

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PAN-PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

IN the *Volcano Letter* Dr. T. A. Jaggar writes:

The Third Pan-Pacific Science Congress opened in the great hall of the Imperial University of Tokyo on October 30 and closed its session on November 11. More than 200 delegates from overseas were present and some 400 delegates from Japan. The congress was organized with extraordinary efficiency under the able leadership of Dr. Sakurai, and the foreign delegates were entertained lavishly by the Imperial Government and by distinguished citizens of the empire. Excursions were provided, before the congress opened, to the Ainu villages of Hokkaido (the northern island of Japan), to the Cretaceous and Tertiary deposits of that island, and to Tarumai volcano, which staged a small explosive eruption just at the time of the congressional visit. Other excursions prior to congress were to Nikko and Hakone, and these beautiful mountain districts were in the full glory of autumnal foliage. Numerous short excursions occupied the week-end of November 6 and 7, and after the congress there were long excursions to central Japan, the Inland Sea and the mines, hot springs and volcanoes of Kyushu. All of this travel was furnished to the overseas delegates at the expense of the Imperial Government, and was even extended to Korea for those delegates who were headed toward China.

The countries represented in the congress were Japan, the United States, Australia, Canada, China, France, Great Britain, Hawaii, Hongkong, Holland, the Dutch East Indies, New Zealand, Papua, the Philippines, the Strait Settlements and Federated Malay States, Russia, Sweden, Peru and Chile.

More than 400 papers were presented in English, the official language, and geophysical sciences were represented by a large number of delegates. Oceanography was accented, and the geological sciences had more representatives than any other group. Japan exhibited instruments and methods, bearing on seismology and earthquake-proof construction, greatly in advance of former practice. At Kyoto there are seismographs with magnification of 50,000, electrical transmission of the motion, and vacuum-tube amplification for registration. Remarkable new accelerographs and vertical-component instruments are under test in the University of Sendai and at the Imperial University of Tokyo. Dr. Imamura has new horizontal pendulums, designed for registering great earthquakes by reducing the amplitude instead of magnifying it, and others of extraordinarily long period by means of special adjusting screws and great height to the supporting columns.

The discussions of the congress developed the need for more extensive translation of scientific works written in obscure languages. Resolutions were passed on motion of those interested in volcanology and local seismology, recommending (1) more published notes at short intervals, (2) more cooperation by radio, (3) more interchange of research workers and (4) translation of far-eastern scientific books through such interchange.

It was provided that the congress of 1929 shall be held in Java.

PROGRAM OF THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL

WE learn from the *Electrical World* that the plan to centralize in a single cabinet office all the functions of the federal government which affect public works and the public domain will come before the assembly of the American Engineering Council for approval at the council's annual meeting which will be held in Washington on January 13 and 14. The report of a special committee on organization of federal public works was adopted recently by the council's administrative board at a meeting held at Cornell University and now goes to the assembly, or "engineering parliament," composed of members of 30 national and local engineering societies, for final action after public discussion. Should the proposal be approved, a nation-wide movement among engineers will follow to abolish the present form of the Department of the Interior and to establish a Department of Public Works and Domain. A detailed program of reorganization, accomplishing, it is claimed, large savings in money and increased efficiency in government through a regrouping of bureaus, commissions, offices and other services, has been worked out.

A special meeting of the assembly, Dean Dexter S. Kimball, of Cornell University, president of the council, presiding, has been called for the evening of January 13 to hear the report of a nation-wide study of safety and production in industry. The report will be presented by A. W. Berresford, of Detroit, chairman of the investigation committee. Addresses will be made by Leon P. Alford, of New York, a member of the committee; Joshua Eyre Hannum, research engineer of the Eyesight Conservation Council of New York, and Lawrence W. Wallace, of Washington, executive secretary of the American Engineering Council. Many representatives of industry and the federal government, including Secretary of Labor Davis and the directors of the Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey, are expected to attend.

Charles M. Schwab, president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, will be the chief speaker at the annual dinner of the council, to be held on the evening of January 14 at the Mayflower Hotel. Meetings of the council's executive committee and administrative board will be other events of the sessions. Election of new members of the council will be announced.