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ANTI-VIVISECTION LEGISLATION IN CALIFORNIA

THE proposed law prohibiting vivisection in California was defeated at the recent election by an overwhelming majority. Prior to the election the regents of the University of California, by President David P. Barrows, and the board of trustees of Stanford University, by President Ray Lyman Wilbur, issued the statement which follows:

The advance of sanitation, modern medicine and physiology, nutrition, the teaching of biology and the protection of our industries and agriculture all rest on animal experimentation. The control of the epidemic diseases of man and of animals, the management of surgical operations and of childbirth, and the certification of milk, food and water supplies would be impossible without the knowledge gained by such studies. In fact, the present-day protection of the public from diseases, which is vital to our community life, rests on animal experimentation. The University of California and Stanford University are vitally interested in the defeat of this initiative measure, since its passage would be a state-wide calamity.

Not only would it stop the research work now going on in the medical schools, hospitals and laboratories and in the Bureau of Animal Industry, but it would damage the market for most of California's food products and markedly reduce the confidence of visitors coming into the state. If California could not certify to its food and water supplies, could not guarantee protection against contagious diseases, could not provide certified milk, the effect on agriculture and industry in the state would be disastrous. The near collapse of the olive industry, due to the poisoning of a few people in eastern states, and the way in which the industry was saved by the researches carried on in the laboratories of the two universities, indicate the imperative necessity of freedom for the universities in animal experimentation. California food, instead of being looked to as an example of purity, would be shunned.

The initiative measure would make it impossible

to test with birds for deadly gases in the mines of the state. It would stop the manufacture of serum for the prevention of hog cholera, the preparation of vaccine for anthrax and the various other products that are required for the protection of our industries in agriculture and that annually save millions of dollars and prevent great mortality among domestic animals. Under the act, operations on various farm animals could be carried on without anesthetics to increase the palatability of foods, but no animals could be used in experimental work if the information obtained is for the benefit of a person or of the human race.

We feel that no worse attack on the welfare of the state and on the right of the universities to seek and teach the truth could be made. Every man, woman and child, every unborn babe, every domestic animal in the state, would be affected if this measure becomes a law. It strikes at all. It is unnecessary special legislation, due to prejudice and misinformation. No one will tolerate cruelty to animals. The present laws of the state are drastic and sufficient to control any abuse. We know that there is no cruelty to animals in the laboratories of the universities. They are in charge of men and women of the highest character who are unselfishly working to better the lot of their fellowmen and to advance the interests of their community and of the state. Anesthetics are always used for animals in the laboratory in exactly the same way that they are used by surgeons in the operating rooms.

We urge upon the citizens of the state the imperative necessity of defeating this initiative measure.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

REDUCED railway rates for those attending the fourth Boston meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (to be held mainly in the buildings of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., from December 26 to 30) have been fully granted by all of the railway passenger associations excepting the Transcontinental. Furthermore, in the territory of the last-named passenger association the privilege of reduced rates on this occasion extends westward on Montana lines to points in Oregon and Washington (excepting Portland), by routes through the Missouri River and St.