

able trained force of fire guards sufficient to strike immediately the maximum number of fires set by any electrical storm. Only by such means will it be possible for the government to avoid the recurrence of such destructive and costly disasters as we have had this year. The Federal Forest Protection Board, composed of representatives of all federal agencies concerned in the problem of forest protection, shares the forest service view-point on the forest fire situation."

#### THE NEW BUILDING OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

THE central structure of the Department of Agriculture building, the first unit of the present federal building program in Washington, D. C., is nearing completion with some prospects of it being ready for occupancy shortly after January 1, according to an oral statement made to the *U. S. Daily* by the chief clerk and superintendent of buildings of the department, Mr. R. M. Reese. The building, now under construction at an estimated cost of \$2,000,000, was planned twenty years ago.

Mr. Reese explained that the builders are under contract stipulation to have the structure ready by April 1, 1930.

The building will house the offices of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, five directors, the solicitor, the chief clerk and other administrative officers. The height of the building, which is of Georgia marble, is five stories and basement. The authorized appropriation is \$2,000,000. Its architects are Rankin and Kellogg, of Philadelphia, who also were the architects for the east and west wings.

The construction of the new building began twenty years from the time the department began occupancy of the east and west wings. The new building is fronted by twelve Corinthian columns and has a large interior court, glassed over at the level of the second floor. The interior court will contain a fountain and the Department of Agriculture war memorial, which is now in course of sculpture, for installation when the building is completed.

The inscriptions carved on the front of the building are: (1) "The husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits."—St. Paul. (2) "No other human occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought as Agriculture."—Lincoln. (3) "With reference either to individual or national welfare, Agriculture is of primary importance."—Washington.

The completed building—that is, all three units, the old east and west wings and the new central structure—will have an entire frontage of 750 feet.

The Department of Agriculture now occupies in Washington more than forty buildings of various types. Some of these are the property of the federal government and some of them are rented from private enterprise.

#### OFFICIAL AMERICAN DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CONGRESS IN TOKIO

THE official list of delegates chosen by the scientific and technical societies and engineering educational institutions of this country to represent them at the coming World Engineering Congress in Tokio has been issued by Maurice Holland, executive secretary of the American committee of the congress and director of the division of engineering and industrial research of the National Research Council. The number of official delegates to the congress allocated to the United States by the Japanese authorities was set at about sixty, though the number of Americans to participate will be about 250.

The four "founder" societies, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers, as well as the American Association for the Advancement of Science and national organizations of the special lines of engineering, designated the official American representatives who cover practically the whole range of engineering and technology in the United States. The party will sail for Tokio on October 10 from San Francisco. Two ships, the *President Jackson* and the *Korea Maru*, have been chartered.

At a recent meeting of the committee the designating of official delegates was closed with the appointment of the following:

Magnus W. Alexander, A. S. M. E., president of the National Industrial Conference Board, New York; Dr. H. Foster Bain, secretary of the A. I. M. M. E., New York; Dr. George D. Barron, vice-president of the A. I. M. M. E., Rye, N. Y.; Edward Bartow, professor of chemical engineering, State University of Iowa; F. W. Bradley, president of the A. I. M. M. E., San Francisco; Dr. George K. Burgess, director of the Bureau of Standards, Washington; Howard E. Coffin, the Society of Automotive Engineers, Detroit; W. H. Carrier, the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers, Newark; George S. Davison, former president of the A. S. C. E., Pittsburgh; John V. N. Dorr, the Engineering Foundation, Pittsburgh; Byron E. Eldred, New York; William Elmer, vice-president of the A. S. M. E., Philadelphia; John R. Freeman, Providence, R. I.; E. H. Fritch, secretary of the American Railway Engineering Association, of Chicago; George W. Fuller, American Society of Civil Engineers, New York; Mrs. L. M. Gilbreth, Montclair, N. J.; C. E.