

Mr H. Burnie, chairman of the organizing Committee, reported that the Royal School of Mines Old Students' Association had passed a resolution giving support to the proposal. The chairman then formally moved that the petition be signed and forwarded to the governors of the college. Captain E. G. Lawford, in seconding the resolution, declared that the time had come when it was absolutely impossible for the Imperial College to carry on exactly as it was now. The reconstruction of London University had been approved, and would be undertaken very shortly; and in that reconstruction the Imperial College was bound to become involved. This would be disastrous to the college. The Imperial College was now standing on the brink of an upheaval, and unless a very strong line was taken it was bound to lose its own identity. By absorption, the college would lose control of its own funds—and of its syllabus, and of its identity as the Imperial College.

CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SECRETARY LANE reports that definite progress was made in the month of January, 1919, in the classification of lands effected by the Geological Survey of the Interior Department. The principal action affecting mineral lands was the restoration of somewhat more than 773,000 acres in North Dakota. These lands lie in the lignite area of that state and the government still owns coal in only a relatively small proportion of those restored. As to this proportion, the restoration will permit the purchase of these lands or of the coal within them at prices of \$10 and \$20 per acre.

A portion of the results of last summer's field work in the examination of the question of irrigability of western lands appears in orders approved during January which designated somewhat more than 1,000,000 acres for entry under the so-called enlarged-homestead act, the principal requirement under this act being that the lands shall be nonirrigable. The areas designated by states appear in the following table:

| | Acres |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Idaho | 10,840 |
| Montana | 17,876 |
| Oregon | 39,720 |
| South Dakota | 211,331 |
| Wyoming | 726,131 |
| Total | 1,005,898 |

Similar progress was manifested during January in rendering lands available for entry in tracts of 640 acres each under the stock-raising homestead law. Somewhat more than 940,000 acres were designated during the month under this act. These lands are distributed as indicated in the table below:

| | Acres |
|------------------|---------|
| Arizona | 47,020 |
| California | 97,332 |
| Colorado | 91,097 |
| Kansas | 17,100 |
| New Mexico | 392,320 |
| Oklahoma | 4,998 |
| Oregon | 57,500 |
| Wyoming | 234,050 |
| Total | 941,417 |

The total area thus far designated by the secretary for entry under the stockraising homestead act is now a little more than 13,500,000 acres. This work has been accomplished in the slightly more than 19 months since Congress first made provision for the administration of the stock-raising homestead act. After that provision was made, the force for the classifications had to be organized, the principles of classification determined, the lands examined, decisions reached as to their character, and the orders of designation issued.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces open competitive examinations for scientific positions as follows:

Department of the Interior: Geological Survey: Geologic aid, March 12-13, \$90 a month to \$1,440 a year; assistant geologist, March 12-13, \$1,500 to \$1,800 a year. Indian Service: Oil and gas inspector, March 25, \$1,500 to \$1,800 a year. Public Health Service: Statistical clerk, March 26, \$1,000 to \$1,800 a year. Patent Office: Assistant ex-

aminer, March 26-28, May 21-23, July 23-25, \$1,500 a year.

Department of Agriculture: Assistant horticulturist, March 18, \$1,800 to \$2,200 a year; superintendent of road construction, March 25, \$150 to \$250 a month; assistant dairy husbandman, March 26, \$1,500 to \$1,740 a year; scientific assistant, April 22-23, \$900 to \$1,800 a year; United States Game Warden, May 7, \$1,500 a year; physical laboratory helper, March 12, April 9, May 7, and June 4, \$600 to \$900 a year.

Department of Commerce: Physical laboratory helper, March 12, April 9, May 7, and June 4, \$600 to \$900 a year; Bureau of Fisheries: Apprentice fish culturist, March 12, April 9, May 7, and June 4, \$600 to \$960 a year. Coast and Geodetic Survey: Marine engineer, April 1, \$100 to \$140 a month.

Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board: Supervisor, social hygiene (open to women only), March 25, \$2,000 to \$2,500 a year; assistant special agent, social hygiene (open to women only), March 25, \$600 to \$1,000 a year.

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics: Chief physicist, qualified in aeronautics, March 25, \$3,000 a year; physicist, March 25, \$2,100 a year.

Full information and application blanks may be obtained by addressing the United States Civil Service Commission at Washington, D. C., or the civil-service district secretary at Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Paul, St. Louis, New Orleans, Seattle, or San Francisco.

THE COMMITTEE ON GRANTS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE Committee on Grants was appointed by the council of the association to distribute the annual appropriation for research. It is intended that encouragement and support be given to investigations in any of the fields covered by the activities of the association. For the current year the sum of \$4,000 has already been assigned, and will be available on April 1. Preference will be given to applications in which definite statement is made

of the nature of the problem, the main item of expense, and the probable time for completion of the research. Recipients of grants are expected to agree to the following conditions:

1. The work as outlined will be begun in the near future and efforts will be made to complete it at as early a date as possible.

2. A report will be made to the secretary of the committee on the completion and publication of the work, and in December of each year until the work is completed. The reports will include a financial statement with vouchers for the larger items.

3. In the publication of the results the grant from the Research Fund of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be acknowledged.

The membership of the committee for the year 1919 is: Henry Crew, chairman; N. L. Britton, W. B. Cannon, J. McK. Cattell, R. T. Chamberlin, L. I. Dublin, G. N. Lewis, G. H. Parker, Joel Stebbins, secretary.

All applications for grants should be received not later than March 15 by the secretary of the committee, who will see that they are properly considered.

JOEL STEBBINS,
Secretary

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS OBSERVATORY,
URBANA, ILL.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR EDWARD L. NICHOLS, who will reach the age of sixty-five, on September 14, has tendered his resignation of the professorship of physics, at Cornell University, which he has held since 1887.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has elected Major General Sir David Bruce, F.R.S., to be a foreign correspondent in the section of medicine and surgery.

COLONEL VICTOR C. VAUGHAN, dean of the medical school, of the University of Michigan, will return to the university and resume his duties for the second semester. Colonel Vaughan has been in Washington since the entrance of the United States into the war,