

Union of American Biological Societies or through the formation, as some have suggested, of a new American Biological Society. I merely throw out the thought for your consideration.

(5) Our presentation of the functions of the society would not be complete if we did not allude to its service in promoting fellowship among the ecologists and all interested in or appreciative of ecological science. I mention the idea of fellowship not to discuss it, but only in order not to seem to exclude or to depreciate what is indeed a matter of vital importance. However impersonal we try to be in our researches, we are after all human beings subject to all the psychological influences that affect people of any other interest. What we do and what we think is in no little measure the product of the impacts of our associations. We gain in spirit, in perspective, in balance of judgment and in efficiency by our social contacts, especially the contacts with those of like interest and ideals with our own.

With some digressions, which, I hope, have not seemed irrelevant, I have tried to emphasize the significance of scientific societies in general, the crying need among biologists for integration of efforts, and the significance and complexity of the special functions of our particular society.

Now, as we come to an end that may have been too greatly delayed, there is one unpleasant practical conclusion that issues in part from what has been said. Annual program meetings, interim meetings, symposia, sectional organizations, quarterly bulletins, general educational activities and committee work for the preservation of ecological areas, all together are not consistent with an accrual to the general treasury of approximately one dollar per member.

If I must now break the personal precedent of a lifetime, by offering a recommendation for an increase of dues, you will doubtless agree that I have found the best way to make an address to end all presidential addresses.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE FOREST LAND PROBLEM

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT has requested the Congress to set up a joint committee to study the forest land problem with a view to taking "definite action" at the next session to check the "using up of our forest resources without replacement."

Mr. Roosevelt emphasized especially the situation respecting private forest lands and made the following recommendations:

1. The adequacy and effectiveness of present activities in protecting public and private forest lands from fire, insects and diseases and of cooperative efforts between the Federal Government and the states.

2. Other measures, federal and state, which may be necessary and advisable that timber cropping on privately owned forest lands may be conducted as continuous operations, with the productivity of the lands built up against future requirements.

3. The need for extension of federal, state and community ownership of forest land, and of planned public management of them.

4. The need for such public regulatory controls as will adequately protect private as well as the broad public interests in all forest lands.

5. Methods and possibilities of employment in forestry work on private and public forest land, and possibilities of liquidating such public expenditures as are or may be involved.

The statement continues:

I make this suggestion for immediate study of our forest problem by this Congress in the belief that definite action should be taken by the Congress in 1939. States, communities and private capital can do much to help—

but the fact remains that, with some outstanding exceptions, most of the states, communities and private companies have, on the whole, accomplished little to retard or check the continuing process of using up our forest resources without replacement.

This being so, it seems obviously necessary to fall back on the last defensive line—federal leadership and federal action. Millions of Americans are to-day conscious of the threat. Public opinion asks that steps be taken to remove it.

If the preliminary action recommended is taken at this session of the Congress, Mr. Roosevelt said that he planned to address letters to the governors of states in which the amount of state and privately owned forest land is substantial, asking their cooperation with the Congress and with the executive branch of the government in whatever steps appeared necessary. The message directed particular attention to the southeastern and Pacific Northwest sections.

THE LAKE LABORATORY OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DR. THOMAS H. LANGLOIS has been appointed director of the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory of the Ohio State University situated on Gibraltar Island in Lake Erie at the entrance to Put-in-Bay Harbor. He succeeds Dr. Dwight M. DeLong, who will continue as professor of zoology and entomology.

Dr. Langlois, who has long been associated with the Ohio Division of Conservation, has been assistant director of the Lake Laboratory during the past year. Under the cooperative arrangement between the university and the division, he will continue to serve as