

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.

The central figure of the memorial exhibit will be a large globe, on which will be traced the long wake *The Carnegie* left on the seven seas during her twenty years and more of voyaging. Further exhibits will show how the data on the magnetism of the earth gathered on these cruises have been put to use in scientific work and in the highly practical field of guiding ships safely to port. There will also be a model of the apparatus used to correct the compass determinations against the errors introduced by the roll and pitch of the ship, as well as displays of specimens, photomicrographs, microscope slides and graphs illustrating the many studies conducted by the scientific staff of *The Carnegie* on the physics and biology of the ocean and the geology of its bottom.

The annual exhibition of the Carnegie Institution attracts visitors from all parts of the country. In addition to the memorial exhibit of the work of the ill-fated *Carnegie*, there will be displays of the work of other departments of the institution.

Of especial interest will be the display of archeological specimens and photographs showing the progress of excavations in Central America and the southwestern United States. Both of these exhibits will show the airplane photographs taken by Colonel and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh, which have opened up an entirely new technique in the study of American antiquity.

A still greater antiquity is studied by the institution's workers in paleobotany. Examination of petrified logs from Yellowstone National Park by Dr. A. E. Douglass, using the same methods of tree-ring counting that enabled him recently to date the ancient Pueblo ruins of the southwest, has shown that the same cycles of sun-spot numbers we know to-day prevailed 20,000,000 years ago, when these forests were overwhelmed by showers of volcanic ash and sand.

Plant life in the present-day west will be graphically shown by a cross-section of a typical desert area near Tucson, Arizona. The model shows a granite mountain, a volcanic mountain, the talus slopes and outwash slopes, an undrained basin and the floodplain of a large river, and indicates the plant associations that have established themselves on each of these soil areas.

Life on a much smaller scale will be shown by the exhibit of the work on diatom investigation. Diatoms are exceedingly minute one-celled plants that live in both fresh and salt water. There is an immense number of species of them, many of them displaying great beauty of form and markings under the microscope. They have lived in the past in such vast numbers as to form great deposits of the economically valuable "diatomaceous earth"; and those living to-day are giving esthetic inspiration to artists and designers of such various wares as dress goods and stained-glass windows.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

ON the occasion of the dedication of the John Markle Mining Engineering Hall, Lafayette College conferred a doctorate of science on Dr. William Otis Hotchkiss, the dedication speaker, president of the Michigan College of Mining and Technology.

DR. G. CANBY ROBINSON, director of the new medical center of the New York Hospital and Cornell Medical College, has been made president of the Harvey Society for the ensuing year.

THE Philadelphia Pathological Society has awarded the William Wood Gerhart medal to Dr. Eugene L. Opie, professor of pathology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, who delivered the Gross lecture before the society on November 14 on "Occurrence and Spread of Tuberculosis Infection."

THE Physical Society of Pittsburgh tendered a dinner on November 21 in honor of Dr. Clinton J. Davisson, preceding his lecture on "The Wave Properties of Electrons" at the Carnegie Institute of Technology.

DR. GEORGE T. HARGITT, of Syracuse University, addressed the Biological Journal Club of the North

Carolina College for Women, Greensboro, at a dinner given in his honor on November 21. His subject was "The Germ Cells of Mammals."

ON November 26 there was held at the Queen City Club of Cincinnati a dinner celebrating the twenty-fifth year as professor of biochemistry of Dr. Albert Prescott Mathews, head of the department of biochemistry in the University of Cincinnati. Some one hundred scientific colleagues, friends and students of Dr. Mathews were present. The toastmaster was Dr. Frederick C. Hicks, president emeritus of the University of Cincinnati, and the speakers were Dean Basil C. H. Harvey, of the college of medicine, University of Chicago; Dr. George W. Crile, of Cleveland, and Dr. Nevin M. Fenneman, professor of geology in the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Mathews expressed his appreciation of the honor done him and told of the early development of biochemistry in this country and the rôle it will play in the future.

IN addition to the degree of doctor *honoris causa* recently conferred on Professor Albert Einstein by the University of Paris, the degree was conferred on