

seaports and recently in the trenches, as we shall long remember. The population in these localities is largely indigenous.

The present methods of control involve the organized killing of rats. Rat battues may, in a measure, remove rats from the selected localities, but killing a large fraction of the rat population in a given place increases the proportion of food available for the survivors and the albinos show what survivors can do when well fed.

In the view of the public interest in the reduction of the rat population I have ventured briefly to call attention to the relation of the food supply to the general problem, since a recognition of the relation will assist in making plans for the effective control of this animal.

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## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE SOUTHAMPTON MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

ARRANGEMENTS are in progress for the next annual meeting of the British Association, to be held in Southampton from August 26 to September 2, under the presidency of Dr. Horace Lamb, formerly professor of mathematics in the University of Manchester. Presidents of the several sections have been appointed as follows: *mathematics and physics*, Dr. G. C. Simpson, director of the Meteorological Office; *chemistry*, Dr. C. H. Desch, professor of metallurgy in the University of Sheffield; *geology*, Professor W. A. Parks, of the University of Toronto; *zoology*, Mr. C. Tate Regan, keeper of zoology in the British Museum (Natural History); *geography*, Mr. A. R. Hinks, secretary of the Royal Geographical Society; *economics*, Miss Lynda Grier, principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford; *engineering*, Sir Archibald Denny; *anthropology*, Dr. Thomas Ashby, director of the British School at Rome; *physiology*, Dr. A. V. Hill, professor of physiology in University College, London; *psychology*, Dr. C. E. Spearman, Grote professor of the philosophy of mind, University of London; *botany*, Professor J. Lloyd Williams, of University College, Aberystwyth; *education*, Dr. W. W. Vaughan, headmaster of Rugby; *agriculture*, Dr. J. B. Orr, head of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen. Among the principal items already set down for discussion are transport problems, to which the sections of economics and engineering will devote two days, with special reference to the railway centenary of the present year; the cost of farming and the mar-

keting of agricultural produce (sections of economics and agriculture); the functional significance of size (zoology and physiology); the ignition of gases (chemistry and engineering); tidal lands (geography and botany); variations in gravitational force and direction (physics and geology); recent investigations upon vocational guidance (psychology and education); the distribution of animals and plants in relation to continental movements (geology, zoology and geography); the acquisition of muscular skill (physiology and psychology), and discussions on health in schools, the disciplinary value of subjects, the training of teachers and the teaching of biology. Professor Parks, of Toronto, as president of the geological section, succeeds the late Dr. Willet G. Miller, the Ontario government mineralogist, who was to have occupied the chair of the section.

### LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT

A BILL providing for a medal of honor and awards to government employes for distinguished work in science, the plan for which was originated some time ago by Dr. E. Lester Jones, director of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, was introduced into the house of representatives on February 19. The bill, which follows, was referred to the committee on the library:

*Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the president of the United States is hereby authorized to present, in the name of congress, a medal of honor and written testimonial to scientific workers of the federal government whose labors have contributed to the advancement of scientific knowledge or applied its truths in a practical way for the welfare of the human race.*

SECTION 2. The official designation of the medal shall be the Jefferson Medal of Honor for Distinguished Work in Science.

SECTION 3. That recommendations to the president of persons to be considered for the honor contemplated in this act shall be made by a commission of three persons, consisting of one representative each from the National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences and the American Engineering Council, who shall serve without salary.

SECTION 4. That not more than five scientific workers shall receive the medal in any one year and that the persons so honored shall receive the sum of \$100 on the presentation of the medal and testimonial and thereafter, annually for life, a sum of money the amount of which shall be fixed by the commission making the award; said sum to be not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 per annum, which said sum shall be exclusive of salary or pension.

SECTION 5. There is hereby authorized an appropriation of \$1,500 to defray the expenses of securing a suit-

able design for the medal and providing said medals, testimonials and awards for the first year; and thereafter there is hereby authorized an annual appropriation, for the purposes herein provided, not exceeding \$2,500.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

The following two bills, the first of which provides for the completion of the topographical survey of the United States and the second authorizes the coast and geodetic survey to make seismological investigations, have been passed by both branches of the congress and signed by the president:

*Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled,* that the president be, and hereby is, authorized to complete, within a period of twenty years from the date of the passage of this act, a general utility topographical survey of the territory of the United States, including adequate horizontal and vertical control and the securing of such topographic and hydrographic data as may be required for this purpose, and the preparation and publication of the resulting maps and data: *Provided*, that in carrying out the provisions of this act the president is authorized to utilize the services and facilities or such agency or agencies of the government as now exist, or may hereafter be created and to allot to them (in addition to and not in substitution for other funds available to such agencies under other appropriations or from other sources) funds from the appropriation herein authorized or from such appropriation or appropriations as may hereafter be made for the purpose of this act.

SECTION 2. That the agencies which may be engaged in carrying out the provisions of this act are authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with and to receive funds made available by any state or civic subdivision for the purpose of expediting the completion of the mapping within its borders.

SECTION 3. The sum of \$950,000 is hereby authorized to be appropriated out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be available until the 30th day of June, 1926, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, both in the District of Columbia and elsewhere as the president may deem essential and proper.

*Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled,* that the Coast and Geodetic Survey is hereby authorized to make investigations and reports in seismology, including such investigations as have been heretofore performed by the Weather Bureau.

#### FOREST RESEARCH COUNCILS

MANUFACTURERS in wood-using industries, business and professional men, foresters and deans of forest schools met at Asheville, February 12 and 13, as members of the new Appalachian Forest Research Council, appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station of the United States Forest Service. The two

days' sessions were devoted to making the new councillors thoroughly acquainted with the work of the Experiment Station, and to a discussion of future activities of both bodies. W. D. Tyler, of the Clinchfield Coal Corporation, Dante, Va., acted as chairman of the meetings.

Resolutions were unanimously passed supporting state and federal action toward forest tax adjustment, state forestry, fire protection, utilization of the great quantity of timber already killed or threatened by the chestnut blight and cooperation with the Appalachian Forest Experiment Station.

With the Appalachian council the secretary of agriculture has now appointed three research councils to function in cooperation with forest service experiment stations in important timber regions of the country, the others being in the Lake States and in the Northeast. It is understood that plans are already under way for similar councils to be appointed for the southern pine region and for the Pacific Northwest. These are announced as part of a comprehensive plan to bring out the practical features of research work in forestry and to keep the foresters in close touch with the needs of the regions their experiment stations serve most intimately.

Membership of the council includes John Raine, president, Meadow River Lumber Co., Rainelle, W. Va.; Dr. G. R. Lyman, dean, West Virginia College of Agriculture; James F. Lakin, president, West Virginia State Board of Control; T. H. Clagett, Bluefield, W. Va.; A. B. Brooks, chief game protector, W. Va.; Dean T. P. Cooper, Kentucky Agricultural College; Tennessee State Forester R. S. Maddox; S. F. Horn, editor, *Southern Lumberman*; George L. Wood, General Manager R. E. Wood Lumber Co., Baltimore, Md.; John H. Hassinger, Abingdon, Va.; State Forester Chapin Jones, Virginia; Andrew Gennett, president, Gennett Lumber Co.; R. B. Robertson, president, Champion Fibre Co.; C. C. Smoot, III, North Wilkesboro, N. C.; John Cecil, Biltmore Estate; North Carolina State Forester J. S. Holmes; Dean B. W. Kilgore, of North Carolina Agricultural College; Col. J. H. Pratt, Asheville, N. C.; G. A. Cardwell, Atlantic Coast Line R. R. Co., and Bonnell H. Stone, president, Georgia Forestry Association.

#### AWARDS FROM THE MILTON FUND AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

ANNOUNCEMENT is made at Harvard University of twenty-one awards to professors in the university in accordance with the provisions of the Milton Fund for research. As noted in SCIENCE for October 3, 1924, this legacy, yielding an annual income of about \$50,000, was received by Harvard University last spring. The awards include the following for scientific work: