Barnes—and to go on at length, but where could I end it? Besides, it is not my function to deploy the Golden Age of the academy, but merely its founding. The other source of change came even closer to the hearts of the founders, the coming of choice youth of the state into productive membership in the academy, the children of the academy. They were equally and perhaps more the children of the educational institutions of the state, but we claim them as children of the academy none the less. Very notable among these was President Van Hise, who rapidly rose to leadership in the state, in the nation and beyond. It would be a delight to name many others, but how could the parental affection of a founder permit him to stop short of naming all the children of the academy? The dilemma is in itself evidence that the formative stage of the academy had already passed away. The founding of the academy had really taken place.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AITOFF'S EQUAL-AREA PROJECTION OF THE SPHERE

A projection of the whole sphere on an equivalent or equal area system devised by Aitoff, has just been issued by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, size 11 inches, price, 15 cents.

The sphere is represented within an ellipse with major axis twice the minor axis. No shoreline has been included since it is intended primarily for the plotting of the stars in astronomical work, its value for this kind of work being suggested by Professor Benjamin Boss, of the Dudley Observatory, Albany, N. Y.

The projection is bounded by an ellipse similar to that which is used in Mollweide's equal area projection but, since the parallels are curved lines, the distortion in the polar regions is less in evidence. The net-work of meridians and parallels is obtained by the orthogonal or perpendicular projection of a Lambert meridional equal area hemisphere upon a plane making an angle of 60° to the plane of the original.

The fact that it is an equivalent or equal area projection combined with the fact that the celestial sphere is represented in one continuous map, will show at a glance the relative frequency of stars in the different regions of the expanse of the heavens. As constructed the radius of the sphere to be projected is taken as a decimeter so that the graticule has a very convenient size for general use.

As used for a map of the world, this projection is well adapted to replace the Mercator

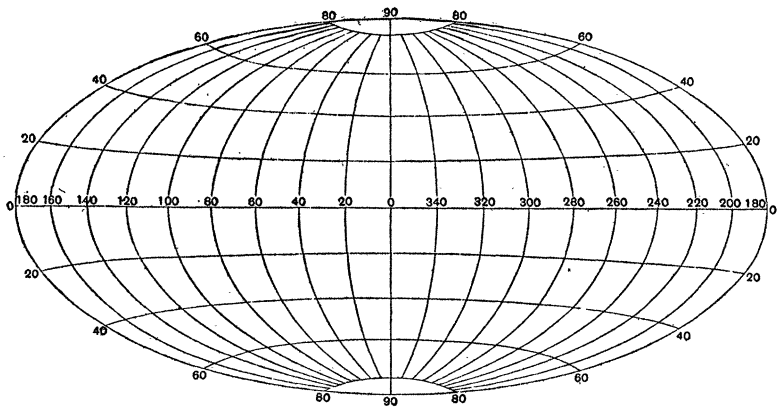

Fig. 1.

projection in atlases of physical geography or for statistical purposes and has the advantage over Mollweide's in that its representation of the shape of countries far east and west of the central meridian is not so distorted because meridians and parallels are not so oblique to one another.

By employing the meridian of Greenwich as a central meridian, the continental masses can be mapped where the projection is at its best and the greater distortion transferred to the Pacific Ocean.

RETIREMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES

THE act providing for the retirement of civil service employees is now effective. It applies to employees who have been in the classified service 15 or more years and who have reached the age of 70 years (65 years in the case of mechanics). Employees eligible for retirement are divided into six classes depending on length of service, and the maximum and minimum annuities in each class are specified by law, being contingent on the average annual basic salary for the last 10 years of service. The classes, maximum rates and annuities are as follows:

A. Service, 30 years or more; annuity, 60 per cent. of salary; maximum, $720; minimum, $360.

B. Service, 27 years; annuity, 54 per cent. of salary; maximum, $648; minimum, $324.

C. Service, 24 years; annuity, 48 per cent. of salary; maximum, $576; minimum, $288.

D. Service, 21 years; annuity, 42 per cent. of salary; maximum, $504; minimum, $252.

E. Service, 18 years; annuity, 36 per cent. of salary; maximum, $432; minimum, $216.

F. Service, 15 years; annuity, 30 per cent. of salary; maximum, $360; minimum, $180.

Employees to whom the retirement provisions of the act apply shall, within 90 days of the passage of the act or within 90 days after reaching the retirement age, be automatically separated from the service. In cases where the responsible administrative officers certify to the Civil Service Commission that employees who have reached the retirement age but by reason of efficiency and willingness to remain may be advantageously continued in the public service, such employees may be retained for successive terms of two years.

Beginning with August 1, 1920, there will be withheld each month 2½ per cent. of the basic salary of each employee in the classified service.

THE MEYER MEMORIAL MEDAL[1]

FRANK N. MEYER was an agricultural explorer in the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture. For thirteen years he searched through China, Turkestan and other parts of Asia, for plants which might be valued additions to American agriculture and horticulture. When he lost his life on the Yangtze River in 1918,[1] he left a bequest of a thousand dollars to the staff of the Washington Office. The individuals of the Office have put the bequest into a permanent tribute to his memory, in the shape of a medal, designed by Theodore Spicer-Simson, which is to be awarded for distinctive service in plant introduction. The awards are to be made by the Council of the American Genetic Association.

The first award was made on May 3, 1920, when the medal was presented to Mr. Barbour Lathrop. Dr. David Fairchild, in behalf of the Council, presented the medal. Mr. Lathrop had a large part in the founding of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction, and has been intimately connected with it since. He and Dr. Fairchild comprised one of the first exploration expeditions, and visited the West Indies, South America, Europe, Egypt, India, Ceylon and the East Indies. Many introductions now growing in this country were secured on this and subsequent trips which Mr. Lathrop conducted and financed. The first seed of the Egyptian cotton, the culture of which now amounts to $20,000,000 a year in Arizona, was brought in by them. The tropical mangos, now an industry in Florida; the Persian Gulf dates, peculiarly successful in the Imperial Valley; Sumatra wrapper tobacco, now famous in Connecticut; the first large collection of Japanese flowering cherries; Rhodes grass, which has been called the timothy of the

[1] From the *Proceedings* of the Washington Academy of Sciences.