

allow the use of that system merely as optical. Any uniform system of classifying merchandise, however, will require on the part of the United States thoroughgoing and complete adherence to the metric system.

Of more importance than statistical and administrative questions is the use of the metric system in trade. Now that the United States is obviously being drawn into closer and more vital commercial relations by the rest of the world, and particularly with Latin-America, our manufacturers and exporters will be obliged to meet the demands of their prospective customers in a somewhat more accommodating frame of mind than hitherto. Only the English-speaking nations still have to adopt the metric system of weights and measures, and among them the British Empire, or at least Great Britain, seems to be giving serious consideration to the necessity of making a change. Those who read the Commerce Reports of the United States Department of Commerce know how numerous are the opportunities necessarily allowed to pass by because of our inability to supply goods and machinery constructed in accordance with the metric system. The subject has now assumed a most practical character in the minds of those who are planning for post-war trade expansion.

The resolution adopted by the commission is as follows:

The United States section of the International High Commission, having in view the present efforts to bring about the exclusive use of the metric system of weights and measures within the jurisdiction of the United States, resolves:

I. That in the opinion of the section the adoption of that system would be productive of great advantage in the commercial relations of the United States with the other American republics.

II. That the secretary of the section be directed to communicate a copy of this resolution to the chairman of the proper committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

AN ECOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK

LAST spring a cooperative ecological survey of the Palisades Interstate Park was estab-

lished by the commissioners of the Park and the department of forest zoology of The New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. The park is a large area of about 30,000 acres under the management of joint commissioners representing the states of New York and New Jersey. The park lies along the lower Hudson, including most of the scenic portion of the Palisades, on the west bank of the Hudson, and a relatively large area (the Harriman section) south and west of West Point, in the low wooded mountains of the Hudson Highlands.

This survey is intended to relate the wild life of the park to its numerous visitors, of which during the season just closed there have been about 48,000 campers, who averaged ten days each. Investigations of the birds have been made by Professor P. M. Silloway; the plankton organisms by Dr. Gilbert M. Smith and the fish by Dr. Chas. C. Adams and Professor T. L. Hankinson, assisted by A. E. Fivaz. The first season's field work has been completed and publications on the survey are in preparation from the standpoint of park utilization. The birds have been studied from an educational and recreational, as well as an ecological, point of view. The plankton for its bearing upon the problem of drinking water needed in the park, the fish, and the bathing facilities. The fish have been studied from the standpoint of food, education and recreation. The water storage area has been greatly increased by dams, creating and enlarging ponds and reservoirs. A system of management for these waters and the streams is to be worked out in harmony with the aims of the park.

Those in immediate charge of the work are Mr. Edward F. Brown, manager of the camp department of the park, and Dr. Charles C. Adams, forest zoologist of the college. This is the first comprehensive ecological survey systematically conducted and intended to relate primarily the wild life forest resources of a large public park to the educational, recreational, scientific and economic activities of the park. Many of the problems are the same

general character as those of our national parks. It will require several years to complete the plans now under way. Only the more urgent problems were begun this season. This survey has the hearty support of Mr. George W. Perkins, president of the Park Commissioners, and Dean F. F. Moon, of the College of Forestry.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Société Médicale des Hôpitaux de Paris elected at a recent meeting, as corresponding members: Dr. Alexander Lambert, the president-elect of the American Medical Association, director of the medical service of the American Red Cross in France; Colonel James T. Case, editor of the *American Journal of Radiology* and chief of the radiologic service of the American Army in France; Professor William S. Thayer of Johns Hopkins, consultant to the American Expeditionary Force; Professor Morton Prince of Tufts College; Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, and Professor Beverley Robinson of the University and Bellevue Hospital, New York, a former intern of the Paris hospitals. At the same time, five British physicians were also elected, Sir Almroth Wright, Sir Bertrand Dawson, Sir Thomas Barlow, Sir Dyce Duckworth and Sir William Leishman.

WE learn from the *Journal* of the Washington Academy of Sciences that among those at the Bureau of Standards are: Dr. F. W. McNair, president of the Michigan School of Mines, working on airplane engine problems; Dr. C. Nussbaum, formerly instructor in physics at Harvard University, engaged in the study of aeronautic instruments; Mr. E. P. Peck, formerly superintendent of operation of the Georgia Railway and Power Company, assisting in the standardization of electrical apparatus, and Lieutenant Henri Cretien, of the French army, who has been engaged in research work in military problems related to optics.

PROFESSOR G. F. HULL, of Dartmouth College, has been commissioned a major in the Ordnance Department, and is now in Washington.

DR. WILLIAM H. ROSS, of the Bureau of Soils, has been commissioned a captain in the Chemical Warfare Service, and has been assigned to the Edgewood Arsenal, Edgewood, Maryland.

PROFESSOR ROSWELL P. ANGIER, of Yale University, is a captain in the Sanitary Corps, National Army, at the Hazelhurst Field Medical Research Laboratory, Mineola, L. I. He has been engaged in research work on psychological tests for aviators and in instructing other psychologists to give, at other aviation fields of the country, tests already devised.

MR. B. H. RAWL, chief of the Dairy Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry since 1909, has been appointed assistant chief of the bureau.

IN the U. S. National Museum Dr. Charles W. Richmond has been promoted to be associate curator of birds. Mr. Bradshaw H. Swales has been appointed honorary curator of birds' eggs.

PROFESSOR C. D. CHILD, head of the department of physics at Colgate University, is spending the current college year at Cornell University, engaged in special government research.

LIEUTENANT GEORGE O. FERGUSON, JR., associate professor of psychology at Colgate University, is stationed at Camp Lee, Virginia, in charge of the psychological examination of men in that camp.

DR. THOMAS P. MCCUTCHEON, associate professor of chemistry of the University of Pennsylvania, has been assigned to overseas duty as consultant chemist in connection with the Chemical Warfare Service. Dr. McCutcheon, who is serving in a civilian capacity, spent the entire summer in government service at Washington.

D. FOREST HUNGERFORD, professor of chemistry at the University of Arkansas, has accepted a position with the United States De-