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.

VERNON KELLOGG,
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

Maharajah, who provided elephants and coolies for transport and all the supplies necessary.

The Faunthorpe Indian Expedition left the United States on the first of November, 1922, accompanied by Mr. John Jonas, a taxidermist from Colorado. The party included a motion picture operator and an ornithologist. They started on their first *shikari,* or hunt, in February. Letters received from Mr. Vernay and Colonel Faunthorpe last week state that they have also secured fine representative specimens of the swamp deer, including a stag whose horns measure thirty-nine inches from tip to tip, with twelve points. The party has completed the collection of material necessary for the cheetal, nilgai and swamp deer groups, together with an excellent collection of birds. Other animals secured by the expedition are specimens of the Malabar langur. Mr. Vernay writes that these animals are very common in Bopal State where his camp was located, and added that it was with great reluctance that he shot any of these members of the monkey family, because they made no attempt at defence or attack, but that while a number of them were feeding upon the vegetation about the camp, they would post sentries from among their number who would watch for their natural enemies, the tiger and leopard, and the sentry always proved an easy target.

On March 22, it was the intention of the party to leave for Mysore to secure specimens of bison and elephants. They are sparing no efforts to obtain for the American Museum of Natural History the finest series of Indian mammals extant. All the material secured by the expedition is a gift of Colonel Faunthorpe and Mr. Vernay to the American Museum of Natural History and to the city of New York, and will form further definite bonds to cement the friendly relations now existing between England and the United States.

THE EYESIGHT CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF AMERICA

L. W. WALLACE, executive secretary of the Federated American Engineering Societies, has been reelected president of the Eyesight Conservation Council of America, which with the cooperation of engineers and educational authorities is carrying on a campaign to eliminate economic and physical losses due to poor eyesight in the schools and factories. Defective vision as a source of industrial waste was revealed by the Hoover committee on elimination of waste in industry, of which Mr. Wallace was vice-chairman. The section on conservation of vision was one of the notable features of the waste report.

Additional surveys in factories and in schools have multiplied the evidence, it is stated, that 25,000,000 gainfully employed Americans are thus afflicted. Eliminating these conditions is becoming an increasingly important problem of engineering. Associated with Mr. Wallace as members of the board of directors and of the Board of Councillors of the Eyesight Conservation Council, according to the announcement of the election of officers for the coming year, are several prominent engineers, including:

Professor Joseph W. Roe, of New York University, president of the Society of Industrial Engineers; Dr. Morton G. Lloyd, chief of the safety section of the U. S. Bureau of Standards and vice-president of the American Society of Safety Engineers; G. E. Sanford, of West Lynn, Massachusetts, past-president of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

Professor F. C. Caldwell, of the department of electrical engineering, Ohio State University, who with Secretary of Labor James J. Davis is a recent addition to the governing bodies of the Eyesight Conservation Council, is engaged in important studies in illumination bearing upon the question of eye conservation. Engineering methods will be employed by the council in surveys which are to be conducted in schools and workshops. Guy A. Henry, of New York, has been reelected general director of the council and will actively direct the eye campaign from the council's national headquarters in New York City.

Officially associated with these engineers in the movement are prominent educators, among them Dr. Sidney E. Mezes, president of the College of the City of New York; Dr. Thomas D. Wood, Teachers College, Columbia University; Dr. John J. Tigert, U. S. Commissioner of Education; Dr. Charles H. Judd, director of the School of Education of the University of Chicago; Dr. Arthur L. Day, Washington, director of the geophysical laboratories of the Carnegie Institution; Dr. Allan J. McLaughlin,