

langbetoetoe, about 10 miles northwest of Palembang. The party will consist of the following: Dr. J. van der Bilt, Utrecht Observatory; Dr. M. Minnaert, Helio-physical Laboratory, Utrecht; Dr. W. J. H. Moll, Department of Physics, University of Utrecht; Dr. A. Pannekoek, University of Amsterdam, and Miss J. C. Thoden van Velzen, graduate student of the University of Amsterdam.

It is reported also that the Einstein Foundation and the Potsdam Observatory are sending an expedition to Sumatra under the direction of Dr. E. F. Freundlich to secure observations for further study of the Einstein deflection of light rays in a gravitational field.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON OUTDOOR RECREATION

IN a letter written in April, 1924, President Coolidge appealed for nation-wide support of and participation in outdoor recreation as vital to the maintenance and development of American ideals. On the advice of a committee of cabinet members to whom the subject was referred, the President called a conference in May in which 128 national organizations participated. These were such as felt the use of the resources of the United States in land, water and wild life essential for the prosecution of their work.

The permanent organization effected at this first conference is based upon the President's committee, consisting of: *Chairman*, Hon. John W. Weeks, Secretary of War; Hon. Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior; Hon. W. M. Jardine, Secretary of Agriculture; Hon. Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce; Hon. James J. Davis, Secretary of Labor; *Executive Secretary*, Hon. Dwight F. Davis, Assistant Secretary of War.

With them is intimately associated the executive committee of the conference representing the various agencies and organizations cooperating in the movement. This committee consists of: Chauncey J. Hamlin, *chairman*; John C. Merriam, *vice-chairman*; Theodore Roosevelt, *honorary vice-chairman*; George Bird Grinnell, *honorary vice-chairman*; Vernon Kellogg, *secretary*; George E. Scott, *treasurer and chairman of Finance Committee*; Mrs. Herbert Hoover, Gustavus T. Kirby, Colin H. Livingstone, Barrington Moore, John Barton Payne, Charles Sheldon, Mrs. John Dickinson Sherwood, George Shiras, 3d, William A. Welch.

A group of departmental committees cooperates with the standing committees on education, human relations, playgrounds and athletic activities, land policies and wild life. The objective of the organization is the establishment of a national policy to unify and support the activities of the many federal, state,

municipal and unofficial agencies striving to develop the recreational resources of the country. As a necessary feature of its work the conference proposes to promote the preservation and proper use of national resources. In the discharge of the functions of the conference the executive committee endeavors to elucidate broad policies and encourage special projects in line with these policies. It has been able to secure some financial support for administrative work and special grants for individual projects. It has published a few bulletins and has distributed other literature to express in authoritative fashion its purpose and policies. One of the most recent of these pamphlets covers the organization and program of work for 1924-1925. This is so remarkable a record, especially in view of the newness of the movement and of the limited funds at its disposal, that an outline of its contents is appropriate.

The program includes thirty projects of major importance in the field of conservation, each one of them intimately related to outdoor recreation. Under the direction of the general council, composed of one hundred men and women, leaders in the fields of recreation and conservation, each approved project is worked out by a special committee of those intimately related to the topic. Among the projects are: A survey of municipal and county park systems of the United States; recreational surveys of state lands and of federal lands; recreational value of highways; wild life legislation and administration; recreational needs of industrial workers; natural preserves; the establishment of national recreation areas; administration of the unreserved and unappropriated public lands; recreational values of waterways (aquatic pollution, and also drainage). Some of the projects have secured funds for their prosecution and are well advanced; others are still seeking financial support. But the record of actual achievement reflects credit on the sponsors of the movement.

A second conference has just been called for January 20 and 21 in Washington. The constituent organizations are invited to lay before this meeting studied conclusions on outdoor recreation and the conservation of wild life resources. The principal objects of the conference will be to consider federal and state responsibilities in outdoor recreation; to submit a national program for 1926 for the endorsement of the President's committee; and to make definite reports of the progress of surveys and other committee work. By virtue of its long and active interest in problems of conservation, the American Association for the Advancement of Science is deeply concerned in the work of the conference.

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