

a sufficient number will take this up to insure the complete success of the project.

E. W. NELSON,
Chief of Bureau

THE PACIFIC COAST DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE fourth annual convention of the Pacific Coast Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will meet at the University of Washington, Seattle, on June 17, to continue three days. Delegates from California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and British Columbia, will be present. It is expected that more than 250 scientists will take part in the proceedings.

Delegates from California, Stanford, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Southern California universities, California Institute of Technology, Scripps Institute, Oregon Agricultural College, Reed College and Washington State College have been asked to attend the research conferences, which are under the direction of the National Research Council.

Morning sessions the first two days, Thursday and Friday, June 17 and 18, will be devoted to meetings of the affiliated societies, the Western Society of Naturalists, Pacific Fisheries Society, American Physical Society, Astronomical Society of the Pacific, Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America, Pacific Coast branch of the Paleontological Society, American Phytopathological Society, San Francisco section of the American Mathematical Society, Seismological Society, American Chemical Society, Cooper Ornithological Club, Ecological Society of America, Society of American Foresters and Research Society.

The program includes registration, programs of the affiliated societies, a symposium on fisheries, Seattle automobile drives and welcoming addresses by President Henry Suzzallo and John C. Merriam, dean of faculties of the University of California, president of the Pacific Coast division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and chairman of the states relations committee of the National Research Council. A Sigma Xi-Phi Beta Kappa lecture will be arranged for

on Friday evening. Provision will be made for excursions to Rainier National Park and the Biological and Astronomical stations, Snoqualmie Falls and other points of interest, and a reception at the University of Washington last evening.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF MINES

DR. VAN H. MANNING, director of the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, has tendered his resignation, effective on June 1, to President Wilson. Dr. Manning is leaving the government service to accept the position of director of research with the recently organized American Petroleum Institute, the most important body of petroleum men of the country.

In his letter to the President, Dr. Manning says:

I hereby tender you my resignation, to take effect June 1, 1920, as director of the Bureau of Mines.

It will be with reluctance and deep regret that I shall sever my connection with the Department of the Interior after thirty-four years of active service therein, and it is the opportunity of being able to continue in another capacity the work for the advancement of purposes fostered by the department that has been the chief factor in determining my decision to resign.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation of the confidence that you have reposed in me as a public official and of the cordial cooperation of the departmental executives whom I have been able to serve. Especially I appreciate your constant help in my efforts to develop an organization that has at heart the welfare of the public, the advancement of the mineral industry, and the safety of the two million workers who contribute to the success of that industry.

In leaving the government service there comes to me, as it has over and over again, the thought that although this government spends each year many millions of dollars in useful scientific work for the benefit of the whole people, the monetary recognition of its scientific and technical servants is not sufficient to enable them to continue in the service for the people. This has been especially true within the last few years when it has been impossible for many men to remain in the government service.

With the marvelous expansion of the industry of this country and the growing necessity of science to industry, the scientific bureaus have been utterly unable to hold their assistants against the competition of industry which is taking their highly trained men at salaries the government does not pay or even approach.

I feel very deeply that there ought to be more adequate compensation for the scientific and technical men in the government service so that none of them may be compelled to accept positions on the outside.

Many of these scientific men are of fine type for government work, care little for the commercial field, take an intense professional interest in their tasks and are of inestimable value to the government.

RESIGNATION OF PROFESSOR E. F. NICHOLS FROM THE YALE UNIVERSITY FACULTY

ANNOUNCEMENT is made from Yale University that the resignation of Ernest Fox Nichols, Sc.D., LL.D., professor of physics, has been tendered and accepted. Professor Nichols has accepted the post of director of pure science in the Nela Research Laboratories of the National Lamp Works of the General Electric Company, at Cleveland, Ohio.

In offering his resignation Dr. Nichols wrote the following letter to the Yale corporation in explanation of the conditions which had led to his decision:

SLOANE LABORATORY,
YALE UNIVERSITY,
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT,
April 21, 1920

THE CORPORATION OF YALE UNIVERSITY.

Gentlemen: I have been offered the post of director of pure science in the Nela Research Laboratories, National Lamp Works of the General Electric Company, at Cleveland, Ohio. The position offers complete freedom in the choice of research problems, and places at my unhampered disposal such human and material resources as no university I know of can at present afford.

I would like to accept this offer and therefore respectfully ask you to release me at the close of the present academic year from my post of professor of physics in Yale University.

The thought of leaving present colleagues and university surroundings is to me, in many ways, a source of deep regret, and I have hesitated long over my decision; yet the heightened opportunities

of the new position are in everything else so advantageous that the offer becomes finally irresistible.

With appreciation and sincere regard,

Yours very truly,

Signed: ERNEST FOX NICHOLS

Dr. Nichols went to Yale University in the fall of 1916 to occupy a new chair of physics, having resigned the presidency of Dartmouth College, in which capacity he had served since 1909, in order that he might have the desired opportunity to continue his scientific work. Professor Nichols is a graduate of the Kansas Agricultural College in the class of 1888, and has held professorships of physics in Colgate College, Dartmouth College and Columbia University. During the war from 1917 to 1919 he was absent from Yale University, to engage in research and development work for the navy.

THE ALLEGHENY OBSERVATORY

THE following minute was adopted by the observatory committee and also by the executive committee of the board of trustees of the University of Pittsburgh at its meeting on January 14:

In complying with the request of Dr. Frank Schlesinger that he be relieved of his duties as director on April 1, 1920, to take charge of the Yale Observatory, the committee desire to express their appreciation of his fifteen years of active and fruitful service, during which the Allegheny Observatory has made many valuable contributions to astronomical science, and worthily upheld its international reputation created by Langley and Keeler. While we regret to lose the valuable cooperation and friendly personal relationship which our long association with Dr. Schlesinger has developed, we sincerely congratulate him on the enlarged and attractive field of scientific usefulness which his new position offers; and heartily wish for himself and family, continued health, happiness and success. Moreover, we look forward with pleasure to our continued cooperation in the solution of the great astronomical problems which are rapidly bringing into closer fellowship the astrophysicists of the world.

On the evening of March 22, a few days before Dr. Schlesinger's departure for New