

of all the expeditions will spend the winter at their frozen posts.

THE NATIONAL PARKS

FOLLOWING President Hoover's lead in mobilizing the industrial and commercial interests of the country in aid of national prosperity, the Secretary of the Interior, Ray Lyman Wilbur, on December 6, opened a conference of representatives of the public utilities operating in the national parks which it is hoped will result in increasing the use of these areas by the public generally, and in promoting the expenditure of travel funds by our people in the United States rather than abroad.

The main purpose of the meetings, which are periodic and were expected to continue to the following week, is to work out, with the utility operators, methods of furnishing adequate standardized or similar service in the various parks.

In concluding his address Secretary Wilbur spoke of the educational development that is going on in the parks, saying, however, that the word educational does not quite express what the service is endeavoring to do.

"What we seriously want," he said, "is to make botany, zoology, geology and other natural sciences interesting to the people generally. We want to give them an opportunity in the parks to see just what nature is. We have got together a very interesting group of men studying the effect of the parks, which are really museums of nature, on the thinking of our people.

"The parks should be viewed as great natural resources rather than circuses where people go to have a good time in the popular meaning of the word. We find the development of this so-called educational phase of the parks is being well received by visitors generally."

The secretary also paid a tribute to the loyal support which the great western railway systems have given the government in its endeavor to popularize the parks.

In concluding, he asked the operators to consider (1) the working out of plans that will adequately protect legitimate investments; (2) how a reasonable standardization of service to the public in the various parks may be obtained; (3) means of arriving at uniform rates for similar types of service in all the parks, and (4) the prompt working out and submission to the government of plans for expansion to care for heavy travel.

A PHILADELPHIA SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM IN MEMORY OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

NEARLY 400 leaders of science, industry and civic affairs, according to the *New York Times*, pledged themselves on December 5 to support the estab-

lishment in Philadelphia's Parkway, as a memorial to the genius and humanity of Benjamin Franklin, of a great scientific museum, a type of institution which the German Ambassador, Baron von Prittwitz und Gaffron, declared would "do more to establish peace and progress in humanity than all the work of all the diplomats."

Completed plans for a combined museum and memorial, patterned largely after the Deutsches Museum in Munich and expected to cost about \$5,000,000, were presented at a dinner given by Cyrus H. K. Curtis, president of the Benjamin Franklin Memorial, Inc., at the Downtown Club.

Described "as a place not only where learning shall be shown in its greatness and power but where learning shall be made attractive," the museum project was outlined and praised in addresses and talks made by Dr. Howard McClenahan, secretary of the Franklin Institute, which, with the Poor Richard Club, is sponsoring it; former Senator George Wharton Pepper, Owen D. Young, Ambassador von Prittwitz und Gaffron, Pierre de la Blanchetai, of the French Embassy, and Mayor Mackey.

A resolution of support, introduced by Sidney E. Hutchinson, was adopted.

A plot of ground, 350 feet square, between Twentieth and Twenty-first Streets, and valued by Mayor Mackey at about \$3,000,000, has been contributed by the city as a site for the memorial, and its sponsors hope to break ground next spring. It will combine a graphic arts museum, a planetarium, a Franklin memorial chamber, museum for displays of bridges, docks, canals and industrial developments, an observatory, library and headquarters for the Franklin Institute.

Several contributions of \$250,000 or more have been pledged to the project, but the total in sight has not been announced. Samuel S. Fels has provided for a Zeiss planetarium. In the astronomical section will be a Foucault pendulum shaft in which a pendulum will demonstrate the rotation of the earth and a room for the display of Ptolemaic and Copernican planetaria. It is proposed that the library will be composed of one of the finest scientific selections in the world.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION

ACCORDING to a news bulletin of Science Service the first monument to Captain James Ault, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who was killed when his ship, *The Carnegie*, was destroyed by explosion and fire in Apia Harbor, Samoa, on November 29, will consist of his own work and that of his associates, which will form a special section at the institution's annual exhibition, open in Washington from Saturday, December 14, to Monday, December 16.