

Nicaragua—Dr. M. A. Sanchez Virgil, director, National Institute of Hygiene, Managua.

Panama—Dr. A. Vincente Mastellari, Department of Public Health, Panama.

Peru—Dr. Telemaco Battistini, *chairman*, director, National Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Lima.

Uruguay—Dr. Estenio Hormaeche, *chairman*, professor of bacteriology, Faculty of Medicine, and associate director, Institute of Experimental Hygiene, Montevideo.

Venezuela—Dr. L. Briceno Rossi, *chairman*, formerly director of Public Health, Caracas.

In all these countries except Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama, committee organizations have been completed.

In Brazil, where the first Inter-American congress is scheduled to take place, the organization of the committee is under way, as is also the formulation of plans for holding the congress. Dr. A. Fontes, director of the Institute Oswaldo Cruz, will be the president of the congress.

There remain several important steps to be taken. Among these are the following: (a) Organization of the appropriate branches of the Inter-American Society in Canada and in the United States; (b) establishment of a mutually helpful relationship between the Inter-American Society and the International Society of Microbiology, looking forward to the next congress of both societies; (c) establishment in the United States of an *Inter-American Journal of Microbiology*, to be published in English and open to contributors from all American countries. Decision on these matters should be made by the microbiological societies now existing in the United States and Canada.

F. DURAN-REYNALS,
Executive Secretary

THE AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS

IN announcing the preliminary program for the seventh annual metal mining convention and exposition of the American Mining Congress, which will be held at Colorado Springs from September 16 to 19, attention is called to the program of the government for acquiring supplies of the vitally needed "strategic" minerals. It is announced that a full session of the convention will be given over to consideration of the part which minerals play in the present emergency. Another session will study and discuss the effect of the war on supplies, international movements, domestic markets, prices, etc., of each of the principal metals.

Dr. C. K. Leith, mineral adviser to the National Defense Advisory Commission, will discuss the "Role of Minerals in the Present War," followed by authorities from the U. S. Bureau of Mines and the mining industry on the nation's needs for war minerals. Ellsworth C. Alford, counsel of the American Mining

Congress, Washington, D. C., will speak on "National Defense and National Finance."

Senators James Murray, of Montana, and Key Pittman, of Nevada, will both address the meeting. Senator Murray will outline plans for the expansion of Reconstruction Finance Corporation loans for mining. Senator Pittman will address the delegates on the "Future of Gold and Silver in the Light of World Conditions." Colonel Philip B. Fleming, wage-hour administrator of the U. S. Department of Labor, will also speak.

Over a period of years, the metal mining industry has urged the Congress to amend the Wagner Labor Relations Act to provide for more equitable and just administration, and this year the industry expects to secure a full report of the activities of the special committee investigating the National Labor Relations Board from Edmund M. Toland, general counsel to this committee. Mr. Toland is expected to address the session devoted to labor problems. "Present-day Industrial Relations" will be discussed at the same session by C. S. Ching, director of industrial and public relations of the United States Rubber Company.

Progress in mine safety and health, dust control and the problem of sick absenteeism will occupy another full session. Other sessions will be devoted to reviews of the progress in mining geology, mining methods and equipment, the milling of metallic and non-metallic ores and developments in placer mining. Supplementing these discussions will be exhibits of the latest types of mining and milling equipment, participated in by nearly a hundred leading manufacturers of mining machinery. Taxation, public relations, public mineral land withdrawals and industrial uses for silver are other subjects included in the program.

THE LOS ANGELES MEETING OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRIC- TRICAL ENGINEERS

THE Pacific Coast convention of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers will be held at Los Angeles from August 27 to 30.

The address of welcome at the opening session will be given by N. B. Hinson, chairman of the convention. President R. W. Sorensen will follow with an address on "Science and Superstition"; Douglas Shearer, sound director of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, will also speak.

In addition to the five technical sessions and two student sessions, a technical conference will be held on the subject of governors, frequency control and load swings, with several leading engineers entering into the discussion. The subjects of the technical sessions are Protective Devices, Power Transmission and Distribution, Electrical Machinery, Instruments, Mea-