

Earle H. Clapp, of Washington, assistant forester in charge of the research branch of the United States Forest Service, will represent the Department of Agriculture.

Secretary Wallace specifies the function of the council in his letter of appointment as follows:

I have been asked to take the leadership in organizing a Forest Research Council to act in an advisory capacity both to the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station and to other forest research agencies throughout the Northeast (New England and New York). The council will not conduct any research, but will aim rather to stimulate and guide research. Its recommendations should be effective in securing the adoption of a more comprehensive, better coordinated, and more effective program of forest research. It should be influential in calling attention to the results of investigations and in getting these results put into actual practice.

THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

THE fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Physical Society in London was celebrated on March 22, at a banquet with about 400 members and guests in attendance. These included representatives of numerous kindred societies and institutions, together with distinguished scientific men from America, France, Belgium and other foreign countries. The international aspect of physical research and the progress and achievements attained during the last half-century were emphasized by several of the speakers. The president, Mr. F. E. Smith, was in the chair.

The speakers were Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, prime minister, the Duke of York, Professor Sir Richard Glazebrook, Professor Charles Fabry, president of the French Physical Society, Sir Oliver Lodge, Professor Sir Joseph Thomson, Sir Joseph Cook, high commissioner of the Australian commonwealth, Mr. J. H. Jeans and Professor Sir Ernest Rutherford.

In the course of his address Mr. MacDonald, as reported in the *London Times*, said:

One reason why he had been asked to come there and propose the toast was a certain family connection—one of which he was very proud. The first president of the society—and the first among a group of founders of the society—was the late Dr. Gladstone, his father-in-law. The mentality of the scientific man had in his (the prime minister's) own lifetime gone through a certain evolution, but in Dr. Gladstone, as in his great and distinguished colleagues, there was something that never moved away from that magnificent childish curiosity that approached research as a religious devotee approached worship. Whether the pioneer into the unknown was pursuing the path of the theologian, and exploring some of the secrets that eternity vouchsafed to reveal to us, or whether he was wandering over the face of the earth crossing unknown deserts, or penetrating hitherto unpenetrated forests, or whether, as those present that evening were doing, he was pioneering into the curious composition and relations of matter—whatever rank or group

of pioneers they belonged to, they were all most successful when they approached their problems with a heart full of awe as well as full of expectation. The past presidents of the society were men of intellectual distinction and of moral honesty unsurpassed by any group in any other walk of life during the 50 years that the society had been in existence.

DINNER IN HONOR OF MR. GARVAN

IN recognition of the distinguished services of the Honorable Francis P. Garvan to the cause of chemistry in America, a dinner will be given in his honor at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, Saturday evening, April 26.

Invitations to the dinner are being issued in the names of the presidents of the American Chemical Society, American Electrochemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, Manufacturing Chemists Association, Salesmen's Association of the Chemical Industry and Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers' Association.

At a recent meeting of the representatives of these organizations, Charles H. Herty was appointed chairman of the committee on arrangements, and A. V. H. Mory will act as treasurer.

This dinner will be the closing feature of a week of unusual chemical activities. The American Chemical Society will hold its annual spring meeting during the week of April 21–25, in Washington, and the American Electrochemical Society will hold its spring meeting, April 24–26, in Philadelphia. Both societies have been invited by General Amos A. Fries, head of the Chemical Warfare Service, to visit Edgewood Arsenal on Saturday, April 26, to inspect the grounds and buildings.

It is expected that this gathering will bring together not only representatives of the various branches of chemistry, both from the universities and the industries, but will also be attended by large groups from other professions and organizations with which Mr. Garvan has been in close touch, including representatives of the legal and medical professions.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE council of the British Association has resolved to nominate Dr. Horace Lamb, F.R.S., formerly professor of mathematics in the University of Manchester, as president of the association for the Southampton meeting in 1925.

GILBERT NEWTON LEWIS, professor of physical chemistry in the University of California, has been elected by the jury of award to receive the Willard Gibbs Medal of the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society. The presentation of the medal and the address by Dr. Lewis will take place this month.