

neers; *director and secretary*, Alfred D. Flinn; *treasurer*, Jacob S. Langthorn; *assistant treasurer*, Henry A. Lardner.

At the annual meeting of the board of trustees of the United Engineering Society, on January 28, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, W. L. Saunders; *first vice-president*, Bancroft Gherardi; *second vice-president*, Lewis D. Rights; *secretary*, Alfred D. Flinn; *treasurer*, Jacob S. Langthorn; *assistant treasurer*, Henry A. Lardner.

At the meeting of the councilors of the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, held on January 21, at Boston, Mass., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: *President*, Francis H. Allen, Boston; *vice-presidents*, Francis Beach White, Concord, N. H.; Henry S. Shaw, Waban; Harrison F. Lewis, Toronto, Canada; Charles L. Whittle, Cohasset; *corresponding secretary*, Laurence B. Fletcher, Brookline; *recording secretary*, Mrs. Alice B. Harrington, Cambridge; *treasurer*, Charles B. Floyd, Auburn-dale. S. Prentiss Baldwin, of Cleveland, Ohio, was made honorary president of the association.

### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

GIFTS for scientific, educational and humanitarian work totaling \$1,339,000 were made by the Commonwealth Fund during the fiscal year ending September 30, 1925, according to the seventh annual report. The endowment of the fund, which was established in 1918 by gift of Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness, was \$27,761,000 at the end of the year reviewed in the report, but recent donations from Mrs. Harkness have increased that total by \$11,000,000.

WILLIAM J. McDONALD, of Paris, Texas, has bequeathed the sum of \$1,490,000 to the University of Texas, to be used for the purpose of building and equipping an astronomical observatory to bear his name.

THEODORE P. SANXAY, of Iowa City, Ia., has bequeathed to Princeton University the sum of \$160,353, and the sum of \$15,000 to Iowa State University.

OF the sum of \$40,000 appropriated by the last Colorado legislature for experimental purposes, the Colorado School of Mines has been awarded \$20,000 for work at its experimental plant.

DR. RAYMOND A. PEARSON, formerly president of the Iowa State College, has accepted the presidency of the University of Maryland. He will succeed Dr. Albert F. Woods, who was recently appointed director of scientific work in the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

PROFESSOR J. ORVIS KELLER, head of the industrial engineering department at Pennsylvania State College, has been appointed head of the engineering extension department in the college.

WILLIAM WALTER RANKIN, JR., professor of mathematics at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia, has been appointed professor of mathematics at Duke University. He will take up his new duties next fall.

PROFESSOR C. D. SMITH has resumed the duties of head of the department of mathematics at Louisiana College after a year's leave of absence spent at the University of Iowa.

A. J. RIKER has been promoted to assistant professor of plant pathology at the University of Wisconsin.

At the University of Edinburgh, Colonel P. S. Lelean, until recently professor of hygiene in the Royal Army Medical College, has been appointed to the Bruce and John Usher chair of public health and Dr. William Robertson, medical officer of health of the City of Edinburgh, has been made director of instruction in sanitary administration.

### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE SUPPORT OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND OTHER COOPERATING AGENCIES

At their fall meeting held in Pennsylvania, the Association of American State Geologists discussed the question of the duties of the federal government and the state governments in scientific work, and the necessity of certain of this work being carried on adequately and continuously by the federal government. A letter was therefore prepared and addressed to Honorable Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States, requesting his earnest consideration of the needs of the scientific personnel of the government, and his support of a financial program which will permit this work to be carried on effectively. The body of the letter, which was transmitted by Mr. W. A. Nelson, president of the Association of American State Geologists, reads as follows:

It was with great pleasure that we noticed in your [President Coolidge's] message to Congress the following statement: "We should constantly engage in scientific studies of our future requirements and adopt an orderly program for their service."

Most of the States of the Union maintain State Geological Surveys. These Surveys have each a staff adequate in the main to deal with the general problems within the State. Each State, however, presents problems which can be solved only by specialists, whose work

is confined within narrow limits to certain divisions of the science of geology, in which very detailed knowledge and country-wide experience are necessary. The State Surveys are not able individually or independently to maintain a staff of such specialists and have therefore long maintained cooperative agreements with the U. S. Geological Survey, by which these special problems are referred to the specialists of the National Survey. Many of these problems are of fundamental importance and their solution is necessary to reliable economic work.

Further, the areal and structural geologic work in the various States is dependent on the progress and completion of the topographic maps of the United States, which are made by the Topographic Branch of the U. S. Geological Survey. The States usually have contributed one half of the cost of this work, the Federal Survey the other half, both parties to this cooperation having approximately equal need for the results.

Therefore, the Association of American State Geologists, in the interest of their work, ask that you use your good office to strengthen the research and specialist staff of the U. S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, and to promote and hasten the topographic mapping in conformity with the plan recently adopted by Congress and approved by yourself. What has been said about specialists in the U. S. Geological Survey is equally true of specialists in the U. S. Bureau of Mines, the Bureau of Soils, and other Federal organizations with which the members of our association cooperate.

The justification of the above letter has recently been emphasized by the action of the director of the Budget Bureau in ignoring the provisions of the Temple Bill, "An Act to provide for the completion of the topographical survey of the United States," which contemplates an appropriation of \$950,000 for the next fiscal year as the first year's requirement of the twenty-year program. The budget bureau director recommended \$477,000.

On January 9, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Department of the Interior, House of Representatives, represented that the provisions of the Temple bill would be met if the federal government met the sum total of the state allotments. On this basis the House on January 9 passed the appropriations bill carrying an amount of \$525,000 for topographic mapping. This misinterpretation of the Temple bill is now being protested before the Senate by the engineering societies of the country and the Association of American State Geologists who point out that in the hearings of the Temple bill it was contemplated that the federal expenditures would be nearly three times those of the states. These organizations are therefore urging that the full appropriation of \$950,000, which can be economically and effectively used, be made in accordance with the

provisions of the Temple bill, to fully sustain the twenty-year program.

M. M. LEIGHTON,  
*Secretary,*

*Association of American State Geologists*

## EVOLUTION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

REFERRING to Franklin D. Barker's communication in *SCIENCE* of January fifteenth regarding the quotation from the *New York Times* of November 29, 1925, may I quote the actual passage from my recent address, "How to Teach Evolution in the Schools," as printed in *School and Society*, January 9, 1926:

"In a recent journey through the politically progressive state of Nebraska I was amazed to learn from the senior professor of geology, Erwin H. Barbour, that even in the university there was a hush on the word 'evolution.' I was not less amazed to learn from an extremely able high-school teacher in the western part of the same state that the word 'evolution' must not be used at all; so powerful is the influence of a certain class of theological teachers on their congregations, so strong is the influence of these congregations with their representatives in the state legislature and so potent are these representatives in affecting state appropriations for education that no teacher in the whole state of Nebraska is entirely free to be sincere but is more or less obliged to dissemble his real beliefs."

I deeply regret if in any way I misrepresented the meaning of my honored friend, Professor Erwin H. Barbour, or the general atmosphere in the University of Nebraska, an institution for which I have the greatest admiration and with which I have long been in most friendly association through Professor Barbour and other friends. The concluding words are somewhat ambiguous; what I intended to say is that no (school) teacher in the state is entirely free to be sincere.

As regards the University of Nebraska, I am only too happy to learn from Professor Barker that I was mistaken and that the teaching of evolution as a law, no longer as a theory, is entirely free. I trust this will soon be the case among all the school teachers of the state of Nebraska, as well as among other school teachers all over the United States, to whom my address was especially directed.

HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

## LOSSES IN TROUT FRY AFTER DISTRIBUTION

SINCE sending to *SCIENCE* my article on this subject I have received from Mr. White a summary of