The functions of the council, as outlined in the constitution adopted at the meeting, are as follows:

1. To endeavor to obtain, at the request of any interested group, the desired cooperation of organizations in any standardization project in the mechanical field.
2. To confer with any organization in the mechanical field interested in or carrying on work which eventually may be presented for action under the rules of procedure of the American Standards Association.
3. To advise the American Standards Association on questions of policy relating to standardization applying to products of the mechanical industries.
4. To serve as a general coordinating medium in the mechanical field, within the scope of the constitution, by-laws and rules of procedure of the American Standards Association.
5. To consider—
   (a) the desirability and practicability of standardization projects within its field,
   (b) the order in which standards shall be developed,
   (c) the scope of projects,
   (d) sponsorships for the necessary sectional committees, and
   (e) the adjustment of conflicts and the clearing up of ambiguities.
6. To follow up and expedite work in the development of standards.

In accordance with its constitution, the council voted to designate the representatives of the Society of Automotive Engineers, the National Machine Tool Builders Association, the American Standards Association, the Manufacturers Standardization Society of the Valve and Fittings Industry, the American Society for Testing Materials and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as the executive committee of the new council.

The meeting recently held followed two preceding conferences of April 7, 1926, and June 20, 1928. The first conference, called by the society, answered the questions of "how to standardize" by unanimously determining that the procedure of the American Standards Association (formerly known as the American Engineering Standards Committee) is the method which should be employed in developing and promulgating a standard of sufficient scope to seriously affect more than a single group of interests.

The second conference decided upon "what and when to standardize" by approving the recommendations of the first conference's special plan and scope committee that such functions should rest with industry itself and by creating a temporary executive committee with power to further develop a basic instrument or constitution for the necessary organization, to be known as the Mechanical Standards Advisory Council, and also to call a meeting at which this council would be organized upon a permanent basis.

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RIFT CLUB

THE Rift Club meets several times a year at localities where faults are shown, for study and discussion. For the winter meeting the adjacent Death and Panamint Valleys of eastern California were selected, and a detailed road and camping schedule covering four days from December 27 to 30 was prepared. Over fifty people made the trip, in a caravan of twenty-one motor cars, under the leadership of Mr. R. B. Peters, of San Bernardino, club president, and Professor J. E. Wolff, of Harvard University (retired), arranger of the program.

Death and Panamint Valleys are narrow troughs extending north and south between lofty mountain ranges. Each range is a tilted fault block, with a steep compound fault escarpment as its western boundary. The party studied numerous component scarps of these systems, some cutting across alluvial fans. It was also noticed that the alluvial fans on the west side of each valley are broken by north-south faults, each with upthrow on the fanhead side. A noteworthy prospect was that west from Dante's View, including both Death Valley, below sea-level and the lowest point in America, and in the far distance Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the United States. These great differences of elevation are the result of geologically recent movements or faults.

Death, Panamint and adjacent valleys are more or less completely closed basins. A rather recent event in their geologic history has been the formation and subsequent desiccation of great lakes, whose shorelines and saline deposits remain in testimony. The Rift Club noted vague shore-lines in Death Valley, clearer cases in Panamint Valley, and the perfect terrace above "Searles Lake" west of Panamint Valley.

The trip closed with a circuit of the great potash and borax works at Trona, where the brines pumped from beneath the dry floor of "Searles Lake" are fractionally crystallized to rob them of their more valuable constituents. This opportunity, and the turkey dinner which followed, the club owed to the courtesy of the American Potash and Chemical Company. The club had previously been accorded the great privileges of wood and water at every possible point, and even freedom from toll over Townsend Pass. The desert hospitality was much appreciated.

THE RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST

THE Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture regards the Rio Grande National

Forest as a large diversified farm, the main products of which are timber and forage crops. With a net area of 1,135,764 acres, this forest contains some two billion feet of standing timber, and provides grazing annually for 200,000 head of sheep. It has 600 miles of fishing streams, 150 miles of roads and 1,200 miles of trails.

The annual crop of timber is represented by the total annual growth of all the trees in the forest. In any one year the crop is taken only from a part of the forest. Operations are confined to the cutting of ripe or mature trees, and the weeding out of those that are overmature, diseased or defective. This leaves a stand of thrifty immature trees in a condition favorable for increased growth. Timber production is thus continuous. Although the annual growth of timber now amounts to about 20,000,000 board feet, present local demand for lumber has not warranted harvesting the full annual crop, and most of the accumulation is being "stored on the stump."

Deer, elk, mountain sheep, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, blue and willow grouse, ptarmigan, ducks and many other kinds of game and wild life range on the forest. It is the policy of the Forest Service in handling the grazing of domestic livestock to reserve adequate range for the wild animals in parts of the forest which can not be used efficiently for domestic stock. Hunting is allowed under Colorado State game laws, but elk and mountain sheep are protected the year round.

Watershed protection is one of the primary considerations in the administration of the Rio Grande. The welfare of a large territory in southwestern United States and northern Mexico is dependent upon the waters of the Rio Grande, and protection from fire, overgrazing and destructive logging is necessary to maintain adequate watershed cover.

Within the forest is the Wheeler National Monument, a grotesquely eroded geological feature, set aside by presidential proclamation and named in honor of George Wheeler, United States engineer. The monument is reached by a trip of 12 miles from Creede, Colorado, over a Forest Service trail.

A descriptive booklet, "The Rio Grande National Forest, Colorado," has just been published by the Department of Agriculture, from which copies may be obtained.

REFUGES FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS

THE protection of migratory birds by the establishment of refuges in all the states and Alaska is proposed in a bill introduced by Representative Andresen, Republican, of Minnesota, and unanimously passed by the House on February 9. A similar measure, sponsored by Senator Norbeck, Republican, of South Dakota, has passed the Senate.

The house bill provides for an appropriation of $75,000 for the first year, $200,000 for the second year, $600,000 for the third year and $1,000,000 annually for the next seven years to bear the cost of land and water areas on which 125 bird refuges would be erected. The senate bill differs in that it provides an annual appropriation for an indefinite period.

The two bills will be harmonized in conference and the completed measure submitted to President Coolidge, who is said to be in sympathy with the proposed legislation. One of the purposes of the bills is to meet more effectively the obligations of the United States under the migratory bird treaty with Great Britain by lessening the dangers threatening migratory game birds from drainage and other causes.

The Andresen bill provides for the creation of a commission for the purchase and establishment of bird sanctuaries in which the states are to have representation. State approval must be had before any area is set aside within its borders for this purpose. Jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases is expressly reserved to the states, and the bill provides that in carrying out the law there shall be no interference with their game laws.

The commission will be composed of the secretary of agriculture as chairman, the secretary of commerce, the secretary of the interior, two members of the senate, to be named by the vice-president, and two members of the house, to be designated by the speaker. The governor of each state will pass on all matters arising under the law affecting his state.

AWARD OF THE LAMME MEDAL

THE Lamme Medal Committee of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers has awarded the first (1928) Lamme medal to Mr. Allan Bertram Field "for the mathematical and experimental investigation of eddy current losses in large slot-wound conductors in electrical machinery." Arrangements for the presentation of the medal will be announced later.

The Lamme medal was founded as a result of a bequest in the will of the late Benjamin G. Lamme, chief engineer of the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, who died on July 8, 1924, to provide for the award by the institute of a gold medal (together with a bronze replica thereof) annually to a member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, "who has shown meritorious achievement in the development of electrical apparatus or machinery" and for the award of two such medals in some years if the accumulation from the funds warrants.

Mr. Lamme made similar bequests to the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education and the Ohio State University, providing in the former for