermore, and at Washington, D. C., atmospheric-electric observations were made. Reports on the results obtained will be published in the September issue of the journal *Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity*. At various universities also series of magnetic observations were obtained and data will likewise be furnished by the Canadian magnetic observatories.

The magnetic survey vessel *Carnegie* arrived safely at her home port, Washington, D. C., on June 10, where she will be put out of commission probably during the period of the war. During her cruise from Buenos Aires, Argentina, around The Horn to Valparaiso, Chile, Callao, Peru, thence through the Panama Canal to Newport News, she was in command of Dr. H. M. W. Edmonds; the other members of the scientific staff aboard were: Messrs. A. D. Power, Bradley Jones, L. L. Tanguy, J. M. McFadden, and Walter E. Scott.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. THEODORE W. RICHARDS, Erving professor of chemistry and director of the Wolcott Gibbs Memorial Laboratory at Harvard University, has been made a foreign member of the Accademia dei Lincei, Rome. He has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy.

SIR JAMES DEWAR has been awarded the medal of the Society of Chemical Industry in recognition of the conspicuous services which, by his research work in both pure and applied science, he has rendered to chemical industry.

THE French Geological Society has awarded the Conrad Ealte-Brun prize to Professor Lawrence Martin, of the University of Wisconsin, for his studies on the glaciers of Alaska.

DR. VICTOR C. VAUGHAN, of the University of Michigan, and Dr. George E. Crile, of Western Reserve University, have been promoted to

the rank of Colonel in the Medical Corps of the National Army.

DR. LEONARD P. AYRES has been made a colonel and is attached to General Pershing's staff in France. Dr. Ayres has had charge of the statistical work of the War Department in Washington.

CAPTAIN PAUL H. DEKRUUF, Ph.D. (Michigan), has been ordered to return to the United States for the purpose of making special investigations on gas gangrene. Captain DeKruif has been in France for some months studying at the Pasteur Institute in Paris. He expects to remain in this country for about three months, when he will return to France.

SUPERVISORY authority over several of the largest explosive manufacturing plants in the country has been granted to Professor Arthur H. Hixson, of the chemistry department at the University of Iowa. He holds the position of consulting chemical engineer in the ordnance department.

DR. ARTHUR CARLETON TROWBRIDGE, of the geology staff of the State University, for the past few months in charge of the work at Camp Dodge, has been called to New York to take a place on the national war work council of the Y. M. C. A.

DR. CHAS. W. BURROWS, associate physicist of the National Bureau of Standards in charge of the magnetic section of that institution, has resigned and will take up the work of commercial research and consultation, with laboratories equipped for research on problems involving magnetic materials and apparatus located at Grasmere, Borough of Richmond, New York City.

DR. VERN B. STEWART, of Cornell University, has accepted an appointment in the Bureau of Plant Industry, and is at present engaged in work on the pathological aspects of markets inspection of vegetables.

MR. H. J. MORGAN, of the General Chemical Company, has been transferred from the Delaware Works at Marcus Hook, Pa., to the main laboratories of the company at Laurel Hill, Long Island, where he will be chemist in charge.