

DEATHS AND MEMORIALS

ALBERT W. SMITH, professor of mechanical engineering at Stanford University from 1892 to 1904; later successively director of Sibley College of Engineering of Cornell University and dean of the college, died on August 16 in his eighty-sixth year.

DR. LOUIS ROULE, professor of science at Toulouse University from 1885 to 1910, later professor at the

Paris Museum of Natural History, died on August 4 at the age of eighty-one years.

THE astronomical observatory of Vanderbilt University, founded over sixty years ago, will hereafter be known officially as "Barnard Observatory of Vanderbilt University" in honor of the late Edward Emerson Barnard, the distinguished astronomer who was an alumnus of the university.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION

THE following resolutions were adopted at the annual meeting on May 15 of the trustees of the National Parks Association:

COMMERCIAL ENCROACHMENTS

Since the National Parks and Monuments comprise a valuable part of the heritage which we are now fighting to maintain, and

Since pressure was exerted during the first world war for such destructive and depleting uses as grazing, timber cutting and power development in the National Parks, and

Since increasing pressure for similar encroachment is being brought upon the National Park Service in the present war, be it therefore

Resolved, That the National Parks and Monuments should not be opened to any commercial use until there is definite proof of its necessity, and until all other possible sources of the needed materials have been explored, and be it further

Resolved, That the National Parks Association will examine each threat of commercial encroachment upon the National Parks and Monuments to determine whether it is inimical to the public interest.

THE QUARTERING OF ENEMY ALIENS IN NATIONAL PARKS

Since the proposed quartering of enemy aliens within the National Parks and Monuments would jeopardize the natural conditions, particularly in forested areas, which are subject to destruction by fire, and

Since such quartering of enemy aliens would certainly interfere with normal use by visitors seeking rest and inspiration therein, be it therefore

Resolved, That enemy aliens should be quartered in areas other than the National Parks and Monuments and where they will not endanger the war effort.

MILITARY USE OF NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS

Since the National Primeval Parks and National Monuments were established as outstanding natural areas worthy of complete preservation for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, and

Since extensive military training and maneuvers are incompatible with such use of these areas, and irreparable damage to their natural features must result therefrom, and

Since less restricted and equally suitable areas on other public lands are available for military purposes, be it

Resolved, That only in case of proven necessity, and after every other possible area has been investigated and shown to be unsuitable for the proposed use, and only in accordance with the recommendation of the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior, should National Primeval Parks and National Monuments be used for military purposes.

THE VIRGIN FOREST OF THE PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS

Since the virgin forest of the Porcupine Mountains on Michigan's upper peninsula constitutes the finest remaining example of the original forests in the Great Lakes region, and

Since there is imminent danger of these mountains being desecrated through reckless and wasteful lumbering or development for extensive tourist use with the resultant loss of their value as a superlative natural area, be it therefore

Resolved, That the Porcupine Mountains should be acquired by the Federal Government for preservation in their present primitive condition.

SABOTAGE FOREST FIRE CONTROL

Since the probabilities of subversive action in setting forest fires present a serious danger to the nation's heritage of superlative natural areas, and to the prosecution of the war, be it therefore

Resolved, That advance provision of adequate funds should be made for the purpose of preventing and combating such forest fires.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE FORESTS

DR. GIFFORD PINCHOT, formerly Pennsylvania State Commissioner of Forestry and forester of the Department of Agriculture; Governor of Pennsylvania from 1923 to 1927 and from 1931 to 1935, has made public the following statement:

In a letter to Harrisburg I said that I had recently seen portions of the state forests of Pennsylvania butchered by lumbermen, and urged that it be stopped.

Harrisburg refused to stop it, and quoted in defense two men without professional training or practical experience in forestry. One of them set up our war needs in excuse. That excuse is worthless.

If the war needed every last tree in Pennsylvania, we should give it, of course. But the war does not need it.

The chief forester of the United States Forest Service

says this: "I am convinced that in winning the war it is wholly unnecessary, and in addition the worst possible public and industrial policy, to destroy or depreciate the future productivity of our forests. We can cut all the timber we need to meet every conceivable war requirement and still cut in such a way that the productivity of the forest will be increased rather than impaired."

The productivity of our state forests is being impaired. Within the last two years the most destructive cutting of them ever perpetrated has been and is still going on.

This cutting, which Harrisburg defends, is not limited to trees selected and marked, as good forestry requires, but all trees above certain sizes have been sold and cut, without discrimination.

Trees too young for cutting, trees needed for seed, or to maintain the forest cover, help control floods, prevent erosion or otherwise necessary, have been cut regardless.

The second Harrisburg witness without professional training or practical experience alleged that this is good forestry. I say it is not forestry at all, but forest butchery. For the safety and welfare of Pennsylvania, it ought to be stopped. Will you help stop it?

THE BEACH PLUM PRIZES OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

DR. JAMES R. JEWETT, of Cambridge, Mass., emeritus professor of Arabic, Harvard University, in 1940 presented the Arnold Arboretum with a capital sum under the conditions that from its income two annual prizes might be awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to the improvement of the native beach plum, or who, through the development of beach-plum products, may have made contributions of social significance. The first awards were made in 1941.

The James R. Jewett Prize of \$100 for 1942 has been awarded to J. Milton Batchelor, of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, for his outstanding work with the native beach plum. The Vieno T. Johnson Prize of \$50 has been awarded to William Foster, of East Sandwich, Mass.

The committee of selection was made up of staff members of the Arnold Arboretum, the Massachusetts State College and a representative of the Cape Cod beach plum growers. The recognition of the work of a professionally trained plant hunter and a Cape Cod grower as the recipients of the two prizes for 1942 is illustrative of the cooperative spirit now existing in the efforts being made to locate and to propagate the better types of beach plums. At the present time there is much new interest in the beach plum and its products, some of which is directly traceable to an appropriation made last year by the Massachusetts Legislature, providing special funds to the Massachusetts State College for research on beach-plum problems. This bill was the direct result of the continued efforts of Mrs. Wilfred O. White, of Martha's Vineyard, who was the recipient of the James R. Jewett

Prize for 1941. Experimental work is now being prosecuted by staff members of the Massachusetts State College, which should eventually solve many problems in reference to selection, propagation, fertilizing, pruning and spraying of the beach plum.

J. Milton Batchelor, the recipient of the James R. Jewett Prize for 1942, was graduated from Cornell University in 1933. For some years he has been a member of the Soil Conservation Service, his particular duties being to find variations in native fruits which might prove to be of economic value, to study their adaptability for use in soil erosion projects and to ascertain their possibilities as ornamentals. His work has involved very extensive travel. On trips to eastern Massachusetts during the past few years he became particularly interested in the beach plum, and has located, propagated and distributed a number of varieties with larger and better fruits. He has freely advised many individuals in Massachusetts who were interested in the beach plum and has vigorously supported the campaign to increase interest in this field.

William Foster, of East Sandwich, Mass., recipient of the Vieno T. Johnson Prize, has for many years been interested in growing beach plums on Cape Cod, and has recently been prominently identified with some of the experimental work now being carried out by members of the horticultural staff of the Massachusetts State College.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

AT his own request, William Gabb Smeaton, professor of chemistry at the University of Michigan, who is now sixty-eight years old, will be retired on September 8. He has been named professor emeritus of chemistry. He served as a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science and the Arts for a period of forty years. The following resolution has been adopted by the Board of Regents: "Professor Smeaton has ably and loyally contributed to the successful accomplishment of the university's work through the skilful conduct of instruction, through the preparation of valuable manuals for the use of teachers and students of chemistry and the history of science, and through his participation in the scholarly activities of the institution, and thereby gained for himself the esteem and affection of his colleagues and students which is amply due him as a man of admirable character and recognized ability. . . ."

Walter Bowers Pillsbury, professor of psychology, will retire at the age of seventy years on September 26. He has been named professor emeritus of psychology. He joined the faculty of the university in 1897 and has been associated with the College of Literature, Science and the Arts continuously for forty-five years. The Board of Regents cited Pro-