1931 at the Blandy Experimental Farm of the University of Virginia and 1931–1932 at the Experiment Station of the Association of Hawaiian Pineapple Canners in Honolulu as exchange student under the auspices of the Institute of International Education.

DR. LEON CHARLES ALBERT CALMETTE, subdirector of the Pasteur Institute, died on October 29, at the age of seventy years.

PAUL PAINLEVÉ, professor of analytical and celestial mechanics at the Ecole Polytechnique at the Sorbonne, Paris, three times premier of France, died suddenly on October 29, in his seventieth year.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FAUNA AND FLORA OF AFRICA

ACCORDING to the London *Times*, an international conference to consider measures for the protection of the fauna and flora of Africa met in London on October 31, in the Moses Room at the House of Lords. Lord Onslow, who was also the chief delegate of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, presided.

The government was also represented by Sir William Gowers, senior crown agent for the colonies; Sir Arnold Hodson, the governor of Sierra Leone, and Mr. A. B. Acheson, of the Colonial Office. There were also representatives of the governments of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

Governments represented included the governments of Abyssinia, Belgium, Egypt, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. The governments of India, the Netherlands and the United States had nominated observers to attend the conference. The secretary was Mr. Francis Hemming, joint secretary of the Economic Advisory Council. Assistant secretary of the conference was D. H. F. Rickett, assistant of the Economic Advisory Council. The address of the secretariat is 2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.

The conference drew up a revised international convention for the protection of the fauna and flora of Africa. It will be recalled that a resolution was passed at the International Congress for the Protection of Nature, which was held in Paris in the summer of 1931, urging that the question of the negotiation of a new international convention should be considered by the powers concerned.

A draft convention had been prepared by the British government and circulated to the other governments participating in the conference to be used as a basis for discussion. This draft contains suggestions for an agreed declaration of principle on the subject of the establishment of national sanctuaries in which wild animals and plants may be preserved with due regard to the interests of the native inhabitants of the various territories concerned. It contemplates the adoption of concerted measures of control designed to restrict the killing of some of the rarer species of animals in Africa, and to prohibit the unregulated traffic in trophies obtained from such animals. It also deals with various objectionable methods of hunting and other practises which have a destructive effect upon wild life, and is designed to secure cooperation between the various administrations concerned and the free exchange of information on all questions relating to the protection of the natural fauna and flora of Africa.

It was expected that the plenary sessions of the conference would be held in public.

AWARD OF THE JOHN FRITZ MEDAL

THE John Fritz Gold Medal, highest of American engineering honors, has been awarded to the late John Ripley Freeman, of Providence, Rhode Island, as an "engineer preeminent in the fields of hydraulics and water supply, fire insurance economics and analysis of earthquake effects."

The award was made posthumously because of the sudden death of Mr. Freeman on October 6, 1932, during the procedure for his selection as a medalist. According to an announcement made by the Board of Award:

> Mr. Freeman made outstanding contributions to water power, water supply and other branches of hydraulic engineering, to fire preventive construction and protection of industrial buildings and to the investigation of earthquakes from scientific, structural and insurance points of view.
>
> A close friend has said that his earthquake study is an engineering contribution of the first magnitude, possibly, ultimately, to be recognized as his greatest achievement. These studies were pointed in part to getting an original basis for writing earthquake insurance, and in part to obtaining a better understanding of construction, both architectural and engineering, to resist earthquakes. He broadened the view and improved the method of attack of scientists in fundamental studies of earthquakes.

Mr. Freeman, whose activities extended all over the United States, to Panama, to China, and to other countries, was born at West Bridgeton, Maine, on July 27, 1855. He was graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June, 1876, with the degree of bachelor of science.

His early years were spent in hydraulic power work in New England. In 1886 he became connected with the Associated Factory, Mutual Fire Insurance Companies at Providence, contributing notably to the improvement of mill building and development of fire prevention apparatus, including automatic sprinklers, fire pumps and hose, as well as to studies of the causes of fires.

In 1896, he became president and treasurer of a group of fire insurance companies, with executive offices at Providence, and increased the insurance in these companies forty-fold, or from $65,000,000 to about $2,800,000,000, while reducing fire hazards and insurance costs for 6,000 leading American factories, in about twenty-five years.

Mr. Freeman had been a member of the Massachusetts Metropolitan Water Board, and chief engineer for improving the tidal estuary of the Charles River between Boston and Cambridge. He made investigations for the Metropolitan Park Commission of Massachusetts, and conducted an investigation of the water supply of New York City for Comptroller Bird S. Coler, in 1899. He was a member of the Burr-Hering-Freeman Commission on water supply for the City of New York, of the Rhode Island Metropolitan Park Commission and of the President's Commission on special problems of the Panama Canal relating to dam and lock foundations, sea-level versus lock canal and prevention of earth slides.

Mr. Freeman was one of the consulting engineers to the Board of Water Supply of the City of New York, which constructed the Catskill aqueduct and reservoirs. From 1917 to 1920 he was consulting engineer to the Chinese Government on improvement of the Grand Canal and regulation of the Yellow and other rivers to prevent floods. His consulting engagements included many of the large communities of this and other countries and important industrial corporations.

Mr. Freeman was president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1905, and of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1922. He was an honorary member of both societies. In 1923 the American Society of Mechanical Engineers awarded him its gold medal "for eminent services rendered to industry in fire prevention." He was also active in many local technical societies. He was a member of United Engineering Trustees, Inc., of the National Academy of Sciences, and numerous other scientific and engineering organizations.

He received the honorary degree of doctor of science from Brown University in 1904, from Tufts College in 1905, from the University of Pennsylvania in 1927 and from Yale University in 1931. He was also made, in 1925, Doktor Ingenieurs, Ehrenhalber, der Sächsische Technische Hochschule, Dresden, Germany.

Members of the John Fritz Medal Board of Award are:

American Society of Civil Engineers—Thaddeus Merriman, Francis Lee Stuart, John F. Coleman, Herbert S. Crocker.

American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers—F. M. Becket, W. H. Bassett, Robert E. Tally, Scott Turner.

American Society of Mechanical Engineers—W. L. Abbott, Conrad N. Lauer, Roy V. Wright.

American Institute of Electrical Engineers—Bancroft Gherardi, W. S. Lee, C. E. Skinner, H. P. Charlesworth.

COMMITTEE OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION ON THE PLACE OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION

THE Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science has authorized its Committee on the Place of Science in Education to prepare a one-day program to be given in Boston on December 29. The committee is authorized to invite to this program science teachers and representatives of organizations of teachers of science, and it is hoped that many teachers will be interested in attending. It is thought possible that those who attend will wish to take action relative to some kind of national organization of teachers of science.

Science teachers' organizations will be represented by appointed delegates and by any other members who may wish to attend. Individuals who are not members of organizations of science teachers or of the association are also invited.

Members of the committee are: Otis W. Caldwell, *chairman;* Karl T. Compton, E. R. Hedrick, Jerome Isenbarger, Burton E. Livingston and Morris Meister.

The completed program will be printed as part of the official association program. The preliminary program follows:

MORNING SESSION, 9:30 A. M.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Presiding Officer: E. S. Obourn, teacher of science, John Burroughs School, St. Louis.

Remarks on the Committee on the Place of Science in Education and its Function in Organizing the Program of the Conference. Otis W. Caldwell, *chairman* of the committee.

Reports of Experiments in Teaching Scientific Method: Discussion led by Homer W. LeSourd, teacher of physics, Milton Academy, Massachusetts; and a teacher of science in a secondary school to be selected. Open discussion.

The Science Teacher's Scholarship and Professional Training: Wilhelm Segerblom, teacher of chemistry, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, New Hampshire. Discussion led by Ralph C. Bean, president, New England Biological Association; and Francis T. Spaulding, department of secondary education, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University. Open discussion.