

waiian nor Japanese, but governed by scientists from all Pacific regions.

Conferences are being held with the heads of several delegations already there from Pacific lands, and cable invitations have been sent to others to hurry on and take part in the deliberations as to the work the institute shall undertake for the peoples of the Pacific area.

The scientists who have been for some months planning the Pan-Pacific Research Institute will make a report at the coming conference, and it is understood that the institute will begin operations at once, offering its services for the years of follow-up work needed in making the resolutions passed at the coming conference effective.

The Castle home is one of the largest in Honolulu, amply housing two score workers, with one extra out-building almost as large, which is excellently planned for laboratory uses. In addition there are several smaller buildings, four acres of ground, a complete set of concrete tanks and water supply sufficient for laboratory purposes. The buildings could house, beside the permanent staff, some forty visiting research scientists.

According to press dispatches, Dr. David Starr Jordan, chancellor emeritus of Stanford University, has tentatively accepted the directorship of the institute.

#### THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S CHINA EXPEDITION

JOSEPH F. ROCK, head of the National Geographic Society's expedition into Yunnan, southwestern Szechuan and southeastern Tibet, has just returned to this country after eighteen months in the field and reported the finding of aboriginal tribes in China practicing religious ceremonies which existed before Buddhism was introduced into either China or Tibet.

Mr. Rock found a blight-resistant chestnut tree, made observations over considerable unmapped territory, traversed a hitherto unexplored Yangtze River gorge which in places is much deeper than the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and brought back important plant and bird collections.

The expedition's collection of herbarium specimens approximated some 60,000 sheets representing some 12,000 numbers. These plants were collected in the extreme northwest of Yunnan, Tsarong, southeastern Tibet, the independent Lama Kingdom of Mili and also in eastern Yunnan. The birds collected number about 1,600. These have been carefully skinned and prepared and labeled, and scientific data accompanies each specimen. They are from regions where few collections had previously been made. The collection contains land and water birds and in addition a few hundred mammals. The birds and mammals will be

presented to the Smithsonian Institution as a gift from the National Geographic Society.

Chestnuts of apparently immune species have been presented to the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry. In addition a fine set of coniferous plants such as firs, spruces, hemlocks, pines and junipers were turned over to the Department of Agriculture. A large collection of seeds of rhododendrons also was forwarded to the department. Seeds of 493 kinds of rhododendron were sent to the department, by far the largest single introduction ever made into this country.

Mr. Rock's chestnuts include several species heretofore unknown to the horticultural world and perhaps even to botanical science. The chestnut introduction is of great interest to the tanning industry which has depended upon chestnut to a great extent and has recently faced the possibility of this supply being destroyed through the ravages of blight.

Mr. Rock's plant specimens were forwarded from time to time and rhododendrons also have been sent to Kew Gardens, to Edinburgh, Scotland, and to the Honorable Vicary Gibbs and A. K. Bulley, both of England, amateurs who specialize in these plants and whose collections are famous. In the United States some of them already have been planted at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, in the Puget Sound Region and along the eastern seaboard. Further distributions are to be made in this country.

Gentians, primroses and other alpine plants, of which sets were sent by Mr. Rock, will be of great interest to gardeners in this country and in Europe. Some of these sets also have been sent to botanical gardens and plantmen in Great Britain.

#### THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

THE centennial celebration of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the oldest college of science and engineering in any English-speaking country, will take place at Troy, New York, on October 3 and 4. There will be present official delegates from educational institutions, scientific organizations and engineering societies throughout the world as well as from each alumni association and from each class since 1857. The program as thus far arranged is as follows:

OCTOBER 3

*Morning:* Academic Procession.

Convocation. Addresses by:

Hon. Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce of the United States.

Hon. Alfred E. Smith, governor of the State of New York.

Hon. Harry E. Clinton, mayor of Troy.

President Sir Charles Langbridge Morgan, of the Institute of Civil Engineers of Great Britain.

President Henri Abraham, of the Society of Electrical Engineers of France.

President Luigi Luigi, of the Society of Civil Engineers of Italy.

Honorary President Roberto Gayol, of the Society of Engineers of Mexico.

President Arthur Surveyer, of the Engineering Institute of Canada.

*Afternoon:* Unveiling of Tablets.

1. On the site of the old main building, destroyed by fire in 1904. Address by Hon. Seymour van Santvoord, of Troy, and Mrs. James Carroll Frazer, of Washington, a lineal descendant of Stephen Van Rensselaer, founder of the institute.

2. In the Carnegie Building in memory of S. Wells Williams ('32), first professor of Chinese and oriental literature in Yale University. Address by His Excellency, Dr. S. K. Alfred Sze, Chinese Minister to the United States.

Inspection of laboratories.

*Evening:* Dinner in the State Armory. Addresses by:

President Livingston Farrand, of Cornell University.

Director Joseph H. Odell, of the Service Citizens of Delaware, and another distinguished speaker.

Pageant on the campus illustrating scenes in the history of science and engineering during the last hundred years.

OCTOBER 4

*Morning:* Convocation. Addresses by:

President Angell, of Yale University.

President Birge, of the University of Wisconsin.

President Stratton, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

President Grunsky, of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

President Low, of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

President Kelly, of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

President Osgood, of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

President Michelson, of the National Academy of Sciences.

*Afternoon:* Reception by President Ricketts and Mrs. Ricketts.

*Evening:* Alumni Smoker, Pageant.

# OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

THE list of officers of the National Research Council for the year 1924-25 is as follows:

Honorary chairman, George E. Hale, honorary director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Pasadena, California.

Chairman, Gano Dunn, president of the J. G. White

Engineering Corporation, 43 Exchange Place, New York City.

First vice-chairman, A. A. Michelson, president of the National Academy of Sciences; professor of physics, University of Chicago.

Second vice-chairman, Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.

Third vice-chairman, R. A. Millikan, director of the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

Fourth vice-chairman, John C. Merriam, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D. C.

Permanent secretary, Vernon Kellogg, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.

Treasurer, George K. Burgess, treasurer of the National Academy of Sciences; director of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

Assistant secretary, Paul Brockett, assistant secretary in charge of building, National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C.

Assistant secretary, Albert L. Barrows, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.

Chairman, Division of Federal Relations, Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Chairman, Division of Foreign Relations, R. A. Millikan, director of the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology.

Chairman, Division of States Relations, A. F. Woods, president of the University of Maryland.

Chairman, Division of Educational Relations, Vernon Kellogg, National Research Council.

Chairman, Division of Engineering and Industrial Research, Frank B. Jewett, vice-president of the Western Electric Company, New York City.

Chairman, Division of Chemistry and Chemistry Technology, James F. Norris, professor of organic chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; National Research Council.

Chairman, Division of Geology and Geography, David White, senior geologist, U. S. Geological Survey.

Chairman, Division of Medical Sciences, L. Hektoen, professor of pathology, Rush Medical College; director of the John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases; National Research Council.

Chairman, Division of Biology and Agriculture, Maynard M. Metcalf, zoologist, Orchard Laboratory; National Research Council.

Chairman, Division of Anthropology and Psychology, R. S. Woodworth, professor of psychology, Columbia University; National Research Council.

Chairman, Division of Physical Sciences, J. S. Ames, dean of the College Faculty, professor of physics, and director of the Physical Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University; National Research Council.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE council of the National Academy of Sciences has accepted the joint invitation of Harvard Univer-