

engineer and from 100 to 200 enlisted men who are continually employed in work designed to protect the health of the soldiers.

Special attention is now being given in all camps to cleaning up spots where mosquitoes and flies breed. In some cases it has been necessary to dig channels in streams, drain swamps, and put in elaborate ditching systems in order to clean up stagnant pools and streams. In those cases where it has been found impossible or impracticable to drain swamps and to do other work of a similar nature, there has been installed a system for keeping these slow-moving streams and still bodies of water covered with oil. At all points within the camp where there is the slightest possibility of mosquitoes or flies breeding daily spraying of oil is done.

Arrangements have been completed with the Federal Public Health Service to carry out a similar program in the territories adjacent to the camps. The Health Service has agreed to fill bogs, open streams and drain swamps and continue the oil spraying for a distance of 1 mile around all camps.

Special precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of disease by flies. With the approach of the fly season a general order was sent to all division surgeons and other health officers to take all necessary steps to prevent the breeding of flies. Instructions were given on the disposal of materials that were likely to become breeding spots. Arrangements were made to protect all food from flies. With this end in view all buildings in which food is prepared or stored were screened. The entrance to the buildings have been vestibuled. An added guard is the placing of flytraps in all buildings. An average of 6,000 such traps have been placed in each camp. More than 22,700,000 square feet of screening has been placed in all camps.

THE WEATHER BUREAU AND DR. CLEVELAND ABBE

THE Secretary of Agriculture has removed Dr. Cleveland Abbe, Jr., from his position in the Weather Bureau by the following order:

For the good of the service you are hereby removed from your position as meteorologist in the

Weather Bureau of this department, effective at the termination of July 3, 1918.

In transmitting Mr. Houston's order Dr. C. F. Marvin, chief of the Weather Bureau wrote:

I find myself confronted with the most painful duty of transmitting to you the inclosed letter, received this morning from the department, removing you from the government service. The reasons for this action are connected altogether with your conduct and your long-standing and generally well-known friendly sympathies for the imperial German government.

The bureau is not in possession of any of the details of investigation or records leading to this action by the secretary, but it is known to result from investigations made by the Department of Justice, and which I may say were not the result of any suggestions or representations by employees of the Weather Bureau, but were initiated entirely by outside sources.

A searching inquiry of your innermost heart in respect to your attitude toward the United States government must convince you that patriotism and genuine loyalty to the United States are absolutely incompatible with friendly sentiment for Germanism.

Denial of these charges is made in a letter written to Dr. Marvin by Dr. Abbe on July 7. The letter follows:

Your communication of the third, transmitting the very brief but astounding and inexplicable letter of the Secretary of Agriculture, so overwhelmed me with new duties and emotions that I have but now come to the realization of the unjust and even insulting accusations it contains to the effect that I have "friendly sympathies for the imperial German government" and "friendly sentiments for Germanism." These I must indignantly deny.

We have spoken together on this subject and you know that I have always distinguished between the German people and the actions of the imperial government since 1914, and I am glad to see that your letter indicates that you do not believe the truth of the statements you make concerning me. If you did believe them, duty would have required you to report me to the Department of Justice; but you state explicitly that the present action is "not the result of any suggestions or representations by the employees of the Weather Bureau." However, since you have placed such a statement

concerning me in the Weather Bureau files on this matter, I must ask to register herewith, in the same files, my indignant denial of any friendly feeling toward or sympathy for the imperial German government and my abhorrence of its official acts. I also repudiate indignantly the suggestion that I have, or could have, anything in common with what is now currently known as "Germanism."

It should not be necessary, but I once again do protest my sincere, genuine and undivided loyalty to the United States and to its government, its ideals, and particularly its published objects in this war. The most searching inquiry of my own acts and feelings fails to reveal to me any deficiency in this respect. It is well known to you that I have subscribed to the extent of my ability to the second and third liberty loans, to the Red Cross and its work, and to other activities.

You are, yourself, convinced of the truth of my statements, and, as you do not wish to see an unjust disgrace laid upon the name I bear, I believe you will aid my efforts to secure the common justice of an opportunity to learn from the Secretary of Agriculture the charges collected against me and to answer them fully in his presence.

GROVE KARL GILBERT

IN the *Journal of Geology* Professor Thomas C. Chamberlin pays the following editorial tribute to the late Dr. Gilbert:

The passing of Dr. Gilbert after almost seventy-five years of activity deprives geological science of one of its ablest and most honored representatives. It is permitted to few men to leave an equally enviable record. To an unusual degree his work was distinguished by keenness of observation, by depth of penetration, by soundness in induction, and by clarity of exposition. It is doubtful whether the products of any other geologist of our day will escape revision at the hands of future research to a degree equal to the writings of Grove Karl Gilbert. And yet this is not assignable to limitation of field, or to simplicity of phenomena, or to restriction in treatment. The range of his inquiries was wide, his special subjects often embraced intricate phenomena, while his method was acutely analytical and his treatment tended always to bring into declared form the basal principles that underlay the phenomena in hand.

In the literature of our science the laccolith will doubtless always be associated with the name of Gilbert. In its distinctness as a type, in its uniqueness of character, and in the definite place it was

given at once by common consent, one may almost fancy a figurative resemblance between the laccolith and its discoverer and expositor. Gilbert's monographs on the Henry Mountains and on Lake Bonneville will long stand as unexcelled models of monographic treatment. His contributions to physiographic evolution, particularly his analysis of the processes that end in base-leveling, link his name with that of Powell, and give to these two close friends a unique place as joint leaders in interpreting morphologic processes. Glacial and hydraulic phenomena were also fields in which Gilbert's powers as an investigator and expositor were signally displayed.

In accuracy of delineation, in clearness of statement, and in grace of diction Gilbert's contributions are certain long to stand as models of the first order. His personality was of the noblest type; he was a charming companion in the field; he was a trusted counselor in the study. The high place he has held in the esteem of coworkers is quite certain to merge into an even higher permanent place to be accorded him by the mature judgment of the future.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE annual convocation meeting of the American Federation of Biological Societies will be held this year in Baltimore. The date of the meeting is from December 30 to January 1 inclusive. The federation includes the following national societies: The American Physiological Society, the American Society of Biological Chemists, The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and the American Society for Experimental Pathology.

DR. J. M. T. FINNEY and Dr. William S. Thayer, chief consultants of the Medical Service of the American Expeditionary Forces, have received promotions advancing their rank from major to colonel. The following named officers have been promoted from major to lieutenant-colonel: Thomas R. Boggs, James T. Case, George W. Crile, Harvey Cushing, Joel W. Goldthwait, James F. McKernon, Charles H. Peck, Thomas A. Salmon, Hugh H. Young, N. Allison and E. L. Keyes.

CAPTAIN JOSEPH LEIDY, who has been instructor in gas defense and divisional gas officer of the 30th Division, Camp Sevier,