

de la Terre, Distribution of the Karroo (Gondwana) System; to these was added the subcommission of African Surveys.

It is said that since the last meeting of the congress, in Spain during 1926, much useful work has been accomplished by the two map commissions, under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Krusch, president of the Geological Survey of Prussia. The one for the map of Europe on the scale of 1:1,500,000 was founded at Bologna in 1881, and shortly after the Toronto congress in 1913 completed its task by publishing the last sheet, and the preparation of a new edition was afterwards decided upon. The indispensable preliminary work of agreeing upon the best color scheme was completed at a meeting of the commission held in Berlin last February, and during the South African meeting Dr. W. Schriël (general secretary of the commission) exhibited two advance sheets of the new edition, in their original form; the great beauty of the color scheme and the excellence of the draftsmanship were much admired by many members. One section of the new edition is ready for the press and further sections are expected to appear at the rate of two in each year.

The publication of the International Map of the World on the scale of 1:5,000,000 was decided upon at the Stockholm congress in 1910, and the color scheme drafted at the Berlin meeting referred to, two sections embracing the Union of South Africa being afterwards prepared; they were presented at the Pretoria meeting. For the next congress it was agreed to prepare a few North American sections.

The final editing is to be done at Berlin (as was formerly the case) in order to secure uniformity of issue, for which purpose a special bureau has been established at Berlin. Dr. P. Krusch (chairman of both map commissions) was able to announce the fortunate circumstance that the means for the printing of both maps have been made available by Prussia, so that in due course the sheets will be obtainable through the Geological Survey of that country.

#### THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

THE states of North Carolina and Tennessee have notified the secretary of the interior that they have acquired and are ready to turn over to him a minimum of 150,000 acres of land in what is ultimately to constitute the Great Smoky Mountain National Park on their border line. Representatives of these two states, including their governors and attorneys general, and members of their park commissions, will go to Washington on February 6 and formally tender to Secretary Wilbur the title to this initial area, duly passed and warranted by the states.

This action on the part of these two states will mark the first delivery of Great Smoky Mountain park land to the government and the first concrete step toward the actual consummation of the project. It will constitute the first physical transfer of land to the government and mark the passing of the Great Smoky Mountain project from a theoretical conception to an actual accomplishment. It means that the government actually will have received a tract of land more than twice as big as the District of Columbia as a nucleus around which to develop a model wilderness area into a national park of the east.

The law which provided for the creation of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the Shenandoah National Park made their acceptance by the government conditional upon the presentation of complete title to the land. The states must acquire the land and deliver it to the federal government. It would then be placed under the National Park Service for administration and development.

Investigations had shown there were practically 704,000 acres of land in the Great Smoky Mountain district, an area as big as Rhode Island, that was suitable for park purposes. The law provided that when a minimum of 150,000 acres of this land was presented to the government, it should be accepted and that the government should thereafter administer and protect it. This, however, was to be but a nucleus of the contemplated park.

The law further provided that the states must acquire and present to the federal government, in addition to this 150,000 acres, the majority of the remaining available park land in this section. That available remaining land amounts to 554,000 acres. Half of it would be 277,000 acres which must yet be acquired by the states and presented to the federal government before it will consider the park area adequate and proceed with its actual development. It will accept the lesser area for administration and protection, but not for development. When it has received a minimum of 427,000 acres from the states of North Carolina and Tennessee, an area as big as seven Districts of Columbia, the National Park Service will proceed to develop it on a basis comparable to that used at Yellowstone, Yosemite and other of the great national parks in the west.

The acquisition of the minimum acreage required before development work may begin seems assured. The states of North Carolina and Tennessee between them have raised, in round numbers, nearly \$5,000,000 to be used in the purchase of this land. The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial has contributed an additional amount, but not exceeding \$5,000,000, which is also available for the purchase of land. These

amounts are considered adequate for the acquisition of the minimum area required by the law. That acquisition but awaits the details of purchase, the local examination of titles and, in some cases, condemnation procedure where it is necessary. It would appear, therefore, that the establishment of a Great Smoky Mountain National Park, with the delivery of land titles on February 6, will pass into the final stages of actual accomplishment.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITION TO THE BAHAMAS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PLANS have been completed for an international expedition to the Bahamas under the auspices of Princeton University, from February 1 to April 15. The expedition is under the direction of Professor R. M. Field, of Princeton University, and is being supported by Mr. Hugh Matheson, of Miami, who is lending his yacht the *Marmion*, and with the cooperation of the following institutions:

The Percy Sladen Trust of London  
The Rouse Ball Fund of Trinity College, Cambridge  
Die Notgemeinschaft der Deutschen Wissenschaft  
The U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey  
The American Museum of Natural History  
The Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences  
State of New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station  
The International Summer School of Geology and Natural Resources

The subjects of research and the personnel are as follows:

1. *Navigation*: Mr. Hugh Matheson, Miami.
2. *Gravity Determinations*: Under the direction of Dr. William Bowie, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Ensign Joseph P. Lushene in charge of field work.
3. *Marine Biology*: Professor Ulric Dahlgren, department of biology, Princeton University. Dr. Roy W. Miner, curator of invertebrate zoology, American Museum of Natural History.
4. *Bacteriology*: Dr. S. A. Waksman, State of New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University. Dr. Werner Bavendamm, Technische Hochschule, Dresden.
5. *Geology*: *Percy Sladen Trust Expedition to Andros Island*. Mr. Maurice Black, fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Commonwealth Fund fellow, department of geology, Princeton University.
6. *Marine Sedimentation*: Professor R. M. Field, department of geology, Princeton University, and research associate, Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. Dr. Ernest Dixon, British Geological Survey.
7. *Oceanography*: Dr. Charles Fish, Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

The purpose of the expedition is to continue the study of the physical, chemical and biological conditions governing the character of the sediments in the region, as well as the effect which these sediments have upon the life and habits of the marine organisms.

The expedition is expected to yield new and interesting data concerning oceanographic and biologic problems, and it is hoped that the results obtained will supply information which will be of aid in interpreting certain geological problems, such as the origin of limestones and dolomites and the habitats of marine organisms in the ancient tropical seas. One of the fundamental geological problems in this region is the question of the origin of the islands, as well as the relation of their stability to the character of the sediments which mantle their surfaces.

#### BRITISH HONORS

*Nature* reports that the New Year Honors list of Great Britain contains the names of the following men of science and others associated with scientific work: *Baronets*: Sir Gregory Foster, who has retired from the post of provost of University College, London, and was recently vice-chancellor of the university; Sir Eustace Tennyson-D'Eyncourt, at one time director of naval construction, admiralty. *K.C.M.G.*: Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Balfour, member of the Colonial Advisory Medical and Sanitary Committee and director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. *Knights*: Professor T. P. Nunn, principal of the London Day Training College and professor of education in the University of London; Mr. Archibald Page, chief engineer and manager of the Central Electricity Board and a past president of the Institute of Electrical Engineers; Mr. Alexander Rodger, inspector-general of forests, Government of India; Professor T. Zammit, curator of the museum, Malta. *C.I.E.*: Mr. B. C. Burt, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, India; Mr. H. L. Newman, chief conservator of forests, Bombay; Mr. S. Walker, chief engineer and secretary for irrigation, North-West Frontier Province, India. *C.B.E.*: Professor J. S. S. Brame, professor of chemistry and metallurgy, Royal Naval College, Greenwich; Mr. G. E. S. Cubitt, lately conservator of forests, Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States; Captain A. T. A. Dobson, assistant secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. *O.B.E.*: Mr. Joseph Jones, formerly curator of the Botanic Gardens, Dominica; Mr. W. A. S. Lamborn, medical entomologist, Nyasaland Protectorate; Captain R. N. Liptrot, principal technical officer, Air Ministry; Mr. W. R. Mustoe, superintendent of horticultural operations; Delhi; Dr. E. S. Russell, director of