

holdings there. With nearly 14,000 acres approved for acquisition a year ago this brings the total area in the process of acquisition to 19,167 acres.

Crescent Lake Migratory Bird Refuge, Nebraska, will be extended by the acquisition of 1,688 acres, including several extensive water areas and numerous ponds and potholes. The acquisition will also tend to round out the boundaries of this sanctuary, which now includes about 40,000 acres.

By approving the acquisition of numerous small tracts bordering on Long Lake, in Kidder and Burleigh Counties, North Dakota, the commission took steps looking to the establishment of the first federal migratory-bird refuge in that state. The total area approved Dec. 3 for acquisition there is 4,269 acres.

The acquisition of 3,465 acres in Wyoming is the first to be approved for that state. Two refuges about 12 miles apart, one at Bamforth Lake and the other at Hutton Lake, both near Laramie, will be acquired.

The lands being acquired in Nevada will be additions to the 17,902 acres of the Fallon Migratory Bird Refuge set aside from the public domain by executive order in February, 1931, as a sanctuary for migratory birds. The total area will now be 31,288 acres.

THE SEVENTH AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS

THE seventh American Scientific Congress will be held in Mexico City from February 5 to 19, 1932, under the presidency of Dr. Alfonso Prunada, rector of the National University.

In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies and such other general sessions as may be arranged, the congress will meet in the following twelve sections: Physical and Mathematical Sciences, General and Applied Geology, Engineering, Industrial Chemistry, Biology, Scientific Agriculture, Medicine, Hygiene and Public Health, Anthropological and Historical Sciences, Juridical Sciences, Social and Economic Sciences and Education.

The official languages of the congress will be: Spanish, French, English and Portuguese. The papers presented to the congress may touch on all matters of scientific interest, as set forth under the headings of the different sections, and may treat the subjects from the point of view of pure science or from that of applied science. Abstracts should be sent to the general secretary, Dr. Pedro de Alba, at an early date, in order that they may be put in type for distribution at the meeting.

The following statement in regard to the history of the congress has been made by the organizing committee:

In 1896, and in order to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation, the Scientific Association of the Argentine Republic invited the countries of

Latin-America to a Latin-American Scientific Congress, which was held in Buenos Aires from the 10th to the 21st of April, 1898. Following upon this assembly, the second and third of these congresses were held in Montevideo and in Rio de Janeiro, respectively, in 1901 and 1905.

The fourth Latin-American Scientific Congress was held in Santiago de Chile in December, 1908, and owing to a resolution adopted by the Chilean Government, the congress was named First Pan-American Scientific Congress. The second and third congresses under this new denomination were held, respectively, in Washington (1919) and in Lima (December, 1924, to January, 1925).

The congress assembled in Lima determined that the next congress be known as the Seventh American Scientific Congress and appointed San Jose de Costa Rica as the city where it was to be held; owing, however, to various circumstances, the congress could not be held in that city, and accordingly the Board of Directors of the Pan-American Union (formed by the diplomatic representatives of the various nations in Washington) consulted the Mexican Government as to the advisability of holding the congress in Mexico City. The Mexican Government, after consulting the case with the Ministry of Public Education, expressed its approval of the proposal, and thus it was determined that the assembly be held in the City of Mexico in February, 1932.

The organizing committee extends a cordial invitation to all scientific men of America to attend the congress and to take part in its labors. "The sessions will promote the knowledge of the progress made in the various countries of the continent, in order to study and discuss some of the outstanding problems of those nations and will help to set up closer bonds of lasting friendship between the various countries. Mexico awaits enthusiastically the visit of those who will be its guests for a few days, during which both the authorities and the organizing committee will spare no effort to make their stay in the country as agreeable as possible in every way."

All correspondence with reference to the congress should be addressed to: Comision Organizadora Del Septimo Congreso Cientifico Americano, Apartado Postal 517, Mexico, D. F.

AWARD OF THE EDISON MEDAL TO DR. EDWIN W. RICE, JR.

THE Edison Medal for 1931 has been awarded by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to Dr. Edwin Wilbur Rice, Jr., "for his contributions to the development of electrical systems and apparatus and his encouragement of scientific research in industry."

The Edison Medal was founded by associates and friends of Thomas A. Edison, and is awarded annually for "meritorious achievement in electrical science, electrical engineering, or the electrical arts" by a committee consisting of twenty-four members of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

The following eminent engineers and scientists have been recipients of the medal: Elihu Thomson, Frank J. Sprague, George Westinghouse, William Stanley, Charles F. Brush, Alexander Graham Bell, Nikola Tesla, John J. Carty, Benjamin G. Lamme, W. L. R. Emmet, Michael I. Pupin, Cummings C. Chesney, Robert A. Millikan, John W. Lieb, John White Howell, Harris J. Ryan, William D. Coolidge, Frank B. Jewett, Charles F. Scott and Frank Conrad.

Dr. Rice is one of the pioneers of electrical development in the United States and has played a conspicuous part, in association with the late Charles A. Coffin, in the building of the General Electric Company.

As a school-boy in Philadelphia he came in contact in 1876 with Professor Elihu Thomson, then a young teacher in the Boys' Central High School. His natural fondness for mechanics and later for electricity was quickly developed by this association, and when in 1880 Dr. Thomson gave up teaching to go into electrical manufacturing as investigator and inventor, Rice became his assistant.

He went with Dr. Thomson to New Britain, Connecticut, in the old American Electric Company, and in 1883 went with him to Lynn, Massachusetts, when the Thomson-Houston Electric Company was organ-

ized. At the age of twenty-two years he was made plant superintendent and had full responsibility until the consolidation of the Thomson-Houston Electric Company and the Edison General Electric Company in 1892, under the name of General Electric Company.

In the new company Mr. Rice was first made technical director, then vice-president in charge of manufacturing and engineering. He eventually became senior vice-president, and in 1913 he succeeded Mr. Coffin as president of the company. In 1922, after nine years' service in that office, Dr. Rice was succeeded by Mr. Gerard Swope and Dr. Rice was made honorary chairman of the board, which position he still holds.

Dr. Rice has contributed much through organization methods, improved factory routine, technical development, and engineering and scientific inventions. He invented the present fundamental form of high-voltage oil switch and the cellular system of separating fuses and circuits; as well as the application of synchronous converters to the building of unified alternating and direct-current distribution systems. He was responsible for the establishment of the General Electric research laboratory.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE first session of the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at New Orleans will be held in the Gold Room, Roosevelt Hotel, at 2:00 o'clock on Monday afternoon, December 28. It is hoped that a large attendance of council members will be present, as important matters are to be considered. Later sessions of the council will occur at 9:00 on the mornings of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, December 29, 30, 31 and January 1. These sessions are to be adjourned in time for council members to attend the scientific sessions that begin at 10:00 o'clock.

DR. FREDERICK V. COVILLE, principal botanist in charge of the division of botany of the Bureau of Plant Industry; acting director of the National Arboretum; curator of the United States National Herbarium at the Smithsonian Institution, and chairman of the research committee of the National Geographic Society, recently was awarded the George Robert White Gold Medal of Honor by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for distinction in botanical fields.

THE Henry S. Wellcome Medal and Prize of \$500 have been awarded to Colonel George A. Skinner, chief surgeon, seventh corps area, U. S. Army, Omaha, for a paper on "The Influence of Epidemic

Disease on Military Operations in the Western Hemisphere." The Wellcome award was established in 1916 to encourage study and research on problems connected with the health of armies and the efficiency of the medical services.

PROFESSOR KALMAN J. DEJUHASZ, of the Pennsylvania State College, was presented with the Rudolph Diesel Award at the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The award was made for a paper on Diesel engine operation entitled "Dispersion of Sprays in Solid Injection Oil Engines."

THE Institution of Civil Engineers, London, has awarded the Indian Premium for the session 1930-31 to Mr. G. C. Minnitt, Bombay, for a paper read and discussed at an ordinary meeting of the institution. They have also made the following awards in respect of "Selected Engineering Papers" published without discussion: A Telford gold medal to Mr. Herbert Addison, Giza, Egypt; Telford premiums to Messrs. H. A. Sieveking, London; William Blackadder, Aberdeen; R. F. Legget, Montreal, and jointly to Messrs. R. G. C. Batson and H. R. Mills, Teddington.

THE Buckston Browne Prize and Medals of the Harveian Society of London have been awarded to Mr. Cecil P. G. Wakeley and Mr. Laurence O'Shaugh-