SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE AMERICAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL AND AVIATION

ENGINEERS throughout the United States, as represented in the thirty national and local organizations forming the American Engineering Council, have formally placed themselves at the service of the nation's commercial aviation for the solution of basic technical, operating and safety problems now affecting the industry.

This action, taken through the administrative board of the council, in effect enlists 60,000 technical men in all phases of engineering as a consulting body for the promotion of commercial flying.

Formulation of fundamental principles which will serve as a guide in the selection, design and operation of airports and airways and a large program of research to develop safer and more efficient airports and operation methods are among the first tasks proposed by the council, the president of which is Dr. Carl E. Grunsky, of San Francisco.

The results of this work will be disseminated through the Bureau of Aeronautics of the U. S. Department of Commerce as the logical clearing house for such information. By this system the council plans to make its findings available at once to all technical men engaged in aviation problems.

On the ground that it is "the clear duty of the professional engineers of the United States to assist in the development of sound engineering and economic principles" for American aeronautics, the council has acted on a report of its committee on airports, of which Professor Ralph J. Fogg, head of the Department of Civil Engineering in Lehigh University, is chairman. The committee, having come to a decision as a result of its study, has made the following recommendations:

1. That American Engineering Council, as an organization dedicated to the service of the community, state and nation, and as representative of all phases of engineering, become actively interested in the broad engineering and managerial aspects of commercial aviation, and particularly airports.

2. That American Engineering Council wholeheartedly cooperate with the Bureau of Aeronautics of the Department of Commerce in such joint efforts as it may undertake in formulating and disseminating general principles relating to commercial aviation for the guidance of the public.

3. That American Engineering Council create at once a general committee on commercial aviation, with the addition of such sub-committees as may be necessary from time to time, to make a complete study of all aspects of the engineering problems involved.

4. That American Engineering Council adopt the policy, in its cooperation with the Bureau of Aeronautics, of having the sub-committees act on invitation as the council's representative on joint committees.

5. That American Engineering Council accept the invitation received from the Bureau of Aeronautics to join in a cooperative study of the coverage and drainage of airports.

6. That there be organized at once a sub-committee to participate in the joint study of airport coverage and drainage.

Other members of the council's committee on airports are: Perry A. Fellows, city engineer, Detroit; W. W. Horner, chief engineer, St. Louis; Dr. Harrison E. Howe, editor, *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry,* Washington; Alexander Klemin, head of the Guggenheim School of Aeronautics, New York University; H. G. Shirley, commissioner of highways, Richmond, Va.

STATE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CORNELL UNIVERSITY

THE New York State Legislature, recently adjourned, made appropriations for a number of important expansions or new activities for the State Colleges and Experiment Stations at Cornell University. Among the more significant of these was an appropriation of $510,000 to be used with an appropriation of $485,000 made by the legislature of the preceding year for the erection of a new building for the work in home economics; authorization to enter contracts for a new building for agricultural economics and rural social organization at a cost of $650,000, and an appropriation of $285,000 for a new horticultural research laboratory at the State Experiment Station at Geneva. A grant of $400,000 was made for the equipment of the plant science building now nearing completion, which will cost $1,000,000. In addition to these major items the regular budget of the College of Agriculture was increased by $82,020 and there were incorporated as permanent funds $51,050 of special grants made for animal husbandry developments the year preceding.

The following special items were also appropriated: Construction of barns and facilities for animal husbandry, $100,000; purchase of additional land for animal husbandry purposes, $60,000; office and laboratory building at Long Island Vegetable Research Farm, $13,000; addition to tool shed for Long Island Vegetable Research Farm, $1,000; grading, walks, roads, etc., for plant science building, $15,000; investigations for control of Oriental peach moth, apple maggot, etc., by the State Experiment Station at Geneva, $37,000; for the survey of agricultural re-

sources of the state $20,000; for investigation in the spraying and dusting of potatoes on Long Island, $16,500; for extension work in potato growing, $5,500; for investigation in grading and handling of vegetable crops, $5,800; for investigation in control of insects affecting muck soil crops, $6,010; for investigation in control of insects affecting potatoes, $4,000; for an experiment to determine the optimum percentage of protein in a dairy ration, $5,900; for equipment and maintenance of The Western New York Egg Laying Contest, $30,000; for equipment and maintenance of The Central New York Egg Laying Contest, $30,000; for additional state support of County Farm and Home Bureaus and Junior Extension Work, $40,500.

Another legislative enactment of outstanding importance to the State Colleges at Cornell University was a bill admitting all of the staff and employees of these institutions to the privileges of the State Retirement System. Because of the generous character of this system, this provision is considered to be a distinct benefit by members of the staff.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO AND DR. HOLLAND

DR. W. J. HOLLAND, on May 2, 1930, completed the installation of a replica of the skeleton of *Diplodocus carnegiei* donated by Mrs. Andrew Carnegie through the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh to the National Museum of Natural History in Mexico City. Dr. Holland had with him as his chief mechanical assistant Mr. Louis S. Coggeshall, of the section of paleontology in the Carnegie Museum.

On the morning of May 2 a convocation of the trustees and faculty of the National University of Mexico was held in the Casa del Lago in Chapultepec Park, the rector of the university, Señor Dr. Ignacio García Téllez, presiding, supported by Professor Dr. Isaac Ochoterena, the director of the Natural History Museum, and president of the Instituto de Biologia. The rector of the university at the commencement of the meeting announced that the University of Mexico by the action of its duly constituted authorities had made Dr. Holland "Professor Extraordinario de Biologia," and handed Dr. Holland a diploma to that effect. The position is purely honorary and has only been conferred a few times upon distinguished men of science in Europe and Mexico.

In response to the address of the rector Dr. Holland said that he was acting as "the unofficial ambassador of one of the queens of American society, whose husband, the late Andrew Carnegie, had shown in more than royal manner his desire for the establishment of cordial and everlastingly pacific relations between all nations of the Western Hemisphere through his gift to the Pan American Union of a palatial home in Washington." He dwelt upon the important part which men of science may take in promoting a good understanding among the nations. He said that, "while in the past men who bear arms by sea and land had been relied upon to preserve peace, he hoped the day is not far off when men whose weapons are the microscope, the telescope, and the chemist's retort, may prove their superiority to lethal weapons." He concluded by expressing his deep interest in the scientific researches which are now being carried on in Mexico by men whose methods and spirit are thoroughly abreast of modern times.

HONORS CONFERRED BY THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

AT the Medal Day exercises of the Franklin Institute, held on May 21 in the hall of the institute, the following honors were conferred:

Honorary membership was bestowed upon Dr. M. E. Cooley, dean emeritus of engineering of the University of Michigan, in recognition of inspiring guidance in engineering education, and of friendly reasonableness, enlightened judgment and fearless integrity in the principles of his profession. Dean Cooley had been a professor of mechanical engineering since 1881 and dean of the College of Engineering, University of Michigan, since 1904.

Dr. Henry Leffman, retired chemist, also received honorary membership, in recognition of valuable services to science in research, in teaching, as former port physician of the City of Philadelphia and as a discriminating but good-tempered critic.

A Certificate of Merit was presented to Mr. Heyman Rosenberg, Parker-Kalon Corporation of New York City, in consideration of the successful modification of screws, consisting of hardening the threads, thus permitting them to thread their own way when driven or turned into the material to be joined, and the invention whereby the diameter of the body at the base of the thread is less than that of the cylindrical end.

Edward Longstreth Medal—founded in 1890 by Edward Longstreth, Philadelphia.

Mr. Ervin George Bailey, president of the Fuller-Lehigh Company, Fullerton, Pennsylvania, in consideration of his invention and development of regulating and controlling devices and measuring and recording instruments.

Professor Charles Weyl, University of Pennsylvania, in consideration of the ingenious adaptation of mechanical and electrical principles to the operation of an X-ray apparatus which has proved useful in the diagnosis of certain diseases in their early stages of development.

John Price Wetherill Medal—founded in 1925 by the family of the late John Price Wetherill.