

## THE AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION AND ITS SECTIONS

THE fourth annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union and its Sections was held at the Carnegie Institution, Washington, D. C., on April 17-19, 1923.

In the forenoon of April 17 the following general addresses were given:

"Organization and aims of the National Research Council" by Dr. Vernon Kellogg, permanent secretary of the Council.

"The organization and work of the International Research Council" by Dr. R. A. Millikan, a delegate to the Brussels meeting in 1922.

"The organization and aims of the American Geophysical Union" by the chairman of the Union, Dr. L. A. Bauer.

"The organization and aims of the National Geodetic and Geophysical Committee of Canada" by a delegate from Canada, Mr. Noel Ogilvie, superintendent of the Geodetic Survey of Canada.

On the afternoon of April 17, a statement was made by the representative of each of the sections of the union, *i.e.*, geodesy, seismology, meteorology, terrestrial magnetism and electricity, oceanography, volcanology and geophysical chemistry. The statements covered the status, scope and problems of science represented by the several sections.

On the evening of the seventeenth a banquet was held at which addresses were made by Congressman H. W. Temple on "Economic value of governmental scientific work" and Dr. E. E. Slosson on "Science and the public." Remarks were made on international and national work in geophysics by Colonel E. Lester Jones, director of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey; Captain Frederic Bassett, hydrographer of the United States Hydrographic Office, and Professor C. F. Marvin, chief of the United States Weather Bureau.

Meetings were held by the seven sections of the union on April 18 and the forenoon of April 19, at which a total of forty-nine scientific papers or communications were presented. It is expected that abstracts of these papers will appear in the printed proceedings of the annual meeting of the union.

In the afternoon of April 19, there was a general business meeting of the whole union at which reports were received from the officers

of the union, of the sections and of the committees. After discussion a number of resolutions dealing with scientific questions were adopted. The most important of these resolutions and one which is of special interest to the scientific public reads as follows:

*Whereas*, the United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 37, p. 913, provide that

"Hereafter the executive shall not extend or accept any invitation to participate in any international congress, conference or like event, without first having specific authority of law to do so,"

*And, whereas*, since other provisions of law make it impossible for officers of the government to attend and participate in an official capacity in any international foreign congress, convention, meeting or gathering, thus greatly embarrassing the scientific departments of the government in conducting the important duties and responsibilities devolving on them, and since the principal object of such congresses, conventions, meetings or gatherings is to secure between nations the most effective and profitable cooperation in scientific matters;

*Therefore*, be it resolved that the American Geophysical Union recommend to the National Research Council that appropriate action be taken to present to the Congress of the United States the disadvantages resulting from the effects of the laws referred to above, with the object of securing the necessary legislation permitting the executive and the heads of the various departments to designate duly accredited representatives to attend international foreign scientific congresses, conventions, meetings or gatherings. This legislation should apply especially to meetings of the International Research Council and its branches and the International Meteorological Committee and like organizations.

In response to an invitation from the chairman of the union, the following representatives of Canada attended and took part in the annual meeting of the union and its sections: Mr. Noe Ogilvie, superintendent of the Geodetic Survey; Dr. W. Bell-Dawson, superintendent of Tidal and Current Surveys; Mr. J. Patterson, meteorologist, Meteorological Service.

A list of the titles of papers read at any of the section meetings can be obtained by communicating with the secretary of the union at the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.

WILLIAM BOWIE  
*Secretary*

AMERICAN GEOPHYSICAL UNION