

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

Adams, professor of irrigation investigations and practice; R. L. Adams, professor of farm management; E. W. Braun, specialist in agricultural extension; B. H. Crocheron, director of agricultural extension; H. E. Erdman, professor of agricultural economics; L. W. Fluharty, specialist in agricultural extension; Walter Mulford, professor of forestry; S. W. Shear, assistant agricultural economist; E. C. Voorhies, associate professor of agricultural economics; David Weeks, associate professor of agricultural economics; H. R. Wellman, specialist in agricultural extension; C. H. West, assistant agricultural economist, and F. R. Wilcox, specialist in agricultural extension.

All papers dealing with agricultural economics emanating from members of the staff or graduate students or assistants working under their direction will be given a serial number and will appear as contributions of the Giannini Foundation, regardless of where they are published.

#### THE SETTLEMENT OF THE UNDEVELOPED AREAS OF CANADA

THE American Geographical Society has issued a statement in regard to its plan of conducting a scientific study of the settlement of undeveloped areas of Canada and later of other regions of the world which it has undertaken to finance. In order to deal with the many problems that affect agriculture, settlement and immigration it is expected that the investigations will extend over three or four years.

While the study is under the general supervision of a committee of the society, a Canadian committee headed by Dr. W. A. Mackintosh, professor of political and economic science, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, has been formed and the work has already been started. The initial research will be confined to the prairie provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

It is planned to appraise the natural resources of the pioneer regions, to study methods of settlement with a view to avoiding the waste of life and capital that has characterized pioneer settlement in the past, and to trace the successive stages of utilization of natural resources and the effects on economic and social institutions.

On May 24 and 25 a group of scholars from Canada and the United States met in Ottawa to discuss these plans, and it was generally agreed that this major problem of settlement had so far received relatively little adequate systematic and intensive study.

The Canadian situation was considered to be the most important, at least for the time being. Into some of the undeveloped sections of the Dominion a flood of settlers has been steering, while other districts

have been left practically waste. Some social and racial groups are pushing back the frontier; others are being drawn into the cities. Various reasons were attributed. It was suggested that only inferior land remained for the newcomers, or that it was more economical to improve the utilization of the lands now occupied than to pioneer the new regions. It was contended also that the pioneer spirit was dying out; that it had passed in the Anglo-Saxon while it remained in the French-Canadian; that men and women were no longer willing to accept the hardships of frontier life.

For some time a survey of this problem, first outlined by Dr. Isaiah Bowman, director of the American Geographical Society of New York, engaged the attention of committees of the National Research Council, the Social Science Research Council, the American Geographical Society and a number of Canadian scholars, who conferred with the representatives of the other bodies.

The following compose the committee of the American Geographical Society:

Dr. Frederick Merk, professor of history, Harvard University, *chairman*.

Dr. O. E. Baker, senior agricultural economist, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Duncan McArthur, professor of history, Queen's University.

Dr. W. J. Rutherford, dean of the school of agriculture, University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Kimball Young, professor of sociology, University of Wisconsin.

W. L. G. Joerg, American Geographical Society, *secretary*.

Associated with Dr. Mackintosh on the committee to study the Canadian phase are:

Dean W. J. Rutherford, *chairman*.

Professor D. A. McArthur, *vice-chairman*.

Professor Chester Martin, University of Toronto.

Professor D. A. MacGibbon, University of Alberta.

Professor C. A. Dawson, McGill University, Montreal.

Professor R. W. Murchie, University of Manitoba.

This committee plans to cooperate with the Dominion and provincial governments, the universities of western Canada and with individual investigators to avoid duplication and to facilitate the work.

#### THE CORNELL CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BIOPHYSICS

THE General Education Board has given to Cornell University the sum of \$1,500,000 for assistance in the development of a graduate center of scientific research in the border fields between the biological and physical sciences. The gift is conditional upon the