

of Socialist Soviet Republics was founded recently in London. The objects of the society are: (1) To collect and diffuse information in both countries on developments in science, education, philosophy, art, literature and social and economic life; (2) to organize lectures and an interchange of lecturers, conferences, exhibitions, etc., and to arrange for the publication and translation of papers and books; (3) to provide opportunities for social intercourse; (4) to take any action deemed desirable to forward the intellectual and technical progress of both peoples. This we learn from *Nature* from which we print the following:

Russia has unfortunately been cut off from all other civilized countries for about ten years, owing to the war and the revolution which followed it. Only in this year has it been possible to break down some of the wall separating Russia from other peoples. Through the crevices Europe begins to see that, in spite of the most difficult conditions prevailing in science and art, the great spirit of Russia is still alive and even active. Hunger, shortage of necessary technical materials, apparatus and books, the necessity of working in rooms and laboratories where the temperature in winter was near freezing-point, prosecution by the government—all this has not killed the spirit of Russia. The attempts of the government to proletarianize science and art have not been very successful for a simple reason, namely, there is only one truth, the same for proletarians and bourgeois, the desire for which is that peculiar feature which distinguishes a man from an animal. For Russians the breaking down of the wall surrounding their country has become much more important than for countries which are outside this wall: the development of western science, art, literature, philosophy and social life, which is free and not "controlled" by government and has proceeded under normal conditions of life, has resulted in remarkable progress. There is no need to point out how vital the knowledge of this progress is to Russia. From this point of view, it is necessary only to wish all success to this new society, provided it does not become an official organization, but remains free from any official control and concerns itself only with the promotion of friendly relations between the intellectual representatives of both countries.

RESURVEY OF NIHOA AND NECKER ISLANDS

DURING 1923 the Tanager Expedition, under the joint auspices of the United States Navy, the U. S. Biological Survey and the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, made a scientific survey of the chain of islands extending from Hawaii, 1,000 miles northwestward to Ocean Island. A corps of nine scientists, assisted by experienced collectors and by the officers and crew of the U. S. S. *Tanager*, carried on investigations in marine zoology, botany, entomology, ornithology and geology for five months. Somewhat unexpectedly

ruins of ancient settlements were found on the islands of Nihoa and Necker. These two islands are eroded remnants of volcanic masses, cliff-bound and without water. On them a landing party made collections and maps, but had neither the time nor the facilities for an exhaustive study of the archeological remains.

During July of the present year, the United States Navy again provided the *Tanager* and with a selected navy personnel and a group of scientists from the Bishop Museum, under the direction of Professor Harold S. Palmer, the ship returned to Nihoa and Necker equipped for making topographic maps, sketches and photographs showing the location and character of the walls, house platforms, terraced fields and burial grounds. With considerable difficulty, land camps were established and the surfaces of the islands cleared of brush, revealing ruins favorably placed for study.

As compiled by Kenneth P. Emory, ethnologist of the Bishop Museum staff, the Nihoa maps show fifty structures within an area of about 130 acres—house platforms, temple sites, garden terraces; the Necker maps show only ruins of places used for religious purposes. The collections from these islands include stone bowls, stone idols, adzes, hammerstones and other artifacts, and skeletal material from burial caves. Although Nihoa Island is only 160 miles from Kauai, the stone structures and the skeletons show forms not common to the inhabited islands of the Hawaiian Archipelago.

FIRST PAN-PACIFIC FOOD CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

THE first Pan-Pacific Food Conservation Conference met at Honolulu, from July 31 to August 14, 1924, under the able chairmanship of Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture. Ninety-five of the delegates came to Hawaii for these meetings—thirty-eight from mainland United States, fifty-five from other Pacific countries, and two from the West Indies. Twelve duly constituted delegates from Hawaii and thirty-six residents of Hawaii participated in the meetings which were also attended by a considerable number of local laymen. Strong delegations were sent from French Indo-China, Japan and New South Wales. Altogether fourteen Pacific countries were represented by about a hundred and forty technical men and women.

The conference, which was the fifth designed for promoting the mutual understanding by peoples of the countries around the Pacific of one another's problems, was called by and held under the auspices of the Pan-Pacific Union. A very important result of the conference, and one difficult to measure, was the