

Secretary Lane made this announcement in reviewing the progress made by private concerns and the Department of the Interior in developing means or producing potash. In addition to the manufacture of potash from the brine lakes of California, Nebraska and other states, and kelp or seaweed of the Pacific coast and from various minerals, the secretary said that through processes discovered by Dr. Frederick Cottrell, chief metallurgist of the Bureau of Mines, potash is being made from smelter, blast furnace and cement plant by-products. A single large blast furnace, it is estimated, will yield from 5,000 to 7,000 tons of potash annually.

THE national park on Mount Desert Island, on the Maine coast, is henceforth to be known as Lafayette National Park. Announcement to that effect has been made by Secretary Lane of the Department of the Interior. The new national park is to embrace lands once owned by France and the name conferred upon it is meant to express America's deep sympathy with France, as well as grateful appreciation of aid afforded to us by that nation in the past. Two years ago these lands were proclaimed the Sieur de Monts National Monument. They constitute the dominant and chief landscape part of Mount Desert Island. The island was discovered by Champlain and for more than a century was a part of French Arcadia.

The Scottish Geographical Magazine states that the Council of the "Touring Club Italiano" has announced its intention of producing a *Grande Atlante Internazionale*. In its general scope and conception the Atlas is to be essentially Italian, but it will also emphasize international features. Italy aims at the extension of her world commerce, and particular attention will be paid to showing the means of communication and transport in different countries. Whilst developing the best characteristics of the great atlases which it desires to emulate, it will also include various large-scale maps of the Italian colonies and those parts of Italy most frequented by tourists. The whole scheme is a considerable undertaking, but it appears to be well organ-

ized. The maps are to be issued to subscribers in sets, and each set will be complete in itself for one or more countries. It is expected that about sixteen maps will appear annually, and that it will take about eight or ten years to complete the whole work. This seems a long time, but it is hoped that progress will be expedited when the work is fairly under way. The scientific editor of the atlas is to be Professor Olinto Marinelli of Florence; the technical work of drawing and engraving will be under the supervision of Signor P. Corbellini; whilst the general direction will be controlled by Signor L. V. Bertarelli at the office of the club in Milan. The Touring Club Italiano had done excellent work in the past, and its cartographic achievements in the department of touring maps and guidebooks are worthy of high praise. We have, therefore, every reason to believe that this new and ambitious venture will justify all expectations of success.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

DR. ALLAN J. SMITH has been appointed dean of the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania in succession to Dr. William Pepper.

DR. E. D. BALL, state entomologist of Wisconsin, has accepted the position of chairman of the department of zoology and entomology at the Iowa State College at Ames. He will also be entomologist of the Experiment Station and state entomologist.

DR. JOSEPH PETERSON, assistant professor of psychology in the University of Minnesota and chairman of the department for the present academic year, has resigned to accept a professorship in psychology in George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn.

DR. R. M. WINGER, of the department of mathematics of the University of Oregon, has accepted a professorship in mathematics at the University of Washington.

DR. E. L. PACKARD, head of the department of geology at the Agricultural College of Mississippi during the past year, has returned to

the University of Oregon as professor of geology.

GEORGE W. MUSGRAVE has resigned his position in the Bureau of Soils, United States Department of Agriculture, to become assistant professor of agronomy at Rutgers College.

DR. R. KUDO, formerly in charge of the department of protozoology of the Imperial Sericultural Experiment Station of Japan, and last year temporary assistant at the Rockefeller Institute in New York City, has been appointed instructor in zoology at the University of Illinois.

MRS. HELEN B. OWENS has been appointed instructor in mathematics at Cornell University.

JOSEPH WARREN PHELAN has been appointed lecturer on industrial chemistry at Harvard University. Harlan True Stetson has been appointed instructor in astronomy in the same institution.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

THE SCIENTIFIC NAME OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON

THE technical name of the passenger pigeon has for many years been *Ectopistes migratorius* (Linnæus) (= *Columba migratoria* Linnæus, "Syst. Nat.," ed. 12, I., 1766, p. 285). There is, however, another name, *Columba canadensis* Linnæus ("Syst. Nat.," ed. 12, I., 1766, p. 284), based on the *Turtur canadensis* of Brisson ("Ornith.," I., 1760, p. 118), that needs consideration. Reference to Brisson shows conclusively that his detailed description is that of the female passenger pigeon, as he mentions particularly the rufescent tail-spots. Both *Columba canadensis* Linnæus and *Columba migratoria* Linnæus are of equal pertinence, and there seems to be no reason for the rejection of the former, since both the International and the American Ornithologists' Union codes of nomenclature provide definitely for the enforcement of the principle of anteriority (page precedence) in such cases. We should, therefore, hereafter call the passenger pigeon *Ectopistes canadensis* (Linnæus).

HARRY C. OBERHOLSER

ALLEGED REDISCOVERY OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON

STATEMENT BY JOHN M. CLARKE, DIRECTOR .
NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

The enclosed letter from Mr. M. Rasmussen, of Amsterdam, N. Y., is in reply to an inquiry from me regarding a statement of his discovery which Mr. Rasmussen had left with one of my associates at the State Museum.

I have had a personal interview with Mr. Rasmussen since the date of the enclosed letter, in which he tells me that he has been a student and observer of birds for twenty-five years; that he had with him on this date, October 1, Mr. C. O. Wilson and Mr. William Sanders, of Amsterdam, both students, and that they were together for a bird study trip through the country in the vicinity of West Galway and Charlton, N. Y.

56 GLEN AVE.,

AMSTERDAM, N. Y., October, 5, 1918.

DR. JOHN M. CLARKE,
Director, State Museum,
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Sir: Answering your letter of yesterday: Yes I am absolutely sure that the birds were passenger pigeons and not the mourning dove. I could not have made this positive observation by seeing the flock, because we did not get close enough to make sure, but some were in a buckwheat field on the opposite side of the road from the field where we raised the flock, and because we knew, by seeing the flock and by the whistling sound of their wings, that we had seen wild pigeons we took precaution to get as close to them as possible. Two of us were fortunate enough to have a bird light on a low limb of a tree only a few feet in front of us, as we were standing still under cover in the edge of the woodlot, while my dog was raising the birds in the field. We were so close that we could see the orange-red skin about the eyes, and the bluish color of the back and the head with no black spot near the ear region; also the large size of the bird convinced us that we had a passenger pigeon before us, and that we had seen a small flock of them a few minutes before.

The mourning dove is not so rare a bird to me. I have seen small flocks of them from time to time during the twenty-five years I have lived in this state.

I never but once before saw wild passenger