

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

PROGRESS OF THE WORLD FARM CENSUS

THIRTEEN countries in Central and South America have promised cooperation in the World Agricultural Census of 1930, reports L. M. Estabrook, director of the census for the International Institute of Agriculture, who recently returned to Washington from an 11,000-mile trip to the capitals of Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, British Guiana, Trinidad and Barbados.

The inclusion of these countries in the census brings the total representation in the project to about 97 per cent. of the land surface, 98 per cent. of the total population and approximately 99 per cent. of the total agricultural production of the world. The only countries not visited by Mr. Estabrook since his appointment as director in 1925 are Afghanistan, Persia, Bolivia and some of the West African colonies and small islands in which agriculture is relatively unimportant but for which cooperation has been promised by their home governments.

The undertaking of a world census of agriculture in 1930 was approved by the general assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome in 1924, and the preliminary work of organizing the census was made possible by the cooperation of the International Education Board, the United States Department of Agriculture and the International Institute of Agriculture. The census program and standard form of census questionnaire have been approved by the permanent committee and two general assemblies of the institute, by the International Institute of Statistics and by the Diplomatic Conference on Economic Statistics that met in Geneva in November, 1928.

The purpose of the world census of agriculture is to provide more complete, accurate and comparable international statistics relating to agriculture, to provide a secure basis for annual crop reports and statistics and to improve the agricultural statistical organization of many countries. It will be the first census ever attempted in all countries of the world in the same year and according to the same general plan. The International Institute of Agriculture, the International Institute of Statistics and the Diplomatic Conference on Economic Statistics have recommended that the agricultural census be repeated every ten years.

Mr. Estabrook reports that the Central and South American countries visited on his last tour provide a large part of the world supply of coffee, cocoa, ivory-nuts, coconuts, bananas, sugar and some other tropical products. He says there are great possibilities for agricultural development in these areas, although lim-

ited by the broken character of the country, and that progress will be slow until better roads, steamship lines and other means of transportation and communication are provided. Need is expressed also for further development in the agricultural, research and statistical departments of these countries.

REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FLOOD CONTROL

RECOMMENDATIONS made in the report on the relation of forestry to flood control issued by direction of the Committee on Flood Control of the House of Representatives and prepared by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture are summarized in the *New York Times* as follows:

Completely organized forest-fire protection as the first step in improving forest cover should be rapidly put into effect by the federal government, the states and the landowners.

Cooperative forest planting should be extended, so that idle and waste submarginal lands may be reforested. Results will be of increasing value from a flood standpoint through increased local water retention and decreased run-off and erosion. Planting is important in many of the critical areas, particularly in the bluff region from the Ohio River southward, in southwestern Wisconsin and in the Ohio River drainage. Machinery for carrying out these first two recommendations already is provided in the Clarke-McNary forestry act.

Increase is recommended in forest extension activities to acquaint owners of submarginal or forest lands with the best methods of treating these lands. This calls for increased activity among farm woodland owners under existing authority in the Clarke-McNary act, and for further authority to carry this extension to other than woodland owners.

Continued protection and administration of the national forests, parks and game refuges under present policies is recommended and addition to the national forests of adjoining forested areas of unreserved public domain to insure the protective benefits found in organized federal administration.

Prompt extension of public ownership is recommended in many critical forest areas; first, in order that the federal government may have the direct jurisdiction necessary to enable it to improve forest conditions on lands which now contribute unnecessarily large and destructive run-off, and, second, to enable the federal government to protect heavy investments in flood-control structures, the permanency of which would otherwise be jeopardized by serious erosion. In addition to lands within purchase units already approved the report indicates some 6,000,000