

Through the knowledge and experience which has been gained in the natural gas industry, it is now known how these wastes can be practically eliminated, but the main obstacles now to be overcome before these economies can be put into effect are economic rather than technical; that is modern engineering can control these wastes, but it is necessary that the saving be made worth while. There must be a thorough consideration of the broad, underlying economics of the gas business and its relations to the conservation and better utilization of natural gas. There is a necessity that the public more thoroughly understand the economics and technique of the gas business to the end that machinery be devised and put into operation whereby the interests of the public and the gas companies can be brought together in such a manner that the gas now being wasted can be saved and used.

It is the purpose of this committee to consider these broader questions of the relations between the consuming public and the gas companies, that a program may be drawn up looking forward to the application of those engineering principles which it is known minimize the waste of natural gas now taking place and prolong the supply of gas to the consumer.

#### THE STEINHART AQUARIUM

THE erection of an up-to-date aquarium in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, is an event of some significance in the scientific world and the fact that it is to be under the direction and management of the California Academy of Sciences and supervised by Dr. Barton Warren Evermann, the ichthyologist, will insure it fulfilling its purpose of quickening interest in the fauna of the Pacific Ocean and the inland waters of the Pacific coast area.

Funds for the building of the aquarium amounting to \$250,000 have been provided through the munificence of the late Ignatz Steinhart who stipulated in his will that the management should vest in the California Academy of Sciences. By an amendment to the city charter the city of San Francisco has undertaken the maintenance of the aquarium. The aquarium will be built adjoining the Academy's Museum building and will be equipped with a full complement of glass exhibition tanks. Outdoor pools for the exhibition of aquatic mammals form an essential part of the building scheme.

Dr. Evermann is now in the East and will visit the aquariums of Boston, New York, Detroit, Philadelphia and Washington to study carefully the most approved methods of installation.

#### RESIGNATION OF DEAN BAKER OF THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

An appeal for better salaries for educators, particularly those in New York State and in the New York State College of Forestry, at Syracuse marks the letter of resignation filed by Dean Hugh P. Baker, who has resigned after eight years of service, to accept twice the salary he is rated as receiving at the State College of Forestry, by becoming secretary of the American Paper and Pulp Association.

Although he receives a big increase in pay, his letter of retirement specifies that the inducement which caused him to leave the College of Forestry was not the salary, but the opportunity to carry the profession of forestry into a great industry, that of paper manufacturing. His letter discloses that last year he refused an offer of \$7,500 to enter a business career, but that the trustees increased his salary from \$5,000 to \$6,000 to remain, and he declined the offer. Owing to the rigidity of the New York state budget system, however, even this raise would not take effect until July, 1920, and only then if approved by the legislature. In his letter of resignation, he says this of the salaries of teachers: "The public is apathetic, to say the least, as to the needs of education, with the result that our public schools and colleges and universities throughout the country are suffering for the lack of the right kind of men and women in the teaching profession."

Dean Baker's last work at the College of Forestry will include an effort to secure adequate salaries for the educators in the college, some of whom are paid smaller than men in the same relative positions at other state educational institutions.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. DAVID F. HOUSTON, formerly president of Washington University, secretary of agriculture, has been nominated by President Wil-