

tions received in this office has increased by leaps and bounds. The number of applications for patents has increased 34 per cent. during the period under discussion, while the trade-mark applications increased eighty-five and a half per cent. In July, 1919, when Commissioner Newton testified, there were 18,000 patent applications awaiting action. There are now about 50,000 applications awaiting examination. It is further shown that a number of divisions are over 11 months behind in their work, and to illustrate the large turnover in the personnel there is cited one of the chemical divisions where five out of the nine examiners have been appointed in the last few months. At the close of the fiscal year, one of these had been in the office only 1 week, another 3 weeks, another 7 weeks and another 2 months. One out of every four examiners has resigned in 16 months and more than half have resigned in 32 months. Relief is, therefore, imperative.

Reference is made to the entrance salaries of the assistant examiners, who are a highly educated and picked corps of scientific men, who receive the same initial salary as clerks who perform routine duties in other branches of the government service. Note is made of the inadequacy of the salaries paid to these technical men as compared to their qualifications and the requirements of their position, showing the necessity of correcting the disparity of conditions.

The receipts of money for the fiscal year just closed increased from \$2,615,297.33 of the previous fiscal year to \$2,712,119.69, or almost \$100,000. A net surplus of \$284,342.93 was earned and if the bonus be subtracted therefrom, the surplus amounted to \$71,743.73, making the total net surplus to date—that is, the excess of receipts over expenditures during the history of the Patent Office—\$8,376,769.92.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT

PRACTICALLY all the technical and scientific periodicals which the Government is issuing have been suspended. These include the *Journal of Agricultural Research* and the *Experiment Station Record*, issued by the Department of Agriculture.

The matter goes back two years or more to a time when Senator Smoot secured the adoption of a resolution terminating the issue within a specified period of all periodicals not authorized by the Congress. Hearings

were held and assurance was given that the committee was not concerned with scientific journals, but was particularly interested in certain war-time periodicals which had sprung up. The time for action was extended once or twice, and, as the committee had failed to decide what should and what should not be printed, an item was inserted in the Sundry Civil Bill last March, extending the time to December 1, 1921, and providing that such publications as were not approved prior to that time should be discontinued.

Near the close of the last Congress, Senator Moses, the present chairman of the joint committee on printing, secured the passage of a measure in the Senate placing the matter of continuance or discontinuance in the hands of the joint committee on printing. The resolution went to the House in the closing days of the session, where it was amended by the House committee to provide for a further extension of time to March 1, 1922, in order that the committee might have further time for consideration. No action was taken on the resolution and the periodicals in question ceased publication with December 1. The latest proposal is not to give any further authorization for the continuance of any of them. Discussion of the matter will be found in the *Congressional Record* for December 7.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGISTS

THE Toronto meeting of the American Society of Zoologists will convene on Wednesday, December 28, in the biological building of the University of Toronto. The sessions will continue until Friday night. The program of contributed papers numbers 109, the largest in the history of the society. The tentative program follows:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28

A.M.

Section A. Embryology, Cytology and Comparative Anatomy.

Section B. Genetics.

P.M.

Genetics.