

The board is now ready to receive applications for these fellowships. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Board of Fellowships in the Biological Sciences, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.

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*Permanent Secretary, N. R. C.*

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES

THE population of the continental United States on January 1, 1923, was approximately 110,100,000, according to an estimate announced by the National Bureau of Economic Research. This showed an estimated gain of 4,500,000 since the 1920 government census.

These figures are necessarily preliminary, said the bureau, for the final census figures on births and deaths are incomplete after the end of 1920. Enough data is available, however, to show that since January 1, 1921, the rate of increase in population has been accelerated noticeably, the present rate approaching that of pre-war years.

This more rapid gain in population has been brought about partly by increase in net migration, but has been decidedly reinforced by a reduction in the death rate. At the present rate of growth the population at the 1930 census will reach 120,000,000.

The estimates by half years are as follows:

| Year and Date:      | Population   |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1920—January 1..... | *105,710,620 |
| 1920—July 1.....    | †106,381,000 |
| 1921—January 1..... | †106,821,000 |
| 1921—July 1.....    | †107,785,000 |
| 1922—January 1..... | †108,533,000 |
| 1922—July 1.....    | †109,184,000 |
| 1923—January 1..... | †110,100,000 |

\*Census figures.

†Final estimate by this bureau.

‡Preliminary estimate.

It is probable that the revisions to be made in all estimates, except that for January 1, 1923, will be relatively slight.

The census bureau has made its estimates of the population for the intercensal years on the assumption that the rate of growth is the same as in the preceding decade. This process, which is termed a straight line extrapolation, has mainly its simplicity to commend it, for,

when applied, errors of considerable size gradually accumulate as changing conditions affect population growth. For example, the official method showed a population for January 1, 1920, nearly two millions greater than that given by the actual census count on that date.

The method of the National Bureau of Economic Research is also relatively simple. The number of births and deaths have been estimated for each half year and the increase of population due to excess of births over deaths has been calculated. This amount has been corrected by adding the excess of immigration over emigration for each half year. The population for June 30, 1910, has been estimated from a smooth curve, and figures have then been built up for each half year until the census of 1920.

The estimate thus arrived at for January 1, 1920, is in error by approximately half a million, or only about one fourth of the corresponding error from the official method. The census work of the bureau has been under Dr. Willford I. King, formerly assistant professor of political economy of the University of Wisconsin.

### THE FAUNTHORPE INDIAN EXPEDITION

PRESIDENT HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN, of the American Museum of Natural History, received on March 21 a cablegram from Mr. A. H. Vernay, of the Faunthorpe Museum Expedition to India, announcing that he had been successful in securing two exceptionally fine rhinos, a male and female, through special permission from the Maharajah of Nepal, and that the party had also secured a pair of tigers and a bear. Thus far, however, efforts to secure specimens of the pink-headed duck have failed and Mr. Vernay believes this species to be extinct, although further efforts will be made.

President Osborn states that the acquisition of the rhinos is of the first importance, not only because these animals are rapidly disappearing, but also because the Indian rhino is the largest member of that family now in existence.

Mr. Vernay's decoded message states that great difficulty was experienced in reaching the hunting grounds and that success was possible only through the assistance rendered by the