

executive order as the Lake Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge. Lake Mattamuskeet originally was a body of shallow water about 12 miles long and 7 miles wide. Several years ago an attempt was made to drain it, but the plan proved impractical. The drainage operations deprived waterfowl of one of the best resting and feeding areas on the Atlantic Coast. Now, with funds from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for the retirement of submarginal lands, the government is purchasing the lake bed and permitting the lake to restore itself naturally. Swans, geese and many species of ducks—principally pintails, widgeons, mallards and black ducks—are found in numbers on the water areas available. Even the drainage of the lake bed did not deter some birds from returning season after season to rest on the surface of the canals and low places, and it is expected that the restored lake will again attract large concentrations of swans and other waterfowl.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has requested the State Department to approach the Canadian government on joint action to preserve Niagara Falls in its present beauty. His move was occasioned by three landslides at the falls which tore down tons of rock and made indentations in the semicircle of cascading water. The last slide was in December. The President has asked the State Department to propose international construction or remedial works to preserve the falls through the special International Niagara Board. He appended the proviso that nothing in any such agreement should affect the permanent allocation of water rights or further divert Niagara water to the use of private power companies. In 1929 a treaty looking to protection of the falls was passed by the Canadian Legislature, but was held up in the U. S. Senate when a private power development clause was criticized.

DUKE UNIVERSITY announces the establishment of graduate scholarships and fellowships in forestry, carrying stipends which range from \$250 to \$650. Preference will be given to men who have studied French and German and who have already obtained technical or professional training as represented by a degree from a school of forestry of good standing.

Major work, which may be used toward an advanced degree, should be in one of the following fields of concentration: forest-tree physiology, silvics, forest soils, silviculture or forest management. The work will be closely coordinated with research being conducted in the Duke Forest and in the university laboratories and greenhouses by the forestry, botany and zoology staffs. Full information may be obtained from the Director, Duke Forest, Duke Station, Durham, N. C.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *London Times* writes as follows: "For years there has been a division of opinion between the British Empire, the United States, Scandinavia and Holland on the one side, and most of the Latin nations on the other, as to the functions of the International Institute of Agriculture in the field of agricultural science. Countries such as the United States or those of the British Empire possess national or imperial means for the dissemination of scientific information, and spend for this purpose more than the International Institute in Rome can afford. At a meeting of the permanent committee of the institute on March 22 in Rome it was decided, on the advice of a panel of scientists, presided over by Sir John Russell, director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, that the institute shall in future retire from the more purely scientific side of the information service and concentrate upon the practical and international aspects of such work."

WE learn from the *London Times* that the governor of Bengal has inaugurated a National Institute of the Sciences of India, of which the object is to promote scientific knowledge in India. The institute will act through national committees, and will serve as a national research council for the undertaking of work of national and international importance required by the public and the government. It will be a coordination body, not competing with existing academies, but bringing them into cooperation. The headquarters will be in Calcutta, and the membership will be 125 foundation fellows, with the addition of 10 elected annually. Dr. L. L. Fermor, director of the Geological Survey of India, is the first president.

DISCUSSION

FOREIGN GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

POST-WAR changes in foreign geographic names are disconcerting to teachers of geography, to students and to the general public. American publications, whether written by geographers or others, show no consistency in the adoption of "new" names. The accuracy of publications using foreign geographic names is challenged

because of their failure to adopt new forms or because new forms are used in some instances and not in others. On occasion such changes may be cited to discount a writer unfairly—the situation is becoming increasingly critical and therefore, it seems, deserves aggressive action by authoritative bodies.

Students are confronted to-day with a variety of

text-books, so-called work-books, exercise sheets of different sorts, and political, economic and other kinds of atlases, among which there is no accord with respect to the form of foreign geographic names. One large commercial atlas shows no old names. Naturally students are bewildered and ask which one of these is correct. They may sit in courses offered by several different instructors, among whom there is no agreement as to the proper form, thus giving rise to further confusion.

The public press has shown an inclination to adopt some of the new names even without mention of the old. Peiping, Manchukuo, Oslo, Istanbul, Marseille and a few others are already in common use, but the same editors seem reluctant to use Firenze, Venezia, Praha, Warszawa, S'Gravenhage or Manaus. Historians, too, hesitate to adopt the "new" names. Like others, they fear their readers may not recognize these names and hence may lose the purport of their reference, and they do not wish to clutter up the page with dual names, one within a parenthesis and one outside.

We enclose the word *new* in quotation marks because these names are new only to the uninitiated. Rather are they mostly old names resurrected in consequence of the stimulated post-war nationalism or names which have always been in use by the natives of the respective countries who now wish to have those names used internationally in the place of translations or even transliterations heretofore given the preference. Exceptions to this statement include names in the U. S. S. R. which are new not only to the outside world but to the nationals themselves.

To make matters even more perplexing, we are confronted with differences in usage of geographic names within some of the foreign countries where minorities wield considerable influence. In Finland a commission was set up to decide upon the official forms. Although both the Swedish and Finnish languages have official recognition in the courts and although in a number of centers where the Swedish-speaking people are in the majority the Swedish name is cited as official, most of the official geographic names applied to natural features, as well as political units, have been designated by Finnish forms. Nevertheless, the Swedish Finns are reluctant to adopt these latter forms and persist in the use of the names in vogue when Finland was under Swedish rule.

A somewhat similar bi-lingual struggle has manifested itself in Czechoslovakia, although much less emphatically than in Finland, owing to the fact that German is not an *official* alternative language. The German element in the population gives its preference to German geographic forms which many countries, including our own, have used for years and which are

still widely used in the face of Czech desires that they be abandoned.

No doubt one of the first reactions of the reader to the comments thus far offered brings the suggestion that we are already provided with boards who have passed upon proper forms. The work of the U. S. Geographic Board and of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use has unquestionably been well done, but their deeds are relatively little known among the mass of people, including great numbers of teachers. It is one thing to make these decisions, but quite another to disseminate them.

The Committee on Geographic Names, recently organized within the U. S. Department of the Interior, might well join hands with the British Committee for the purpose of securing repeated publicity of their conclusions through the public press. They might also enlist the assistance of all map publishers. This effort, combined with an educational campaign, would establish common usage of a single form for each political or natural geographic phenomenon of the earth.

By adopting a standardized method for showing both old and new names until such time as the old names may be dropped, if that seems desirable, all persons would eventually use the same names. The new name might be followed by the old name in parenthesis. That this method contains at least the essence of possible success may be indicated by the experience of the city of Chicago when its local government decided to change the house-numbering system. It was proposed that for a time the old number be carried along with the new number. There was the customary opposition by the conservatives, owing to the fear that two numbers would be confusing, but the objections were swept aside and the double system came into being. In the course of two or three years the old numbers vanished; the new numbers rendered effective service and the change was completed without hardship or serious heartaches. Had this situation been left to its own devices and undirected, the switch-over would hardly have been successfully accomplished.

If we were concerned with one or two occasional changes in geographic names the matter of universal adoption would not assume serious proportions. But when changes occur upon a wholesale scale resulting in confusion, the public looks to the profession within whose realm such matters lie to help them out of their dilemma. If the ultimate adoption of all these new forms must await the trials of "common usage," the period of uncertainty may be prolonged unduly. On the other hand, if geographers can reach an accord a real service will be rendered.

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