

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS IN ALASKA

THE Interior Department announces that plans for the field projects to be undertaken in Alaska by the Geological Survey this season have now reached an advanced stage and the several parties will start for the field during this month.

By far the most intensive work that will be done by the Geological Survey in Alaska this season will be that financed by the special appropriation for research along the Alaska Railroad and directed toward the examination of mineral deposits contiguous to the railroad that may contribute to its revenues by furnishing tonnage. Nine separate parties will be assigned to this work. Most of them will be stationed in mining camps from one end of the railroad to the other—Fairbanks, Kantishna, Copper Mountain, Valdez Creek-Chulitna, Willow Creek, Anthracite Ridge, Girdwood and Moose Pass—but one party will carry on certain general studies throughout the tract near the railroad. Direct supervision of all these projects has been assigned to S. R. Capps, whose long service in the Geological Survey's Alaska work and whose personal familiarity with most of the mining camps near the railroad make him especially fitted to conduct and direct the work.

Geologists will be assigned to all these projects, but the personnel of different parties will vary greatly, as it will be determined by the individual requirements of the specific job. Thus, in the Kantishna, Copper Mountain, Anthracite Ridge and Girdwood areas, where adequate maps for platting the geologic information are not available, the parties will be accompanied by topographic engineers and other personnel needed to make the essential maps. In certain projects, as at Anthracite Ridge, considerable test pitting and other manual work will be required, which will call for the services of a number of laborers. Some of the parties will maintain their own camps, and others will be able to obtain accommodations for much of the time at the mines or in the settlements. Thus the work near Fairbanks will be conducted mainly from that town as a base, whereas the parties in the Kantishna, Copper Mountain, Valdez Creek-Chulitna and Anthracite Ridge districts will maintain camps supplied by pack trains. Although each region presents different problems, the work in each will have the common aim of supplying as much information as possible in answer to the question "What quantity of mineral products appears to be available that might swell the railroad's business?"

The Alaska projects that will be financed by funds

appropriated directly for Geological Survey investigations as distinguished from those carried on for the Alaska Railroad are eight in number and are distributed geographically as follows: Topographic mapping near Wrangell, in southeastern Alaska; mining investigations in southeastern Alaska; general investigations in the vicinity of Glacier Bay; topographic mapping in the Klutina Lake region of the Copper River Basin; geologic investigations in the headwater portions of the Copper River Valley; general studies in the western part of the tract between the Yukon and Tanana Rivers; geologic and topographic exploration and reconnaissance survey of the Tikchik Lake region north of Bristol Bay, and general field studies of mineral resources.

The chief Alaskan geologist, Philip S. Smith, will spend as much of the open season as practicable in the field in Alaska, with the object of obtaining information about recent mining developments throughout the territory, for the purpose of preparing the Geological Survey's annual report on the mineral industry of Alaska for the current year. He will visit such of the above-mentioned parties as can be readily reached and will examine the larger producing mining camps and such of the smaller ones as have not been recently visited by Geological Survey parties, so far as time and other conditions permit.

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE FOR ENGINEERS OF THE STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

AN economic conference for engineers will be held this summer, from August 30 through Labor Day, September 7, at the engineering camp of Stevens Institute of Technology in northern New Jersey. President Harvey N. Davis, in issuing the preliminary outline of the program for the conference, announced that the engineering alumni of Columbia University and the alumni of Stevens, under whose joint auspices the conference will be held, will welcome to the camp graduates of other colleges and junior members of the national engineering societies. The hours for lectures, conferences and round-table discussions by some of the leading economists and engineers of the country are to be scheduled so as to permit the men in camp to make full use of its unusually good facilities for land and water sports. The serious part of each day's program will have two main elements: in the morning the lectures and discussions will deal with "The Dollar Factor in Engineering," or "Technique in Calculations Involving Money"; at the open forum and round table discussions in the evening, elements in depression, seasonal and cyclical fluctuations will be considered.