membership, meetings, research funds and serial publications. A subject index to each section (United States and Canadian) includes a classification of the activities, funds, periodicals and changes of name as reported in the history. The fourth edition has a personnel index also for each section.

The information for the fourth edition was furnished by the organizations during the period from July 1, 1941, to January 15, 1942.

THE REORGANIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF MINES

Chemical and Engineering News gives an account of the reorganization of the essential operating structure of the U. S. Bureau of Mines to speed the expanded program of providing strategic and critical minerals for the nation's war needs. Three regional offices are being established at Salt Lake City, Utah, for the western states; at Rolla, Mo., for the central states, and at College Park, Md., for the eastern and southern states. Each office will be headed by a regional engineer and an assistant regional engineer, whose functions will be to supervise, initiate and execute approved investigations leading to the more rapid use of mineral resources in the region under their supervision. Under jurisdiction of the regional engineers will be district engineers assigned to states or districts within the respective regions, project engineers, other technologists and scientists and clerical and laboratory help. The regional engineers, under terms of the order, will take over all the functions and duties in the field previously assigned to the Mining, Metallurgical and Nonmetals Divisions of the Technologic Branch, which are now abolished. To advise the office of the director and to perform fact-finding functions and handle reports from the regional engineers, a Resources and Laboratories Service, containing a Mineral Processes Division, a Mining Division and a Laboratories Planning Division, has been established with a small staff in Washington.

The order also provides for the establishment of a Fuel and Explosives Service within the bureau, which will take over the Coal Division, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Division and the Explosives Division, all of which were part of the abolished Technologic Branch. Operation of the helium plant at Amarillo will be under the jurisdiction of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Division, as formerly. All laboratories working exclusively on petroleum or exclusively on coal will also operate under the chief of the Fuels and Explosives Service, as will sections of other laboratories devoted to petroleum, gas or coal. Other laboratories are transferred to the appropriate regional offices.

The Health and Safety Service of the bureau remains unchanged and will continue to include the Health, Safety, Coal Mine Inspection, Explosives Control and Mineral Production Security Divisions.

It is also reported in *Chemical and Engineering News* that a $500,000 electro-development laboratory, where U. S. Bureau of Mines metallurgists plan to study the recovery and processing of minerals from the Pacific Northwest with electrical energy from Bonneville and Grand Coulee Dams, will be established in that region within the near future. With part of the funds appropriated by Congress for the Interior Department, the bureau proposes to build and operate the new laboratory somewhere within a reasonable distance of the two government power plants to provide a long-term and diversified market for large supplies of energy. As soon as a location is selected—probably within a radius of 200 miles of the Bonneville and Grand Coulee Dams on the Columbia River—erection of the laboratory will be started.

The new station will be known as the Northwest Electro-Development Laboratory and will be staffed by 40 or 50 metallurgists and assistants. It will be equipped with electric furnaces and electrolytic cells of various types, ore-crushing and concentrating machinery, chemical laboratory and machine shop equipment and other miscellaneous installations. Operation of the completed laboratory will be in charge of R. S. Dean, assistant director of the bureau, with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Investigations will be directed, among other things, toward improving existing or developing new methods of recovering magnesium metal from magnesite deposits. Production of aluminum from the abundant clays and alunite of that region will be probed thoroughly, as will methods to produce ferroalloys from tungsten, vanadium, manganese and chromium ores.

THE AMERICAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF WAR STANDARDS

THE Federal Government has entered into a contract with the American Standards Association for the use of the facilities of the association in the development of emergency or "war" standards for the War Production Board and the Office of Price Administration. The contract is being executed by the Office of Emergency Management on behalf of the War Production Board and the Office of Price Administration. Under it the American Standards Association is to provide services in creating standards which include one or more of the following items, and any other assignments or projects which may be requested by the Government which come within the scope of the association.

Nomenclature

Uniformity in dimensions to provide for interchange-