SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

AIRPLANE VIEWS OF SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA

IN order that the "phototopographic" views made in southeastern Alaska last summer by the Navy Department at the request of the Geological Survey may be available to the general public at as early a date as possible, arrangements have been recently entered into between the Geological Survey of the Interior Department and the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture whereby prints of the pictures may be obtained at a small price. It should be distinctly understood, however, that several prints of adjacent areas can not be jonied so as to form an undistorted mosaic.

Nearly 5,000 sets of exposures were made during the summer, each consisting of three parts—a central picture which represents the ground directly under the airplane and two side pictures which represent adjoining areas on each side of the central picture. The central picture is taken with a camera pointed vertically downward, and the two side pictures are made at the same moment by two supplementary cameras directed obliquely to each side and fixed at a definite angle to the vertical. A set of three pictures thus taken represents an area of about 11 square miles when the plane flies at the preferred elevation of 10,000 feet, and the whole series covers practically all of southeastern Alaska except Baranof and Chichagof Islands.

As rapidly as possible official sets of all the prints will be made, and one set will be placed on file for inspection in the district office of the Forest Service at Juneau, Alaska, and another in the office of the Alaskan branch of the Geological Survey, at Washington, D. C. More than one half of the prints have now been completed, and it is hoped to have the entire set ready by October 1. Orders for prints may be made by number from these file sets. Those to whom these file sets are not readily accessible may request from the Forest Service, Washington, D. C., a copy of an index map which shows the location of the area covered by each photograph or may forward orders specifying the location of the precise tract of which photographs are desired, the name of the island on which the tract is located, and the size of the tract.

OCEAN WEATHER CHARTS

PREPARATION of complete ocean weather charts and dependable forecasts every day for the benefit of aircraft navigators, as well as masters of water craft on the North Atlantic, is a project which the United States Weather Bureau hopes to accomplish within the near future.

The transatlantic airplane flights have stimulated the receiving of ocean weather reports, enabling the bureau to keep the recent Byrd flight well advised as to the winds, storms and fogs which would be encountered in the crossing. This service was made possible largely by the voluntary cooperation of shipmasters and of the radio companies, which collected the ocean weather information twice daily and delivered it to the bureau for charting and analysis.

In future transatlantic flying such voluntary cooperation will hardly be as readily forthcoming since the novelty of the enterprise will be gone and public interest less keen. Officials of the Weather Bureau are accordingly figuring out what can be done to stimulate interest in ocean weather reports to add to the safety of flying and of navigation. It is their hope that shipmasters will continue the work when the present flying season is over. Nevertheless, something more permanently dependable is essential.

That a more complete and extensive organization of the ship service is necessary is shown by the fact that on some days while the fliers were waiting for favorable conditions the Weather Bureau did not get a single ship report from areas a thousand miles wide in the Atlantic. Even on May 18, two days before Lindbergh made his successful flight, no report was received from any ship between midocean and the Irish Coast. It was not until he had started that weather reports from ships became nearly adequate. When Chamberlin made his flight the amount of information coming in was more abundant than in any previous period.

Eventually, when funds and facilities permit, the Weather Bureau hopes to get reports twice daily from all ships in the Atlantic lanes. Such reports, supplemented by reports from land stations in this country, Canada, Greenland, Iceland and Europe, would make possible the preparation of complete ocean weather charts and dependable forecasts every day.

THE ASTRONOMY AND PHYSICS CLUB OF PASADENA

THE following is the program of the Astronomy and Physics Club of Pasadena for the last half year:

January 7. Series Spectra of Boron, Carbon, Nitrogen, Oxygen and Fluorine: Dr. I. S. Bowen.

" 14, 21, 28. Statistical Mechanics: Dr. R. C. Tolman.

February 4, 5. Conference on the Michelson-Morley Experiment: Dr. A. A. Michelson, Professor H. A. Lorentz, Professor D. C. Miller, Professor E. R. Hedrick, Professor P. S. Epstein, Dr. R. J. Kennedy. (A complete report of this conference will be published later.)

" 11. The Electrostatics of the Thunder Storm: Dr. A. W. Simon, National Research Fellow.

February 17, 18. The New Quantum Mechanics: Dr. E. Schrödinger, professor of mathematical physics at the University of Zurich.

March 4. The Theory of the Breakdown of Dielectrics: Professor A. Joffé, of the Physical Technical Roentgen Institute of Leningrad.

" 11. Some Characteristics of Solar and Stellar Atmospheres: Dr. Charles E. St. John.

April 1. Doublet Separation and Fine Structure of the Balmer Lines of Hydrogen: Dr. Norton A. Kent, professor of physics, Boston University.

" 8. Absolute Intensities of Lines in the Pure Rotation Spectrum of HCl: Dr. R. M. Badger.

" 18. "Newton": Professor H. H. Turner, of Oxford University, England.

" 22. The Scandium Spectrum: Professor Henry Norris Russell, of Princeton University.

" 29. Theory of Precision Clocks and other Regenerative Systems: Mr. V. H. Benioff.

May 6. On the Theory of Compton Effect: Dr. P. S. Epstein.

" 13. Recent Research in Line and Band Spectra: Dr. L. A. Sommer, of the University of Göttingen.

" 20. The Theory of the Davisson-Germer Experiment: Drs. C. Eckart and F. Zwicky.

" 27. The Shift of Spectroscopic Lines with Pressure: Mr. H. D. Babcock.

June 3. Some Evidences as to the Ultimate Nature of Magnetism: T. D. Yensen. Photo-electric Fatigue: F. L. Poole.

THE INTERNATIONAL GEODETIC AND GEOPHYSICAL UNION

THE list of delegates and guests of the American Geophysical Union to the third general assembly of the International Geodetic and Geophysical Union which meets at Prague from September 3 to 10, includes:

Dr. Louis A. Bauer, director, Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, accompanied by Mrs. Bauer.

Dr. William Bowie, chief of the division of geodesy of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, accompanied by Mrs. Bowie and their adult son.

Dr. J. H. Dellinger, senior physicist of the radio section of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, accompanied by Mrs. Dellinger.

Commander N. H. Heck, chief of the division of terrestrial magnetism and seismology, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Mr. W. D. Lambert, mathematician of the division of geodesy, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, accompanied by his sister, Miss Mary B. Lambert.

Dr. R. A. Millikan, director of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

Dr. Harry Fielding Reid, professor of dynamic geology of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

Professor L. C. Graton, of the department of geology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., will attend as a guest.

The following resolutions were adopted by the American Geophysical Union during its eighth annual meeting on April 29:

RESOLUTIONS ON TRANSLATIONS OF REPORTS ON SEISMOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS PUBLISHED IN THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE

(Submitted by Section of Seismology)

Whereas, It has become known that the reports of much of the seismological investigations carried on in Japan will hereafter be published in the Japanese language only, and

Whereas, This procedure is calculated to deprive most of the American students in this field of research of the advantages of this literature, be it

Resolved, That this matter be brought to the attention of the National Research Council in the hope that the council may provide that this literature be rendered into English, also that provision be made whereby mimeographed copies of these translations be supplied investigators at research institutions gratis and to business concerns, insurance companies, and others interested at cost, and

Resolved, Further, that, should such an arrangement be feasible, a committee of the Geophysical Union be empowered to make a choice of the material to be so translated and distributed.

THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY AND SOILS OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

DR. CHARLES ALBERT BROWNE, chief of the bureau of chemistry of the United States Department of Agriculture, has been designated acting chief of the new Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, which takes form July 1. Dr. A. G. McCall, of the University of Maryland, has been selected to head the department of soils and will take the place of Professor Milton Whitney, who has headed this work since its organization in the department, but who is now obliged, on account of ill health, to relinquish exacting administrative duties. Professor Whitney will devote himself to writing up results of important investigations on which he has been engaged for many years.

A. G. Rice, assistant to the chief of the Bureau of Soils, has been given the same position in the new bureau.

Dr. McCall was a member of the scientific staff of the Bureau of Soils from 1901 to 1904. He left the Department of Agriculture to become assistant professor of agronomy in the Ohio State University and was soon made head of that department, holding the position until 1916 when he became head of the de-