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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES¹

CONTENTS

<i>The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i>	
<i>Address of the President of the United States</i>	23
<i>Some Aspects of International Cooperation: THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. HUGHES</i>	24
<i>The Meaning of Scientific Research: PROFESSOR M. I. PUPIN</i>	26
<i>The Foundation of the Theory of Algebraic Numbers: HARRIS HANCOCK</i>	30
<i>Scientific Events:</i>	
<i>The Nansen Polar Expedition; Hall of Fame for Engineers; The Yale Astronomical Station in South Africa; Officers of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i>	35
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	38
<i>University and Educational Notes</i>	41
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:</i>	
<i>Spectroscopic Observations of the Eclipse: PROFESSOR EDWIN B. FROST. How the Works of Willard Gibbs were Published: DR. A. E. VERRILL. An Earthquake Prediction at Hawaiian Volcanic Observatory: R. H. FINCH. A new Formational Name: DR. CARLOTTA J. MAURY</i>	41
<i>Quotations:</i>	
<i>The Encouragement of Basic Research</i>	43
<i>Scientific Books:</i>	
<i>Sherman on Food Products: DR. C. F. LANG-WORTHY. Goldsmith's Evolution or Christianity: DR. DAVID STARR JORDAN</i>	44
<i>Special Articles:</i>	
<i>Ultraviolet Light and Scurvy: DR. JANET H. CLARK. Dust Treatment for Smut in Oats: ROY C. THOMAS</i>	45
<i>The Georgia Academy of Science</i>	48
<i>Biological Meeting at Riverside, California</i>	48
<i>Science News</i>	x

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THE national government has a special and a profound interest in the gathering of the country's scientific leaders which you are beginning to-day in the capital city. No other single agency has so extensively relied upon the men and women of science as has the government. The personnel of the government service and the figures of the annual appropriation alike testify to this. The government has been foremost in employing, and most liberal in endowing science.

Let me say at once, however, that I do not intend to imply that we have been impressively liberal in dealing with the individual scientists who conduct these activities of the government. The most casual inspection of the salary lists of scientific workers in Washington will make very plain that it is toward science, not the scientists, that the country has been officially generous.

I was impressed with a new realization of the extent and importance of the scientific activities which center here in Washington by some figures showing the geographical distribution of members of your association. In proportion to its population there are more than five times as many of your members here as there are in any state.

I wish time would permit a brief suggestion of the amazing variety, the wide ramifications and the enormous value to the whole people of these scientific activities which are conducted under the administrative departments. Whether in studying the stars or in mapping the bottom of the sea; whether in making two blades of grass grow where one formerly grew; whether in developing a chemical compound that will destroy life or one that will save it; whether in weighing an atom or analyzing the composition of the most distant star—whatever the problem of human concern or social advancement, the scientific establishment of the government has enlisted the men and the means to consider it and ultimately to solve it.

So, as one particularly interested in this governmental university of practical and applied science, I welcome your great gathering to Washington. You represent the interests, the forces and the endless

¹ Given at the White House to members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and affiliated societies meeting in Washington.

activities which literally from day to day are conquering new domains and adding them to the imperial realm of human knowledge. The future of civilization is well nigh in your hands. You are the wonder workers of all the ages. The marvels of discovery and progress have become commonplaces, simply because their number has paralyzed the capacity of the mind for wonderment. Those of us who represent social organization and political institutions look upon you with a feeling that includes much of awe and something of fear, as we ask ourselves to what revolution you will next require us to adapt our scheme of human relations.

But we know that you are animated by a profound purpose to better the estate of men. We are confident that society will somehow devise institutions capable of adaptation to the changed circumstances with which you are surrounding the business of living in our world. We trust ourselves to you perhaps with some doubt as to what you may finally do with us and to us, but at least with firm convictions that your activities will save life from becoming very monotonous. And, besides, we realize that if we did not give you our confidence you would go ahead without it.

It is a wonderful thing to live in a time when the search for truth is the foremost interest of the race. It has taken endless ages to create in men the courage that will accept the truth simply because it is the truth. Ours is a generation of pioneers in this new faith. Not many of us are endowed with the kind of mental equipment that can employ the scientific method in seeking for the truth. But we have advanced so far that we do not fear the results of that process. We ask no recantations from honesty and candor. We know that we need truth; and we turn to you men of science and of faith, eager to give you all encouragement in your quest for it.

CALVIN COOLIDGE

SOME ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION¹

It would be superfluous to address to you words of welcome. Washington is yours; you have made it what it is. You represent the aristocracy of effort without which democracy would be arid and fruitless. We who greet you come out of the struggle to hold what has been won; to protect the gains of the past from reckless squandering; to provide educational facili-

ties so that the heirs of all the ages may be able to enjoy a reasonable portion of their inheritance; to make it possible for men to live together without seeking to destroy each other; in short, the never-ending task of getting the best out of things as we already know them. But you hold the promise of additions to the resources of humanity, the staking out of new possessions in the unseen world; of fresh discoveries and a richer life. If civilization is to advance it will be your doing, and the best we can hope of governments is that they will not stand too much in your way.

We are deeply interested in the promotion of peace. But there are only two methods by which we really may assure peace. The one is the long and difficult process of drying up the sources of controversy, of getting rid in some amicable fashion of actual causes of difference. The other is by developing new and enlarged conceptions of national interests and thus avoiding the strife due to narrow and artificial concepts, by mutual appreciation of the advantages which will accrue by pursuing paths of peace and by an adjustment of our international relations more in harmony with the methods and revelations of science. When difficulties are emphasized, we have a demonstration at hand. What may be done in conceiving national interest in terms of peace is happily illustrated in our relations with Canada, an object lesson not only to other peoples but to our own people in dealing with others. There are no two peoples anywhere, whatever historic antagonism may exist between them, however lavishly the seeds of distrust have been sown in valiant hearts ever ready to defend their country's honor, but would find on even a brief, if dispassionate, examination guided by the dictates of reason, that they had much more to gain by a well-directed cooperation than by pursuing the illusion of the gains of force. I am in hearty sympathy with those who would make aggressive war a defined crime, but such definitions, like other legal concepts, in order to be effective, must be sustained adequately by sentiment and we make the most rapid progress as we convince the practical judgment that unnecessary resort to force is a stupid blunder. It is your work that points to the benefits of peaceful cooperation that are within our grasp. Science, it is true, forges the weapons of war and constantly develops new and more terrible instruments of destruction. But she is far more eloquent as she points to the wastes of strife, the retarding of progress, and the vast opportunities which are open to industrious peoples if they are able to abandon their mutual fears and destroy the artificial barriers to community of enterprise. We wish no lowering of the standards of patriotism, no lessening of

¹ Address of Charles E. Hughes, Secretary of State, at the opening meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the Memorial Continental Hall, Washington, on the evening of Monday, December 29, 1924.