In view of the growing menace to the fisheries through encroachments of hydro-electric developments on our streams, the American Fisheries Society urges that streams of real importance to the fisheries' resources be determined and designated without delay and that such streams be withdrawn from further power development until urgent public need for such development is clearly shown, and until a known method whereby anadromous fishes shall not be interrupted in their nuptial journey had been provided for without any doubt.

The American Fisheries Society strongly approves the efforts of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries and the several states interested in the problem to devise an efficient method of preventing the enormous loss of fishes in irrigation ditches, and we urge that the efforts be continued until a satisfactory solution is found and applied.

It is also urged that sufficient appropriations be provided by congress for a similar investigation tending toward the solution of the fishway problem.

In view of the fact that many important fisheries in industrial districts have been destroyed by pollution of the waters; and that other important fisheries are in imminent danger from the same source; and that the State of Pennsylvania has adopted a very effective method of dealing with this problem, it is therefore urged by the American Fisheries Society that similar methods be adopted by other states.

It is also recommended that the establishment on unpolluted waters of industries having injurious wastes be delayed until satisfactory methods of handling such wastes can be applied.

The American Fisheries Society recognizes the existence of the various fisheries conservation problems common to the United States and Canada—in particular, of those relating to the salmon fisheries of the Great Lakes, and recommends the immediate adoption of appropriate treaties looking towards the restoration of such international fisheries as are depleted and the adoption of uniform regulations where such are desirable; and to a closer cooperation in dealing with such matters.

The American Fisheries Society approves the work accomplished by the Western Food and Game Fish Protective Association through the cooperation of sportsmen, commercial fishery operators and others interested in the preservation of the fisheries; and urges a closer cooperation between these various interests throughout the country in securing constructive action on fishery problems.

WHEREAS, There has been an increase of considerable proportion in commercial troll fishing in the Pacific Ocean off the coasts of Alaska, British Columbia, Oregon, Washington and California, during recent years; and

WHEREAS, There are numbers of immature salmon taken, especially during the early spring months; and

WHEREAS, This has resulted in a depletion of the salmon supply; and

WHEREAS, It is evident that in the interests of conservation and perpetuation of a major industry that some remedial legislation is needed; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the American Fisheries Society, in convention assembled, at Seattle, Washington, this 31st day of August, 1928, that the several legislatures of California, Oregon and Washington, as to their respective coasts, the Department of Marine and Fisheries of Canada, as to the British Columbia coast, and the U. S. Department of Commerce, as to Alaska, be asked to pass uniform legislation or promulgate uniform orders, that will regulate commercial trolling, and the landing of troll-caught fish, by the establishment of closed season periods.

SURVEY OF THE VIRGIN RIVER VALLEY AND THE BOULDER DAM

THE Interior Department has published a report by the Geological Survey on an area that will be partly covered by the proposed reservoir on the Colorado River. Southeastern Nevada north of the big bend of the Colorado will be affected by the construction of the proposed Boulder Dam, because the Virgin River valley will be partly flooded by the impounded waters.

The valley of the Virgin lies between the Muddy Mountains on the west and the Virgin Mountains on the east, and all three features, which are parts of what is known as the "basin-range country," occupy territory immediately west of the great plateaus through which the Colorado River has cut its Grand Canyon. The Grand Wash Cliffs, east of the Virgin Mountains, form the boundary between the two regions.

Early scientists who traversed the Great Basin and the Colorado plateaus gave only passing notice to the Muddy and Virgin Mountains, so that until the last few years their geology has remained practically unknown. Nevertheless these mountains, which occupy critical border positions, should shed much light on the geologic history and relations of these two most interesting but very different types of country.

The report just published deals particularly with the Muddy Mountains and the Virgin Valley, but it includes some discussion of the Virgin Mountains and of a strip of country eastward to the Grand Wash Cliffs and is accompanied by a colored geologic map. The geologic formations described are in part identical with those exposed in the Grand Canyon, but they include other formations that throw additional light on the long and diversified geologic history which the canyon region has experienced.

In contrast with the fairly simple structural outlines of the plateau region, these mountains present folded and broken structure which indicates that the rocks had formerly been subjected to intense compressive forces. Later disturbances and prolonged erosion have combined to produce a highly complex and interesting sequence of surface features.

The report is designated Bulletin 798 and entitled "Geology of the Muddy Mountains, Nevada," by

Chester R. Longwell. Though of interest chiefly to geologists and physiographers, it contains much information about the Colorado River region adjacent to the proposed Boulder Dam site and supplies some sidelights useful to those who are following the Boulder Dam discussion.

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

IT is stated in the London *Times* that the ninth general assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture, in its closing session at Geneva, voted a number of resolutions, strongly supported by the British and American delegations, tending to bring the institute more into line with modern ideas of the organization of international institutions. A resolution was passed "recommending that the meetings of the permanent committee should, as far as possible, take the form of quarterly sessions."

The provisional agreement reached between the League of Nations and the institute was also approved, and the permanent committee was invited to continue negotiations with the least possible delay with the object of reaching a definitive arrangement.

Resolutions were also passed on the subject of collaboration with the International Wine Office, on convening an international conference on meat, and on promoting the forthcoming world agricultural census. As regards the question of the institute's program of work, the assembly approved of the following amended text of the British delegation's proposal.

"That, having regard to the situation in which the institute finds itself owing to its restricted income, the main work of the institute shall be concentrated upon the preparation and presentation of (1) statistics of the world's agriculture, with such documentation and discussion as will render them of prime authority, and (2) economic reports and inquiries that may arise out of statistical works or throw light upon it; that, for the same reasons of economy, the scientific and technical work shall be directed principally to publishing reports on particular developments of importance to agriculture, to be obtained from competent authorities in any country."

ORGANIZATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A NEW division, the Division of Soil Chemistry and Physics, has been formed in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, with Dr. Horace G. Byers, lately professor in charge of the department of chemistry of Cooper Union, New York City, as chief. The new division combines the bureau's divisions of soil chemistry and soil physics. The functions of the merged divisions were formerly quite distinct, but recent intensive studies of colloids and the newer development of soil science brought the work of the two units into close relations. Dr. Byers is a graduate of Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, and received a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University. For some years he was professor of chemistry at the University of Washington. During the war he served as a captain in charge of the emergency unit of the pyrotechnic section of chemical warfare. In 1919 he entered the Department of Agriculture and was placed in charge of soil chemical investigations, but resigned to become head of the department of chemistry of Cooper Union.

Dr. Eugene C. Auchter, of the University of Maryland, was appointed principal horticulturist in charge of the newly created office of horticultural crops and diseases, to take office November 16. As principal horticulturist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Dr. Auchter will assume general supervision not only of the vegetable gardening, pomological and related lines of the present office of horticulture, but also of the physiological project of the office of plant geography and physiology, as well as the work of the pathological laboratory and of the office of vegetable and forage diseases, and the entire office of fruit diseases and the office of crop physiology and breeding.

Grouping these related offices under one head, it is believed, will facilitate the cooperative research upon the many complicated problems of horticulture, not only among the specialists of the new organization, but also with the specialists of the state agricultural experiment stations and of the horticultural industries. The total budget for the new organization is approximately $1,000,000 annually.

A NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

LAST April the executive committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science gave formal endorsement to the principles of the Ransdell bill now before the United States Senate. This bill contains three features: First, the creation of a National Institute of Health, which would replace the present Hygienic Laboratory of the United States Public Health Service and greatly enlarge its research activities; second, the establishment of a system of fellowships for the conduct of research, either in the Washington laboratories of the institute, or in universities or endowed institutions either in this country or abroad; third, authorization of the acceptance of "gifts by will or otherwise for study, investigation and research in the fundamental problems of the diseases of man and matters pertaining thereto."

Hearings were held on this bill before the Committee on Commerce on May 25, 1928, at which there