

provements in methods of beekeeping, fish culture, etc. It will strive constantly to meet the demands for the economic application of the branches of science it represents.

COMMITTEE OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE ON LAND UTILIZATION

SECRETARY WALLACE has appointed a committee of six scientific men of the Department of Agriculture to consider the entire problem of land utilization, especially with respect to the country's future requirements.

In appointing the committee Secretary Wallace suggested that as the basis of the work to be undertaken careful consideration should be devoted to the country's present crop production, home consumption and foreign demand, relating the land now under cultivation to present and near future demands. It seems to the secretary that this study should be followed by a more careful survey and classification than has yet been made of lands which can be brought under cultivation in the future, and the conditions necessary to make it profitable under the plow.

The suggested survey would include the arid lands of the West suitable for irrigation, swamp lands which can be reclaimed by drainage, and the cut-over timberlands of the various sections. In studying the cut-over lands consideration will be given to their possibilities both for cultivation and for reforestation.

The personnel of the committee of six is as follows:

Dr. L. C. Gray, agricultural economist, Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics, chairman.

C. V. Piper, agrostologist in charge forage crop investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Dr. G. M. Rommel, chief, Animal Husbandry Division, Bureau of Animal Industry.

C. F. Marbut, in charge, soil survey investigations, Bureau of Soils.

E. E. Carter, assistant forester, Forest Service.

S. H. McCort, chief, Division of Agricultural Engineering, Bureau of Public Roads.

At the present time a little less than half the total national area is in farms, and only about one-quarter of the total area is im-

proved land. Many persons, deceived by these facts, assume that there is an unlimited reserve supply of farm land. Such is not the case, however; by far the greater part of the 1,000,000,000 acres not yet in farms probably can never be used for the growing of crops, and plans must be made to use this land for the benefit of the nation.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE MELLON
INSTITUTE

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made by the board of trustees of the University of Pittsburgh of the appointment of Edward Ray Weidlein as director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research. Mr. Weidlein has been acting director since the recent resignation of Dr. Raymond Foss Bacon, and prior to that time, since 1916, he served as associate director. Dr. Bacon, who left to engage in consulting chemical practise in New York, succeeded Dr. Robert Kennedy Duncan, the first director and formulator of the institute's system of practical cooperation between science and industry, upon the latter's death in 1914.

Mr. Weidlein was a student of Dr. Duncan and later became an industrial fellow of the Mellon Institute. He has been associated intimately with the Industrial Fellowship System since 1909, and since 1916 has been a member of the administrative staff of the institute. He has had much experience in the supervision of industrial research and enjoys a national reputation as a specialist in the systematic investigation of the problems of chemical and physical technology.

Edward Ray Weidlein was born at Augusta, Kansas, on July 14, 1887. He was graduated at the University of Kansas with the degree of bachelor of arts in the year of 1909; in 1910 he received the degree of master of arts. He engaged in a study of camphor, under the direction of the late Dr. Robert Kennedy Duncan, and he carried out a comprehensive study of the ductless glands. From 1912 to 1916 Mr. Weidlein was a senior fellow in the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, having supervisory charge of the institute's investigations on the metallurgy and hydrometallurgy of copper, and

having direction of the experimental plant at Thompson, Nevada. In connection with this work, Mr. Weidlein developed a process for the use of sulphur dioxide in hydrometallurgy.

In 1916 Mr. Weidlein went to the Mellon Institute as assistant director and was later appointed associate director. He became acting director in 1918, during the leave of absence of Colonel Raymond F. Bacon as chief of the Technical Division of the Chemical Warfare Service. In 1918 Mr. Weidlein was appointed chemical expert for the war Industries Board. The forty-eight industrial fellowships for scientific investigations of problems of manufacturing in operation at the Mellon Institute cover a wide range of problems in chemical and mechanical technology, and Mr. Weidlein maintains a constantly active supervision over these researches.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, the director of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, was elected honorary foreign member of the Academie Royal de Médecine in Brussels, Belgium, on June 25.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, held on September 26, Rear Admiral William C. Braisted, former Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy, and formerly president of the American Medical Association, was reelected president of the college.

At the meeting of the Rochester Medical Association, held on October 3, at Rochester, under the presidency of Dr. Loron W. Howk, Dr. George H. Whipple, dean of the new medical school, University of Rochester, was entertained at dinner. In his speech he outlined the plan of the new school which was made possible by the gifts of the Rockefeller Foundation and of Mr. George Eastman.

DR. L. L. CAMPBELL, head of the physics department of Simmons College, Boston, has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

DR. A. D. BEVAN, past president of the American Medical Association, has received the title of Officer of the Legion of Honor for services rendered to medical science and education and as president of the American Medical Association during the war.

DR. ETTORE MARCHIAVA, known for his researches on malaria, has been nominated an emeritus professor at Rome.

THE Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of the Nile (second class) upon Mr. Owen Richards, director of the School of Medicine, Cairo, in recognition of valuable services rendered.

DR. NORMAN MACLEOD HARRIS, formerly assistant professor of hygiene and bacteriology in the University of Chicago, has accepted the position of chief of the division of medical research in the Department of Health of the Dominion of Canada, at Ottawa.

DR. WILLIAM C. KENDALL, scientific assistant and ichthyologist of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries at Washington, has resigned his position after thirty-three years of service, to accept the position of ichthyologist in the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station of the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. He takes the position made vacant by Professor T. L. Hankinson, who has accepted an appointment in the Michigan State Normal College, Ypsilanti.

H. L. RUSSELL, dean of the college of agriculture in the University of Wisconsin and director of the Wisconsin Experiment Station and Agricultural Extension Service, has been appointed a member of the committee to manage the agricultural loan agency of the district for the War Finance corporation.

DR. JOHN DEWEY, professor of philosophy in Columbia University, has returned to New York after having spent three years in the Orient, having been occupied as educational adviser to the Chinese government.

DR. ALBERT H. WRIGHT, of the department of zoology of Cornell University, spent a large part of the summer making a study of the animals, birds, and fishes in the Okefinokee Swamp, lying between Georgia and Florida.