

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