

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

THE Fifteenth Annual Conference on Weights and Measures was held at the Bureau of Standards on May 23 to 26 inclusive. In many respects, it was the most successful conference which has so far taken place.

At the opening session, the absence of Major Louis A. Fischer, formerly chief of the Weights and Measures Division, who died somewhat less than a year ago, was felt by practically all those in attendance, and it, therefore, seemed especially appropriate to devote this session to memorial addresses given by men who had been closely associated with him. The first of these was delivered by Dr. Stratton, director of the bureau, the second by Dr. C. W. Waggoner, of the State Department of Weights and Measures of West Virginia, and the last by Mr. D. J. Moynihan, who spoke on behalf of the manufacturers of weighing and measuring devices. A special committee presented resolutions memorializing Major Fischer.

Following these addresses and resolutions, the regular program of the conference was taken up, and reports were made by the delegates from the various state departments, approximately two hundred delegates from thirty states being present.

On the second day, an interesting paper was delivered by William F. Cluett, chief deputy inspector of weights and measures of Chicago, on the "Enforcement of sales by weight legislation and the elimination of the dry measure."

The feature of the afternoon session was an address by the Honorable Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce, in which he emphasized the need for unity of action through organized conferences and established methods, and the importance, not only of the "prevention of crookedness and the catching of crooks" but also the protection of the honest producer and distributor.

The program included addresses by Mr. John N. Mackall, chairman of the Maryland State Roads Commission; Mr. Charles H. Ferris, of the National Bottle Manufacturers' Association; George Warner, chief inspector

of weights and measures of the State of Wisconsin; F. S. Holbrook, of the Bureau of Standards; W. T. White, director of the Bureau of Weights and Measures of the State of New York; A. H. Vestal, chairman of the committee on coinage, weights and measures of the House of Representatives; Mr. W. B. McGrady, chief of the Bureau of Standards of the State of Pennsylvania; Mr. P. C. Brooks, president of the Scale and Balance Manufacturers' Association; Mr. J. J. Holwell, commissioner of the Mayor's Bureau of the City of New York; Mr. John M. Mote, Ohio state inspector of weights and measures; Ralph W. Smith, of the Bureau of Standards; and W. L. Egy and L. W. Higbee, of W. and L. E. Gurley.

Resolutions and thanks were tendered to the Honorable Herbert Hoover, Dr. S. W. Stratton and the Honorable A. H. Vestal, for their courtesy in addressing the conference.

A motion to the effect that the entire question of standardization and simplification, as applied to all phases of weights and measures activities, containers, standards, laws, methods of procedure, etc., be given special consideration at the next conference, was passed without a dissenting vote. The executive committee was directed by this motion to give special thought to this subject and arrange for a thorough presentation of the various factors involved so that the matter might be presented to the next conference in its entirety.

It was also voted that the second day of next year's conference should be devoted to the papers by and the activities of the city and county sealers of weights and measures.

The following officers were elected:

President: Dr. S. W. Stratton, director of the Bureau of Standards.

First vice-president: Mr. A. H. Webster, commissioner of weights and measures of the State of New Hampshire.

Second vice-president: Mr. W. B. McGrady, chief of the Bureau of Standards, State of Pennsylvania.

Secretary: Mr. F. S. Holbrook, Bureau of Standards.

Treasurer: Mr. J. Harry Foley, superintendent of weights and measures, State of New Jersey.