

At the opening ceremony, the vice-chancellor, Mr. J. Wells, who presided, said one reason why they in Oxford were able to show so many links with the scientific past was that after the end of the seventeenth century Oxford went to sleep in relation to scientific matters and the study of science was not always actively pursued. Whereas the Royal Society scrapped their old instruments and put in new ones. Oxford had not been careful to replace its instruments. Thus Oxford was more rich in old scientific apparatus than almost any other university in the world.

### THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRY

FROM the New York *Times* we learn that the plan to establish a National Museum of Engineering and Industry under the Smithsonian Institution drew together on June 18 many distinguished scientists, engineers and industrialists.

The occasion was a luncheon-meeting at the Bankers' Club of those sponsoring the movement, which was started a year or so ago to arouse interest in the project. Samuel Insull, the leading figure in the mid-western public utility field, was formally installed as president of the association for 1925-26. Incidentally it was disclosed by Thomas Ewing, who presided, that \$1,000,000 has already been pledged toward the \$10,000,000 fund which will be raised to pay for the erection of the building in Washington.

Mr. Insull succeeds as president Dr. Elihu Thomson, under whose incumbency the germ of the idea for an institution which will put the United States in the category of European nations having similar museums was developed. The government is expected to provide the site for the institution and it is hoped that the congress will aid in furthering and maintaining it.

H. F. J. Porter is the executive secretary of the organization charged with the task of coordinating the activities of the various professions and industries supporting the project. Vice-presidents are Drs. Edward G. Acheson, Charles F. Brush, L. H. Baekeland, Frank J. Sprague, Thomas A. Edison, Edward Weston, Orville Wright. George E. Roberts is treasurer.

The Board of Trustees include Mr. Insull as chairman; R. F. Bach, B. C. Batcheller, F. H. Colvin, James Craig, E. O. Cutler, Norman Dodge, Thomas Ewing, Colonel Michael Friedsam, Major H. A. Gillis, Henry Goldmark, F. A. Halsey, George Iles, Professor D. C. Jackson, Luis Jackson, W. W. Macon, L. C. Marburg, H. P. Merriam, W. N. Polakov, A. J. Poole, H. F. J. Porter, D. S. Simpson, Dr. Elmer A. Sperry, Professor Holland Thompson and F. A.

Waldron. Honorary members are Dr. Charles W. Eliot, General George W. Goethals, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, Charles M. Schwab, Melville E. Stone and Dr. Elihu Thomson.

Many of the aforementioned were present at the meeting, as well as many prominent men not identified with the organization as members. At the head table were Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania System; Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation; Mr. Insull, head of the Middle West Utilities Company, Commonwealth Edison Company of Chicago and other utility companies; Mr. Edison, John W. Davis, Dr. Alexander C. Humphreys, president of Stevens Institute, and Mr. Ewing, the patent attorney.

Speakers were Mr. Insull, F. R. Low, president of the Society of Mechanical Engineers; Farley Osgood, president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and Dr. Humphreys.

### FISHERIES CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

THE Fisheries Conservation Conference of May 22, 1925, called by the Secretary of Commerce and attended by representatives of the fish commissions of the Atlantic and Gulf Coast states, was held at the Department of Commerce to consider a procedure for saving certain of our Atlantic coast fisheries from final destruction. Among the subjects discussed were the fisheries for shad, sturgeon and lobsters, and incidentally the questions of the control of fisheries in boundary waters and the destruction of undersized or immature fish.

The conference requested the Secretary of Commerce to appoint, with the approval of the governors of the states, a commission to work out the various problems leading to the rehabilitation of lobster, shad, sturgeon and other fishes of our coastal waters and agreed as to the necessity for concerted action to prevent further depletion.

The resolution adopted by the conferees follows:

WHEREAS, The necessity for concerted action by the coast states to protect national fisheries has been forcefully called to our attention by Secretary Hoover; and

WHEREAS, The secretary has seen fit to call this conference for the purpose of devising ways and means for rehabilitating these fisheries; be it

*Resolved*, That representatives here assembled go on record as indorsing the purpose of the conference and expressing on behalf of our various states our gratitude for Mr. Hoover's intelligent and patriotic interest in calling the conference: be it further

*Resolved*, That it is the desire of the representatives here assembled that the secretary shall, with the approval of the governors, appoint a commission composed of representatives from each of the fish commissions of the

Atlantic States to work out various problems relating to the lobster, shad and other anadromous fishes of our coastal waters; be it further

*Resolved*, That in considering means of improving fishing conditions we particularly indorse and recommend any and every action that may be taken to subserve the welfare, comfort and material success of the commercial fishermen.

#### THE LAKE PLACID MEETING OF THE METRIC ASSOCIATION

NEAR our office in New York is the statue of Marquis Lafayette, beneath which is carved, "As soon as I heard of American independence, my heart was enlisted." Thousands of American and Canadian men and women are now enlisted in the campaign to secure the advantages of the general use of the same metric weights and measures which Lafayette used. These are hereby called together to review the progress of the metric campaign and take counsel on important matters. With the help of Dr. Melvil Dewey, a pioneer of the movement in America, the Metric Association has arranged for a meeting at the Lake Placid Club, Essex County, New York, beginning at 10 A. M., on Friday, July 10, 1925, and extending to July 12. Sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday morning from 10 to 1. The remaining time will be left open for conferences and recreation.

The Lake Placid Education Foundation invites those attending to a Boston Symphony concert, a metric dinner, a 70-kilometer automobile ride through some of the famous Adirondack passes and a trip on the lake. Among the speakers expected are George F. Kunz, Harvey W. Wiley, Eugene C. Bingham, Arthur E. Kennelly, Theodore H. Miller, Frank Crane, Irving Fisher, Henry D. Hubbard, F. J. Schlink, W. P. Wilson and Aubrey Drury. We hope also to hear from several of the ladies who are to attend.

One party will leave Grand Central Station, New York, at 1:25 P. M. (daylight saving time), on Thursday, July 9, to arrive in Poughkeepsie at 3:14, where they are invited to inspect the De Laval Separator factory. This is one of the large factories that has successfully changed to the metric system. Those going directly from New York to Lake Placid may leave on the 8:10 P. M. sleeper. Reservations may be made in car No. 139. This train leaves Poughkeepsie at 10:21 P. M., and arrives at Lake Placid at 8:15 A. M. Those desiring to attend are asked to notify the Metric Association, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, telephone Chelsea 9970. Information regarding the program, accommodation, trains, etc., will be promptly given.

HOWARD RICHARDS,  
*Secretary*

#### FIELD WORK OF THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL MUSEUM

EXPLORATIONS and field work are being undertaken by the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa as follows:

Dr. R. M. Anderson, chief of the division, expects to spend the latter part of the summer and early fall in biological reconnaissance work, principally in collecting mammals and birds in eastern Ontario and eastern Quebec south of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Mr. P. A. Taverner, ornithologist, will spend the months of June and July collecting specimens along the Red Deer River in Alberta with a view to clearing up doubts as to the breeding forms of the localities traversed and particularly to study the red-tailed hawk. He will be assisted by Mr. C. G. Harrold who, during the months of April and May, was engaged in southern Manitoba in securing for the museum specimens of migrant blue geese.

Dr. M. O. Malte, chief botanist, with Mr. W. R. Watson as assistant, is spending the summer in the foothills area of the Province of Alberta from the international boundary north to the Yellowhead Pass. His work is being done with a view to consolidating the botanical knowledge of the region in question which so far is comparatively vague.

Mr. C. H. Young is engaged in the collecting of material for the scientific staff of the museum in selected localities in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and Mr. C. L. Patch and others will make short collecting trips from Ottawa in the interests of the museum.

Mr. Hamilton M. Laing, through the courtesy of the Mount Logan Expedition of the Canadian Alpine Club, was allowed to accompany it for the purpose of collecting natural history specimens. The area to be traversed is one from which we possess no material and concerning which we have but very vague knowledge.

Mr. J. D. Soper, in the summer of 1924, was despatched as naturalist by the museum with the expedition sent to Baffinland by the Northwest Territories Branch of the Interior Department. He wintered in the north and it is expected he will return to Ottawa when the Interior Department's boat makes its prospective trip during the summer of 1925.

Mr. W. S. Odell will, as opportunities present themselves, collect mushrooms and fungi in the vicinity of Ottawa.

Dr. E. Sapir, chief of the division, after completing some work in the office, plans on engaging in research on Athabaskan and Haida linguistics at the Hupa Reserve, California, and Queen Charlotte Islands.

Mr. Harlan I. Smith will have as his principal work the direction of work intended for the preservation of totem poles in the Skeena River district, B. C. This work is being financed by the Department of Indian Affairs and the Canadian National Railways are cooperating in the work. Mr. Smith will incidentally carry on archeological and ethnological work as opportunities present themselves.

Mr. W. J. Wintemberg is engaged in archeological reconnaissance in the provinces of Saskatchewan and