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

broadening due to close contact between delegates from many regions. An appreciation was obtained by many of problems which are not widely realized though of vital importance to their immediate localities.

The conference was organized in seven sections, the most active of which were devoted to (a) the sugar-cane industry, (b) fisheries, marine biology and oceanography, (c) plant protection through quarantine and researches in entomology and pathology and (d) food-crop production and improvement. As a result of the deliberations of the section on the sugar-cane industry, there was tentatively organized an international association of men interested in the sugar-cane industry, which it is hoped will meet in Havana in 1927. The other sections have also provided continuation committees.

At the final sessions thirty-three resolutions were adopted. Three resolutions relate to the sugar industry, six to fisheries, four to plant protection, one to animal industry, four to food crops, three to marketing problems and the rest are of a more general nature. Classifying the resolutions on a different basis, three refer to the work of the Pan-Pacific Science Congress to be held in Japan in the autumn of 1926, six to protection of food resources by international treaties and agreements and twelve recommend more or less specific programs for future research.

The committtee on publication appointed by the conference plans to publish a report of the proceedings which will include abstracts of the papers transmitted, list of delegates and the like. It is expected that many of the papers will be published in full in journals devoted to special fields of science.

HAROLD S. PALMER,
Secretary of the Conference

COOPERATION IN SEISMOLOGY

AN agreement has been reached to promote seismological research in both scientific and practical lines between the Carnegie Institution of Washington, through its advisory committee in seismology, and the Seismological Society of America. The first-named is a research organization, which pursues the policy of publishing its results in any particular journal that will reach the largest number of readers interested in a given subject. The second is a society dependent on its members for support and engaged in publishing a journal (*Bulletin* of the Seismological Society of America), which is designed to form a means of communication among seismologists and to serve as a medium of education for the general public in matters relating to earthquakes and allied phenomena. It is obvious that these two organizations may advantageously cooperate.

The advisory committee in seismology was appointed by the institution four years ago with the specific purpose of organizing investigation in the field of seismology. After considering the extent and character of the field, the committee recommended "taking up at the outset the pressing problem offered by the West Coast region of the United States, where earth-movements in considerable variety occur and so little is known about them that they constitute a tangible menace to large engineering and other development enterprises and sometimes to human life." (Report of the Chairman for 1921.)

If this selection of a province seems geographically limited the fruitfulness of the region in problems may be indicated by a further quotation from the report cited, bearing on the organizations drawn into the work. The report continues:

> "It was recommended that the Institution invite the participation of a number of agencies, through the cooperation of which an adequately comprehensive attack might be inaugurated and competent conclusions assured." Accordingly the Ukiah and Lick Observatories were invited "to continue and extend their observations of latitude for the purpose of establishing (or disproving) a northward crustal creep or drift, which had been indicated by earlier observations." The U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey was invited to resurvey and extend "its system of primary triangulation and precise levels until no considerable area within the various zones of movement in California can suffer displacement without the possibility of establishing its direction and magnitude." The U. S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with the California universities and geological societies, was asked to "organize geological studies of the regions in which the more active faults occur. Several organizations "were invited to aid in the development of instruments more suitable than any now in use for recording and analyzing local slips and tremors. And finally, the Navy Department undertook deep-sea soundings off the west coast of California to establish the precise location of the continental shelf and any conspicuous fault scarps adjacent to the land areas in which active faults are found.

Without exception the initiative of the advisory committee was welcomed by the organizations invited to participate and important results have already been reached. Among the more definite accomplishments we may mention the Fault Map of California, published by the Seismological Society, the Bathymetric Chart of the Continental Shelf from San Francisco to Point Descanso, published by the U. S. Hydrographic Office, a new primary triangulation of the entire coast region south of San Francisco by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and the successful development of a new type of torsion seismometer of low first cost and general application by Messrs. J. A. Anderson and H. O. Wood, working in the laboratories of the Mt. Wilson Observatory at Pasadena.