

of the Department of the Interior by the federal government.

The reorganization would bring about a saving of many millions of dollars, according to the report of the Committee on Government Reorganization, as recorded in the *New York Times*. President Coolidge urged passage at the last session of the Congress of the Mapes bill, which would have provided for two divisions in the Interior Department—one for Public Works and the other for Public Domain. The engineers voted to have a similar bill introduced in the next session of Congress carrying provisions for further reorganization.

All public construction work would be under the Division of Public Works and the control of all public land under the Division of Public Domain.

Under the Mapes bill, offices which spent a total of \$107,148,584 in 1924 would be transferred to the Division of Public Works in the Department of the Interior. The estimated expenditures of these offices in 1925 are \$118,617,706 and for 1926, \$110,955,646. The engineers urged that in addition to these offices, all rivers and harbors work be done under the direction of the Department of the Interior, as well as several other works of less importance. The rivers and harbors work for 1924 cost \$72,617,006 and the estimated expenditures for 1925 and 1926 are \$75,204,856 and \$61,987,448.

The report outlining the plans for the changes in the department was introduced by Gardner H. Williams, of Ann Arbor, Mich., chairman of the Committee on Government Reorganization.

Upon suggestion of William McClellan, formerly dean of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and recently appointed a member of the Muscle Shoals Commission by President Coolidge, the report was approved, with a statement inserted that army engineers could be used for rivers and harbors work only upon the request of the Secretary of the Interior. That was done to avoid the possibility of use of engineers from the army who were not as capable as civil engineers.

A resolution was passed urging that President Coolidge be asked to transfer the functions of the executive secretary of the Federal Water-Power Commission to the director of the Geological Survey. The resolution includes the following statement:

The federal government is lagging behind the states in the development of water power. The nation's water power should be developed, and we suggest that a bill be introduced in congress providing adequate funds for the water-resources branch of the Geological Survey so that it can make steam gauges in a nation-wide, orderly way.

THE DOUGLAS SMITH FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

ESTABLISHMENT of the Douglas Smith Foundation for Medical Research, which is to make available to the University of Chicago the income from approximately \$1,000,000 as endowment of research in the School of Medicine, was announced on May 20. Securities now valued at \$800,000 have already been placed in the hands of officials of the university. The donor, Douglas Smith, a well-known Chicago business man, intends to turn over the remainder of the gift during 1925.

This contribution comes a short time after the breaking of ground for the School of Medicine, which is to be situated between Ellis and Drexel avenues and 58th and 59th streets. On this tract buildings costing more than \$4,500,000, for the Albert Merritt Billings Memorial Hospital, the Epstein Dispensary and the departments of surgery, medicine, pathology, physiology and physiological chemistry, are to be erected. The university will then have on the midway an extensive group of buildings for medical instruction and research, in addition to those constituting the Rush Medical College group on the west side. The Douglas Smith Foundation is constituted specifically for payment of salaries of those conducting medical research and for the expenses of this work.

"Mr. Smith's notable contribution," said Harold H. Swift, president of the university board of trustees, "will be applied to the immediate inauguration of research in the School of Medicine. The university is grateful for this gift, which will provide stimulus to our \$17,500,000 program for development of other departments of the university."

The securities which I am handing you are for the establishment of a fund to be held in perpetuity by the University of Chicago as an endowment of its school or schools of medical science for the investigation of the causes, nature, prevention and treatment of disease. Only the net income of the fund is to be used. It is to be expended exclusively in payment of the research stipends or salaries of the members of the staff or fellows of the University of Chicago engaged in medical research, and of expenses directly incident to such research.

I would have preferred that my name be not attached to this gift, but at your request I have agreed that the fund may be known as the Douglas Smith Foundation for Medical Research.

THE SECTION OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

THE Section of Social and Economic Sciences (K), of the American Association for the Advancement of

Science, plans an exceptional program on "Research methods and results" at the Kansas City meeting, to be held during the week beginning December 29.

The preliminary program of the section is given below. It emphasizes a wide range of discussions, which should prove of great practical value to all concerned:

Tuesday Morning Session, December 29, 10:00 A. M.

1. (Subject to be announced.) Address of the retiring vice-president for Section K, Dr. Thomas S. Baker, President of the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa.
2. Research in forestry taxation: address by vice-president for Section K, Professor Fred R. Fairchild, Yale University.
3. Research—The prime mover of industry: Mr. Maurice A. Holland, National Research Council, New York City.
4. The frontiers of industry: Mr. E. P. Stevenson, Arthur D. Little, Inc., Cambridge, Mass.

Tuesday Afternoon Session, December 29, 2:00 P. M.

5. Science, charlatanry and nutrition: Dr. H. E. Barnard, American Institute of Baking, Chicago.
6. Scientific nutrition and modern foods—facts and fancies: Dr. C. Robert Moulton, Institute of American Meat Packers, Chicago.
7. The future of agricultural research: Mr. E. W. Ball, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Wednesday Morning Session, December 30, 10:00 A. M.

8. Cooperation between industry and university: Dr. George D. McLaughlin, Tanners' Council Laboratory, University of Cincinnati.
9. Science in an old industry—lime manufacture: Mr. G. J. Fink, National Lime Association, Washington, D. C.
10. (Subject to be announced.) Dr. Lewis H. Haney, Bureau of Business Research, New York University.

Wednesday Afternoon Session, December 30, 2:00 P. M.

11. Scientific research as applied to concrete construction: Mr. Duff A. Abrams, Structural Materials Research Laboratory, Lewis Institute, Chicago.
12. The administration of research under the industrial fellowship system: Dr. E. R. Weidlein, Mellon Institute, University of Pittsburgh.
13. Air transportation: Lieutenant J. Parker Van Zandt, Commercial Aviation Department, War Department, Washington, D. C.

Thursday Morning Session, December 31, 10:00 A. M.

14. Research and the incandescent lamp industry: Mr. W. E. Forsythe, National Lamp Works, Nela Park, O.
15. The economic basis of medical charges: Dr. Michael M. Davis, Jr., United Hospital Fund of New York.

16. Cancer research: Dr. F. L. Hoffman, Babson Institute and Prudential Insurance Company.

Thursday Afternoon Session, December 31, 2:00 P. M.

17. Résumé of research work of underwriters' laboratories: Mr. A. H. Nuckolls, Underwriters' Laboratories, Chicago.
18. (Subject to be announced.) Mr. F. O. Clements, General Motors Research Corporation, Dayton, O.
19. (Subject to be announced.) Mr. A. L. Viles, Rubber Association of America, New York City.
20. (Subject to be announced.) Representative of Research Division, Standard Oil Company, Elizabeth, N. J.

FREDERICK L. HOFFMAN,
Secretary of Section K

**A PROPOSAL FOR SUMMER SESSIONS OF
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AT
ITHACA IN 1926**

At the recent spring meeting of the executive committee of the council of the American Association it was voted that the committee looks with general approval upon a proposal to hold summer sessions of the association in connection with the next International Congress of Plant Sciences, which is being planned to be held at Ithaca from August 16 to 23, 1926. Dr. B. M. Duggar, chairman of the organizing committee for the congress, has invited the association to arrange for sessions in other branches of science, to occur at the same time and place, stating that the facilities and accommodations will be ample for all sections of the association. The action of the executive committee, as noted above, is tentative only, and the committee will be glad to receive suggestions in this connection, pending a definite decision that is to be made later.

It is not infrequently suggested that eastern summer meetings of the American Association would be profitable to the members and the affiliated societies and useful in the advancement of science. Ithaca is an excellent place for a summer meeting. A large number of prominent students of the plant sciences in other countries will be present at the congress and the attendance of American botanical workers will be very large. Whether the American Association should plan a general meeting in connection with the congress, or sessions of certain sections only, and whether affiliated societies may desire to hold meetings in that connection, are questions regarding which the permanent secretary will be glad to receive information and suggestions. If an association meeting is to be planned the organization of the association will be available for all general arrangements for all the sections, including the affiliated and otherwise associated organizations. We are assured of the hearty cooperation