

tion on the board and the list of the twenty-two non-governmental organizations represented on the advisory council which was created to assist the board in making contact with the public.

At each public meeting, which is held bi-monthly, there have been present members of the advisory council and others who are not members of the board. The report states that the meetings have been well-attended and that there has developed a remarkable spirit of helpfulness and cooperation which has led to very beneficial results. Various bureaus of the government dealing with surveying and mapping look to the board for advice on technical matters. Several cases of cooperation have resulted from the close contact in the meetings of the representatives of the various surveying and map making bureaus. Notable examples are:

1. Cooperation between the corps of engineers and the United States Geological Survey in the topographic mapping needed by the various branches of the Army;
2. Cooperation of the Air Service of the Army and the Topographic Branch of the Geological Survey;
3. Cooperation of the United States Geological Survey and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey with the Forest Service and with the Bureau of Soils in furnishing surveying and mapping data to the latter two organizations;
4. Cooperation between the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and the General Land Office which has resulted in the connection of corners of the land surveying system of the country with the triangulation stations established by the former bureau.

In obedience to the executive order creating the Board of Surveys and Maps, a central map information office was established in the Interior Building for the purpose of collecting, classifying and furnishing to the public information covering all mapping and surveying data available at the several government departments and from other sources. This map information office has been of the greatest assistance to the government and to outside organizations and individuals. Much information has been furnished by it to all branches of the government service, to universities, schools, map publishers, commercial firms of all kinds, state officials, individuals of foreign countries and to the general public. The re-

sults accomplished by the map information office alone justify the creation of the Board of Surveys and Maps of the federal government.

While the Board of Surveys and Maps was not created to engage in the task of securing more funds for the several surveying bureaus in order that the topographic mapping of the country might be expedited, yet the members of the board feel that the mapping of the country should be taken up as a project and that legislation looking towards this desirable result should be enacted by congress. In the opinion of the board, the demands made on the bureaus of the government furnishing surveying and mapping information amply justify the appropriation of the necessary funds to extend the mapping at a more rapid rate than has obtained in the past.

W. BOWIE

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

DECISION to undertake a nationwide coal storage investigation was reached by the executive board of the American Engineering Council of the Federated American Engineering Societies at its meeting at Cincinnati, March 23 and 24. General endorsement of the plan for government reorganization, submitted to congress with the approval of President Harding and the cabinet, and continuance of the committee on Transportation, headed by Max Toltz, of St. Paul, were other outstanding features of the meeting.

The personnel of the committee to conduct the coal inquiry, which is to be made unless there is objection from the constituent societies, will be announced later by President Cooley.

The committee on procedure of the American Engineering Council some weeks ago authorized the appointment of a committee on transportation for the specific purpose of investigating and reporting to the executive board as to what, if anything, the American Engineering Council could do with propriety and effectiveness in relation to the transportation problem of the American people. The committee was instructed that it was to give consideration to all forms of transportation, that is, by railways, by motor trucks and by water.

Max Toltz, chairman of the committee ap-

pointed, made a progress report to the executive board, pointing out many of the important phases of the very complex problem. He stated that the task was such a large and ramifying one that the committee would require more time in which to advise the executive board what, if anything, it should do. He further indicated that probably the best service the American Engineering Council could render would be to cooperate with a number of national organizations which has been working in this field for years.

J. Parke Channing, of New York, chairman of the new committee on government reorganization as related to engineering matters, made a progress report indicating the active participation of the federation in this sphere.

Concerning the registration of engineers, the following resolution, moved by Gardner S. Williams, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was adopted:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this executive board that American Engineering Council should continue to collect and keep up to date a record of the engineers registration and licensing laws that may be proposed or passed, together with decisions thereunder for the use of the constituent societies of the Federated American Engineering Societies and others, but that it assumes no control over the actions of such constituent societies in regard thereto.

The executive board voted to cooperate in the movement to bring about uniform safety legislation, to broaden the program of its reforestation committee, to study the question of constituting the American Engineering Council a clearing house on elimination of waste, to further American participation in the proposed world power conference in London in 1924 and to work with the National Safety Council in plans for Conservation Week.

The sessions of the executive board were held at the Ohio Mechanics Institute, an inspection of which was made by the members of the board under the guidance of President John T. Faig. On the evening of March 23, the board members were the guests at dinner of the Cincinnati Engineers Club. Following the dinner there was a public meeting, President Cooley presiding. Speakers included Dr. Ira N. Hollis, L. W. Wallace, J. Parke Channing,

Calvert Townley, O. H. Koch and several prominent Cincinnati engineers. The formal decision of the Indiana Engineering Society to enter the federation was announced by its president, W. H. Elliott, city engineer of Indianapolis. The speakers agreed that the federation was proving itself an effective instrumentality of organized engineering, that it would continue to make durable progress and that its permanence was virtually assured.

It was voted to hold the next meeting of the executive board in St. Paul, Minnesota, from June 8 to 9.

THE LOS ANGELES MEETING

THE seventh annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in conjunction with a summer session of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Southwestern Division at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, September 17, 18, 19 and 20, promises to be a unique event in scientific annals. The occasion of this meeting in Southern California is primarily the total eclipse of September 10, which will draw to this locality astronomers from all parts of the world. It is estimated that over fifty visiting astronomers will be present besides the local contingent from Mount Hamilton and Mount Wilson Observatories.

Besides a meeting of the American Astronomical Society and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, it is planned to arrange a symposium on some subject of astronomical interest.

Paleontology will also be featured in the general sessions, illustrated by the discoveries of the Rancho La Brea beds.

The Society of Petroleum Geologists is planning to hold a meeting, also the American Meteorological Society, the American Society of Economic Entomologists, the American Phytopathological Society and the American Society of Agronomy.

The American Chemical Society will be represented by the California Section and the Southern California Section, and the various affiliated societies of the Pacific Division and