THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE WRITERS

THROUGH a regrettable oversight, I neglected to include the name of Allen Shoenfield, of the *Detroit News,* in the list of charter members of the National Association of Science Writers in my recent address before the American Association for the Advancement of Science. I trust that all those who turn to the published address, "Science and the American Press," SCIENCE, January 29, for the complete membership of the National Association of Science Writers will add the name of Mr. Shoenfield.

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REPORTS

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEWFOUNDLAND REVIVED

OFFICIAL geological surveys of the island of Newfoundland were begun as early as 1839 (James Beete Jukes, 1839–40) and carried out intensively by a small personnel for half a century (Alexander Murray, 1864–1883; James P. Howley, 1869–1909; Dr. Herbert A. Baker, 1926–1929). The advances in the science of geology since the pioneer work was performed are so great and the need of up-to-date information on the mineral resources so pressing, however, that on its induction into office in 1933 the new Commission of Government, appointed by the British Crown, authorized the resumption of the Geological Survey by a Geological Section of the Department of Natural Resources.

The nucleus of the staff of the Geological Section consists of two Newfoundlanders: Dr. A. K. Snelgrove, assistant professor of geology in Princeton University, was appointed government geologist, and Mr. C. K. Howse, B.Sc., assistant government geologist. Dr. Snelgrove continues in his Princeton position, also.

Following the recent practice of the Geological Survey of Canada and of Surveys in Crown Colonies, the field work of the Geological Section is devoted primarily to investigations in economic geology, designed to foster the mining industry. The reports on this work are issued as a series of bulletins, the purpose of which is to provide a scientific foundation for mineral exploration and exploitation. Areal studies in particular are yielding fundamental data on the structure, stratigraphy and petrogenesis of this most northeasterly part of the Appalachian Mountain System of North America. For the benefit of prospectors, areal geological sheets are distributed separately, with a simple description of the character and manner of occurrence of economic mineral deposits known or likely to be present. Already published are the results of surveys of chromite and gold deposits by the Government Geologist, and of two areal geological studies in cooperation with the Department of Geology of Princeton University: The Bay of Exploits area, by Dr. G. R. Heyl, and the Southern Half of the Bay of Islands Igneous Complex, by Dr. J. R. Cooper. A bibliography of Newfoundland geology, 1818–1936, by Rachel M. Betts, Guyot Hall Library, Princeton University, forms Bulletin No. 5, which was issued recently.

In the past field season an unusually comprehensive program of geological mapping was carried out, with the assistance of a temporary staff of a score of geologists in the areas represented in Fig. 1. Geodetic control is being provided for the topographical base maps by a five-year geodetic survey program now in progress in cooperation with the Geodetic Service of Canada, under a grant from the Colonial Development Fund.

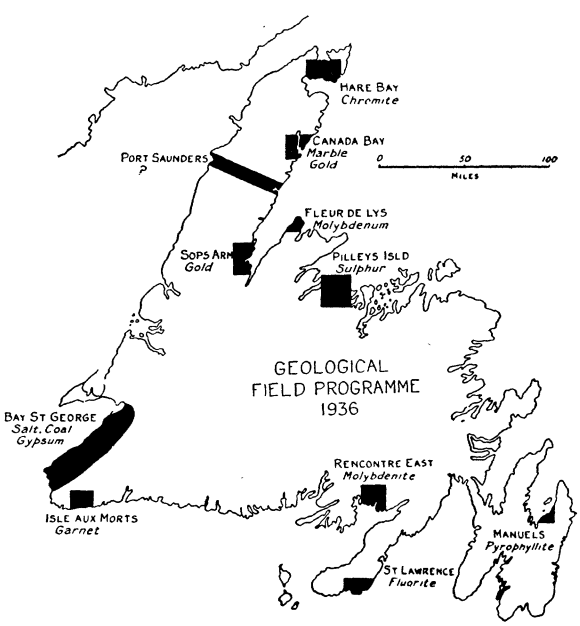

FIG. 1. Newfoundland geological map areas, 1936.

As Princeton University Geological Expeditions have been sent to Newfoundland intermittently since 1911, and fourteen Princeton contributions to the geology of the island have already been published, it is natural that a majority of the geologists called in on this expanded government work were from Princeton. However, the faculties or student bodies of seven other American and Canadian universities were also represented. Notable members of the temporary and

consulting staffs include: Professor G. W. Bain, of Amherst College, who studied the promising marble deposits of Canada Bay and Sops Arm; Professors A. O. Hayes and H. Johnson, of Rutgers University, who investigated the Bay St. George Carboniferous area; Professor B. F. Howell, of Princeton University, authority on Cambrian formations; Professor W. H. Twenhofel, chairman of the Department of Geology of the University of Wisconsin, authority on Silurian rocks. In addition ten Princeton geologists, chief among whom were Professor A. F. Buddington, chairman of the Department of Geology, Professor E. Sampson and Dr. H. H. Hess, engaged in faculty research, consultation to mining companies or collection of data for theses.

Through the participation of Mr. J. W. Sullivan, graduate student at Yale University, the studies in the geology of the west coast made by four Yale expeditions since 1910 were continued.

The Geological Section also acts in an advisory capacity to the Labrador Mining and Exploration Company, Ltd., holders of a mineral concession of over 20,000 square miles in Newfoundland Labrador, on which extensive work was begun last summer and is to be continued for a number of years.

The present geological activities are being followed up by prospecting and exploration by local, Canadian, United States and English interests, and it is anticipated that a number of the campaigns now in progress will yield tangible results in the form of development of latent resources and afford some amelioration of the economic difficulties which confront Newfoundland.

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THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHERS

THE American Geographers met in Syracuse, N. Y., in their thirty-third annual meeting on December 31, 1936, and January 1 and 2, 1937, Professor William Herbert Hobbs, of the University of Michigan, president of the association, in the chair. The meetings were exceptionally well attended, and the papers presented aroused a great deal of interest and discussion.

The secretary, Preston E. James, of the University of Michigan, had constructed the program about several major themes. Among them were: "North America, the Northeast," four papers; "South America," two papers; "The Classification and Use of Soils," four papers; "North America, Urban Studies," five papers; "North America, the Western Mountains," six papers; "Polar Exploration," seven papers; "North America, the Appalachians and the South," six papers; "North America, Climatic Studies," four papers; "The Far East," four papers, and "Europe," four papers.

A memorial to the late Oliver L. Fassig; a special symposium on "Problems in the Cultural Geography of North America" for the members only; an illustrated lecture on "Kano," one of the principal centers of life in the Sudan, by Derwent Whittlesey, of Harvard University; the annual banquet, at which Acting Chancellor William P. Graham welcomed the membership to Syracuse University, the award for studies in physical geography was announced and President William Herbert Hobbs delivered his presidential address on "Discovery and Exploration within the Arctic Circle"; a number of desultory but valuable papers, not directly related to the group papers, completed the program. The arrangement of papers in selected fields expedited discussion by concentrating interest upon those fields and enabled the presiding officer to run the program quite on schedule.

Among the studies which elicited most discussion and interest were: "Season of Birth, and the Distribution of Civilization," by Ellsworth Huntington; three papers dealing with erosion surfaces and the physiographic evolution of the Rocky Mountain region by the Wallace W. Atwoods, of Clark University, father and son, who have made that region their major field of research these many years; "An Optical Phenomenon and Its Relation to the Discovery of Polar Lands," whereby William H. Hobbs submitted his arguments that the long-sought "Crocker Land" of the Arctic Ocean may still remain to be discovered though farther at sea than has been supposed, and that the mapping of land in the Antarctic by Wilkes and others where no land has since been shown to exist can be fully explained by a peculiar form of mirage; "Lower Mississippi Valley Loess," in which Richard Joel Russell, of Louisiana State University, implied a residual genesis for some of the deposits bordering the Mississippi Delta, and the groups of papers on soils, the Far East and Europe. A particularly valuable paper by W. L. G. Joerg, of the American Geographical Society, "The Geography of the Antarctic: The Advances of a Decade, 1926–1936," summarized a field which has been prominent in public news and attention for many years.

A noteworthy feature of the banquet program was the first award of the fund for research in physical geography, recently established by Wallace W. Atwood, of Clark University, formerly president of the Association of American Geographers, to Richard Joel Russell, of Louisiana State University, in recognition of his meritorious original investigation of a number of problems in physical geography and in approval of a special study of the Volga delta to which he plans to devote the funds. The fund will be administered