The appearance of such misstatements as these in a permanent public document gives Congress a discouraging idea of the value of scientific methods. However widely scholars may differ on political questions they surely should be able to present a united front on questions of arithmetic. In the presence of this apparent conflict of opinion, *it would seem appropriate for any member of Congress to request a report on the mathematical facts from the National Academy of Sciences*—which is the body legally appointed to advise Congress on all scientific questions. The modern analysis has given a complete list of all the methods which might be said to satisfy, in any sense, the constitutional requirement of proportionality. Congress, and Congress alone, must make the choice between these possible methods; but all congressmen are desirous of having accurate information on which an intelligent choice can be based; and an authoritative report from the National Academy of Sciences would provide exactly this information, without in any way limiting freedom of action.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PROJECT FOR AN ALEUTIAN GEOGRAPHIC OBSERVATORY

DR. T. A. JAGGAR writes in the *Volcano Letter* issued weekly by the Hawaiian Volcano Research Association on September 7, that he addressed the Seattle Chamber of Commerce on a proposed Aleutian Geographic Observatory to be established at Dutch Harbor, Alaska. It is estimated that to carry out this project the sum of $50,000 will be needed for equipment and that the upkeep will amount to an annual expenditure of $50,000. Dr. Jaggar stated that:

Experience shows that mapping should be the main aim, and that all sciences should be represented. The founding of the Hawaii Observatory by the sugar and other industries through the Volcano Research Association, with government collaboration, suggests that the fish, fur and shipping industries might do something effective for southwest Alaska.

Modern exploration and discovery are extended by each new invention. Montana and Arizona have been "discovered" to be garden spots through irrigation and agricultural machines. The *Carnegie* is mapping all the oceans with echo sounding and new electrical instruments.

The advent of the salmon canneries, of Diesel engines in 60-foot boats of 2,000 miles fuel radius, of radio communication, and of some new maps, have greatly improved the Alaskan field for the explorer.

It is proposed that the observatory be at Dutch Harbor as a fixed home for land and sea mapping and for measuring geophysical, biological and chemical processes along the arc of the Alaskan peninsula and the Aleutian Islands. The station will work in concert with eight scientific bureaus of the government, seven civil officers, and two outside institutions. It is called geographic, because it will study that part of the earth in relation to man.

It will measure and secure data all the year around concerning the weather, tides, currents, magnetism, earthquakes, volcanic activity, crust upheaval, animals, plants, fish, natives and commercial needs.

For the summer half of the year, the observatory will maintain expeditions to collect land and marine organisms, minerals, rocks and human antiquities; to map the lands, the geology, the depths of the sea, the air currents, temperatures and pressures, and such earth activities as magnetism, tremor, tilting and changes of mean sea-level. The snowy craters of the big volcanoes will be explored and photographed with the aid of alpinists and aviators.

There has come recently a demand for scientific study of the Aleutian lands from numerous scientific institutions and conventions, so that the matter is being pressed by the National Research Council of the United States. The writer has reconnoitered the field by three expeditions devoted primarily to volcanology.

The proposal is to place four workers at the main station winter and summer, equipped with a powerful Diesel yacht and small boats, also laboratories, shop, quarters, dock and photographic dark room. The station will keep in radio communication with its yacht and with existing stations. It will provide a base and a boat for the Coast Survey and the Geological Survey in mapping the coasts and interiors. It will publish weekly and quarterly reports.

The substations will work from April to September. The summer staff will be eight persons, and the substation will report to the main station. The substation camp will be left for future use. Specialists in all sciences will be imported from outside institutions for work at the substations.

THE CONTROL OF MALARIA

THE work that has been done in recent years for the prevention of malaria was described at a meeting held in connection with the Ross Institute for Tropical Diseases in the council room of the Rubber Growers' Association. Sir Malcolm Watson said, according to an account given in the *Journal* of the American Medical Association, that the medical profession, in a resolution passed at the congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine held at Calcutta in December, 1927, laid down a policy on the subject of malaria control. They considered that for towns, mines, plantations, large public works and similar aggregations of people the control of the breeding places of the malaria-carrying species of mosquitoes should be employed, whatever other antimalarial measures were put into force. Before effect could be given to