

ican Military Engineers, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the American Geophysical Union, the American Geographical Society, the Washington Academy of Sciences, the Philosophical Society of Washington and the Cosmos Club of Washington.

Major Hodgson had a broad grasp of all surveying and mapping activities and of their relation and importance to engineering and industrial developments. He was the author of several reports and manuals of the Coast and Geodetic Survey dealing with geodetic subjects, as well as many papers on surveying and mapping subjects which appeared in technical journals.

Due to his writings, his activities in engineering societies and his recognized ability as an engineer, Major Hodgson was one of the most widely known members of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. In addition to his high professional qualifications, he possessed a personality and character that impressed most favorably all those with whom he came in contact. His untimely death is not only a loss to the Coast and Geodetic Survey, but to the entire engineering profession.

WILLIAM BOWIE

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PRODUCTION OF "TALKING" MOTION PICTURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE production of "talking" motion pictures will be undertaken by the Department of Agriculture this year, and if present plans are carried out one or more "all talkie" short features will be ready for presentation at the livestock shows next winter.

For the present the production of talking pictures will be limited to short specials, for such occasions as the National Dairy Show, where facilities for reproduction can be provided, but as soon as portable equipment for sound pictures is available at a cost lower than now the production of talking films for general circulation will be undertaken. The office of motion pictures has been investigating portable projectors with sound attachments.

The bureau of agricultural economics sees a special advantage in vocalizing films which deal with economic phases of farming, believing that the exhibition of sound pictures on the agricultural outlook, for example, would aid greatly in the efforts to induce farmers to study prospective demand for their products in adjusting production activities.

At one time magic-lantern slides "with lectures" were the only available method of depicting agricultural production and marketing on the screen. Then

the movies came. They were "flickers" for a time, but with the establishment of a modern motion-picture studio in the department at Washington a few years ago and the borrowing of a few of the commercial movie methods a large number of excellent pictures have been produced by the department.

The demand for films of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is usually greater than the supply. Not infrequently the pictures are used in metropolitan theaters in addition to the wide use in rural movie houses, schools and assembly halls. Many foreign governments interested in American agricultural technique have shown the pictures abroad. As the commercial pictures have promoted American foreign trade in clothing, house furnishings and the like, so it is believed the American agricultural films may have contributed something to the increase in sales of American farm machinery in old world agricultural regions.

THE GIANNINI FOUNDATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

THE Giannini Foundation for Agricultural Economics, endowed by a million-dollar gift from A. P. Giannini, will be developed as an integral part of the college of agriculture of the University of California, according to a plan of organization outlined by Director C. B. Hutchison, of the foundation, and approved by the board of regents.

The plan provides that the director of the foundation will report to and through the dean of the college of agriculture; the funds of the foundation will be administered in the college of agriculture in as intimate association as possible with the administration of other funds received by the college from federal, state or other sources, that are applicable to the subject of agricultural economics in its broadest terms.

It is proposed to include in the staff of the foundation the members of the division of agricultural economics, such members of the agricultural extension division as are engaged in economic investigations and such other members of the staff of the college of agriculture, and other divisions of the university whose interests and fields of work give promise of contributing to the advancement of the purposes of the foundation.

An advisory committee is provided, to consist of the dean of the college of agriculture, the director of the agricultural extension service, the director of the Giannini Foundation, an outstanding financier and three successful representatives of agriculture.

It will be the function of this committee to advise with the director and his staff in respect to the activities of the foundation.

The personnel of the staff in the initial stages of development will be: C. B. Hutchison, director; Frank