from the Arctic Circle, where the yearly frost-free period is about 97 days, some appreciation can be had of the difficulties that prevail.

According to the report, the Sitka station propagates and tests, and to some extent disseminates, all manner of plants that promise to be useful in Alaska. The chief line of work at the Fairbanks station is the growing of grain, the testing of the adaptability of varieties of grain, and the dissemination in small quantities of the surplus seed grain produced. At Rampart, the chief lines of work are the production of new varieties of wheat, barley and oats by means of hybridization, the testing and selection of hybrids, and the increase of those proving valuable. Hardy alfalfa is grown, as well as vegetables, for the purpose of ascertaining the best cultural methods to be pursued. Cattle and sheep breeding work is conducted at the Kodiak station, and at Matanuska experiments are made with growing grain and sugar beets. A small nursery has also been started here for propagating hardy nursery stock for distribution in the Matanuska Valley.

In 1918 a distribution of seed grain was made to a number of farmers in the Tanana Valley in an effort to induce them to begin grain production on an independent basis. The results were so satisfactory that the experiment was repeated in 1919. In that year 22 farmers in the Tanana Valley produced 1,128 bushels of spring wheat, 2,811 bushels of oats, and 121½ bushels of barley. During the same season the station at Fairbanks produced 303 bushels of spring wheat, 774 bushels of oats, and 125 bushels of barley. A small flour mill was installed at the Fairbanks station in 1918, where Alaska-grown wheat has been milled into an excellent bread flour.

The 1918 report of the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Stations can be had upon request of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

REPRODUCTION OF MICROSCOPIC UNDER-SEA LIFE

The American Museum of Natural History has reproduced in glass and wax a two-inch section of sea-bottom, with its characteristic plant and animal life, magnified more than 15,000 times. The exhibit is known as the Bryozoan Group, taking its name from the sea-animals popularly called sea-mats and sea-mosses, which it principally depicts.

The shells of these minute organisms form encrustations on sea-weeds and pebbles and on shells of larger animals. They are extremely beautiful in their intricate form and coloring. The "plumed worm" has especially fine colors. Other microscopic creatures and marine plants combine to make this group of especial interest.

The glass-blowing was done by Mr. Herman Mueller, and the coloring by Mr. Show Shimotori, while the wax portions of the group are the work of Mr. Chris E. Olsen. The entire exhibit was prepared and assembled under the expert direction of Mr. Roy W. Miner, associate curator of the department of invertebrate zoology.

MATTERS OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN CONGRESS[1]

The bill for a tariff on scientific instruments, etc. (H. R. 7785) was brought up on the Senate calendar on April 5, but was passed over. On April 28, Mr. Knox offered an amendment providing for the exemption from import duty of "guaranteed disks, ten inches or more in diameter, for astronomical telescopes."

The appropriations in the Second Deficiency Act include: $75,000 for continuation of the investigation of the mineral resources of Alaska, to be available also during 1921; and $47,100 for the continuation of magnetic and geodetic work by the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill (H R. 12610), carrying appropriations for the Bureau of Standards, passed the House on March 4, and the Senate on April 1. After agreement to the conference reports the bill was sent to the President, carrying an amendment introduced by Mr.

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

Smoot on April 1 to the effect that no governmental journal, magazine, or periodical should be printed, issued, or discontinued without the approval of the joint committee on printing. On account of the inclusion of this amendment the President vetoed the bill on May 13. The paragraph was eliminated and the bill repassed and signed as Public Law No. 231.

The act includes $432,360 for salaries at the Bureau of Standards, together with many special research items of which the following are examples: fire-resisting properties of building materials, $25,000; development of color standards, $10,000; optical glass, $25,000; metallurgical research, $25,000; sugars and sugar-testing apparatus, $30,000; high temperature measurement and control, $10,000. Total for the Bureau, $1,217,360.

A joint resolution looking toward an even more comprehensive reorganization of the executive departments than that contained in the Jones-Reavis bill was introduced as H. J. Res. 353 on May 7 by Mr. Madden. The resolution provides for a Joint Committee on Reorganization consisting of three members each from House and Senate. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

Another reorganization and consolidation measure is S. 4369, introduced by Mr. Henderson on May 12: "To create a Division of Mines and Geology in the Department of the Interior." The proposed Division would be under the direction of an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, "technically qualified by experience and education," at a salary of $10,000. The powers and duties of the present Geological Survey and Bureau of Mines, and any powers and duties of other federal agencies relating to mining, metallurgy, mineral technology, geological surveying, land classification, or mineral resources, would be transferred to the new Division. The bill was referred to the committee on Mines and Mining.

THE MEETING OF ORIENTALS AND OCCIDENTALS IN THE PACIFIC COAST AREA

A SCIENTIFIC symposium on this subject will be held in San Diego and La Jolla, California, from August 1 to 13. It will consist of special technical discussions at Scripps Institution, La Jolla, and public addresses with opportunities for questions at the community center of the Unitarian Church, San Diego.

The initial assumption made for the discussion is: All particular difficulties rest back on a world problem of three-fold aspect: (*a*) The aspect of world population. (*b*) The aspect of world supply of "raw material" and "manufactured goods" for sustaining the world population. (*c*) The aspect of world civilization.

The program is as follows:

INTRODUCTORY

Statement, pro and con, of the troubles due to oriental migration, particularly into the Pacific Coast states of North America: WALTER B. PITKIN, school of journalism, Columbia University.

THE WORLD PROBLEM

(*a*) *In its population aspect (its numerical phase only)*: W. C. THOMPSON, sociologist, department of agriculture, Cornell University.

(*b*) *In its material supplies aspect:* E. M. EAST, plant geneties, Bussey Institute, Harvard University.

(*c*) *In its civilizational aspect:* WM. E. RITTER, biologist, Scripps Institution for Biological Research, University of California.

The general oriental-occidental problem: DR. GILBERT REID, director-in-chief, International Institute of China.

LOCAL ORIENTAL-OCCIDENTAL PROBLEMS OF PACIFIC NORTH AMERICA

(*a*) *"Cheap labor" problem; "standard of living" problem; "race prejudice" problem:* W. C. THOMPSON.

(*b*) *The general and special problems of rural life and agricultural industry:* ELWOOD MEAD, professor of rural institutions, University of California.

(*c*) *The "fertility" problem; the "miscegenation" problem:* S. J. HOLMES, department of zoology, University of California

(*d*) *The problem of conflicting national policies:* E. T. WILLIAMS, professor of oriental languages and literature, University of California.