

agricultural program. Until Congress once for all directs that agricultural functions shall be retained in the Department of Agriculture and those now elsewhere placed therein, the threat of dismemberment will continue to hang over the agricultural group of Federal activities.

One more thought—it is, of course, obvious upon reflection that there is a fallacy in the idea that any one department can encompass a major part of the governmental activities in the field of conservation and could possibly be entitled to that name. Conservation as a purpose is achieved by innumerable governmental activities quite unrelated. It would be almost as logical to suggest a department of thrift as to propose a Department of Conservation with the implication that it could be all-inclusive in this field.

No action was taken in the Senate on either bill, but the legislation will undoubtedly be pushed at the beginning of the next session.

Another baleful feature is in the Senate bill—the authority for the President, with Senate concurrence, to hereafter appoint bureau chiefs when the position is determined by the President to be policy-making in character. This opens the door wide to the spoils system in these important positions, many of which are now under civil service, and so offer a goal to ambitious and qualified scientists which, under the reorganization bill, would be denied them except by political preferment.

CORRESPONDENT

A UNIQUE DOCUMENT

THE following document is probably unique in the history of science. I have translated it from Issue 1, Volume XIV of the *Astronomical Journal of the Soviet Union*, where it appears in front of page 1.

OTTO STRUVE

YERKES OBSERVATORY,
WILLIAMS BAY, WIS.

**"We Demand Ruthless Punishment for the Vile
Betrayers of our Great Country.**

"The scientific workers of the Soviet Union have learned with a feeling of revolt and great wrath of the monstrous crimes perpetrated by the contemptible Trozkyists—those heinous traitors of their country, whose treacherous activities are at present being unraveled by the soviet court.

"Having sold themselves to the fascists, having come to an agreement with the diplomats and general staffs of some aggressive imperialistic states, this despicable gang of human degenerates, of servants of fascistic cannibals, being led by the agent of the Gestapo, the bandit Trozky, was selling our socialistic country and its riches to the worst enemies of human progress.

"The abominable traitors were organizing attempts to murder the best men of the present time, the leaders of the first socialistic state in the world; they were

organizing monstrous injuries to the socialistic factories, mines and railroads; they were murdering our heroes, the stakhanovtzi, our glorious and brave red soldiers; they were stealing from the soviet state, in order to maintain a pack of Trozkyists and in order to finance their criminal activities.

"In their attempt to undermine the military and economic strength of the great land of socialism, this despised gang of restorers of capitalism was trying to make it easier for the fascists to carry out their plans for seizing the territory of the SSSR and for the restoration of capitalism. They were dreaming of returning the power in our country to the capitalists, of liquidating the kolkhosi and the sovkhosi, of enslaving the soviet people, of creating unemployment, poverty and famine; they were trying to deprive the soviet people of its great conquests, which are written into the Stalin Constitution.

"We demand from our soviet courts merciless punishment for the infamous traitors! We demand the annihilation of the despicable degenerates!

"We also demand a complete investigation into the participation of the right-wing renegades—Bukharin, Rijkov, Uglanov—in the criminal activities of the Trozkyists, and we demand that they be called to the severest accountability.

"The scientific workers will give all their knowledge and strength for the even more rapid growth and flourishing of our great socialistic country, for the increased strength of the Red Army—that faithful guardian of the soviet frontiers.

"The scientific workers, together with all the soviet people, will unite still closer around the communistic party, its Central Committee and the beloved leader and friend, comrade Stalin."

Signed by the President of the Academy of Sciences, V. Komaroff, and by eighteen members of the Academy and professors.

(Izvestia, January 27, 1937.)

A MINNESOTA KITCHEN MIDDEN WITH FOSSIL BISON¹

FROM July 12 to August 25 the University of Minnesota has been digging an archeological deposit in a bog in Itasca State Park, the seat of the source of the Mississippi River. In cooperation with the State Conservation Commission and the Federal Government whose financing provided adequate labor, the Department of Anthropology has spent the major part of its 1937 field Summer Session digging the newly discovered bog deposit. To date the work has rescued some two thousand knife-marked, food-refuse animal bones, with bone and stone artifacts.

The bone bed is a marly layer which lies on the old lake bottom of an earlier southward extension of the present west branch of Lake Itasca. That old lake

¹ Preliminary notice.