

of affairs, the government have initiated a scheme under which, between 1918 and 1923, 449 lots, amounting altogether to 71,496 hectares, have been settled.

### THE THIRD PAN-AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

THE opening of the Third Pan-American Scientific Congress, which was due to take place November 16, has been postponed to December 20. The reason for the adjournment is that the congress, if it met in the second fortnight of November, would clash with a period of intense scholastic activity in the universities of Peru and other countries of America. The organization committee has therefore been led to request that the congress be postponed for a few weeks, and the Peruvian government has fixed December 20 as the date of the inauguration.

Desiring to obtain all possible benefits out of this circumstance, the organization committee has furthermore resolved that the period within which papers can be presented, which expired on October 1 of this year, be extended one month more; said papers may therefore be received up to November 1. As provided under the regulations of the congress, in case an author is unable to send in his work in time, he shall at least forward a summary thereof not exceeding 1,500 words. Such summary must be presented with each work, irrespective of the latter itself being sent in in time. The members of the organization committee are confident that this new adjournment of the opening of the congress will allow many American scholars greater latitude in the presentation of their studies and monographs for the congress.

The "Compañía Peruana de Vapores" (Peruvian S. S. Co.), and the Grace Line have decided to allow a 25 per cent. reduction on its fares to members and adherents to the congress; the Peruvian Corporation has agreed to grant them a 50 per cent. rebate on its railway and Lake Titicaca steamboat fares. Negotiations are under way with other steamship companies for similar facilities.

JOSÉ J. BRAVO,  
*Secretary General*

### PROGRESS IN STANDARDIZATION

THE increasing interest and activity in industrial standardization is demonstrated by the new Year Book of the American Engineering Standards Committee. The work of the committee is indicative of the growth of the movement as a whole. One hundred and fifty-two projects have been completed, or are under way, and in these various projects two hundred and thirty-five national organizations, technical, industrial, governmental, are officially cooperating through accredited representatives. The number of the individuals serving under various sectional committees of the different projects is nearly 1,100.

Of the projects which have reached an official status,

31 have to do with civil engineering and the building trades; 25 with mechanical engineering; 15 with electrical engineering; four with automotive subjects; 11 with transport; one with ships and their machinery; 14 with ferrous metals; 15 with non-ferrous metals; 12 with chemical subjects; two with textiles; five with mining; five with the wood industry; one with the paper and pulp industry, and 11 projects with topics of a miscellaneous or general character.

Cooperation in joint activities between Mr. Hoover's division of simplified practice and the American Engineering Standards Committee has steadily increased. In general the work of the committee is concentrated upon standardization projects which involve technical considerations, while the division of simplified practice concentrates upon such eliminations as it is possible to carry out from a consideration of statistical production data alone, or as stated in the book on trade association activities issued by the Department of Commerce, "the layman can proceed successfully with a simplification program, while it would be impossible for him to consider seriously standardization problems by himself."

In order to meet the demands made upon it by industry, and to supply the needs of the various working technical standardization committees, the American Engineering Standards Committee has greatly broadened its information services, and has added an engineer translator to its staff for this purpose. In this way, complete information is made available to sustaining members, trade and technical associations and other inquirers on standardization activities in foreign countries, as well as in the United States.

A new development is the appointment of local representatives of the committee in four important industrial centers. These are: K. F. Treschow, secretary, Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh; J. B. Babcock, executive secretary, Affiliated Societies of Boston; Edgar S. Nethercut, secretary, Western Society of Engineers, Chicago; Professor George S. Wilson, Engineering Experiment Station, University of Washington, Seattle.

One of the most striking developments of the standardization movement is the increasingly important rôle which trade associations are playing in it. More than 140 national trade associations are officially participating in standardization projects under the auspices of the American Engineering Standards Committee. That standardization is a legitimate and constructive activity for associations is everywhere recognized, and explicitly so by a recent decree of the U. S. District Court at Columbus, Ohio.

### MEETING OF ELECTROCHEMISTS AT DETROIT

THE next meeting of the American Electrochemical Society will be held at the Hotel Tuller, Detroit,