

However, there will be no changes in basic facilities that will enable engineers, executives and production men to get together in one convenient and coordinated meeting place to help solve mutual problems and to bring to the attention of all the developments of the year in the metal industry.

THE NEW DIRECTOR OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WILLIAM EMBRY WRATHER, consulting petroleum geologist, of Dallas, Texas, became director of the Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior at a recent ceremony in the office of Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. He succeeds Dr. Walter C. Mendenhall, who retired last February after serving in the survey for forty-eight years.

Following the administering of the oath of office by Chief Clerk Floyd E. Dotson, Mr. Wrather received the congratulations of Secretary Ickes and more than a score of bureau and division chiefs and Department of Interior officials. He has been confirmed in the position by the Senate. Previously Mr. Wrather's name had been proposed for nomination by a number of prominent geologists and scientific organizations, including a committee of the National Academy of Sciences especially appointed for this purpose at the request of Secretary Ickes, who wrote:

I am confident that Mr. Wrather as its new director will add to the outstanding contributions that the Geological Survey has made in its long years of public service. It was my conviction that the selection of a director of this important scientific agency should not have a political consideration. I therefore requested the National Academy of Sciences to propose for the post the names of men who had high administrative ability as well as sound technical and scientific competence. Mr. Wrather was number one on the list provided by that body.

Mr. Wrather was born at Brandenburg, Ky., in 1883. He received his bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago in 1907 and studied at the Graduate School of that institution for two additional years. He was instructor in geology at the University of Chicago in 1922; the University of Texas in 1927; Yale University in 1930; Northwestern University in 1931, and the Southern Methodist University in 1935.

Mr. Wrather represented the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council at the International Congress at Madrid in 1926. He attended the National Geological Congress in South Africa in 1929. He was a member of the Organizational Committee of the Sixteenth International Geological Congress in Washington in 1933 and was a delegate to the Seventeenth International Geological Congress at Moscow, Russia, in 1937. For notable work in geology, he was awarded the alumni medal at the fiftieth anniversary of the University of Chicago.

The new director of the Geological Survey is a fellow of the Geological Society of America, in which he has held several offices; a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which he is a member of the executive committee; a former president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; a former president of the Society of Economic Geologists; a former president of the Texas Geological Society, and a member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, of which he was chairman of the Petroleum Division in 1933.

Mr. Wrather's professional work has been largely in the field of petroleum geology, but he is recognized as one having wide understanding and appreciation of the entire field of geology. He formerly served as associate chief of the Metals and Minerals Division of the Board of Economic Warfare.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. HARLOW SHAPLEY, director of Harvard College Observatory; Dr. P. W. Bridgman, Hollis professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, Harvard University, and Dr. L. C. Graton, professor of mining geology, have been elected corresponding members of the Mexican National Academy of Sciences.

THE William Osler Medal of the American Association of the History of Medicine has been awarded to George Edward Murphy, of the School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, in recognition of his essay entitled "The Evolution of Our Knowledge of Rheumatic Fever." The essay will be published in the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*.

THE American Institute of Electrical Engineers on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his election as an officer presented a scroll to Walter Irvine Slichter, professor of electrical engineering at Columbia University. He became an associate of the institute in 1900, member in 1903 and fellow in 1912. Sincere appreciation is expressed of his long-continued interest and his uniquely devoted and valuable services in the development of institute activities as director, 1918-22; vice-president, 1922-24; national treasurer since 1930, and chairman and member of many institute committees, 1910-1943. Presentation of the scroll was made by Professor Comfort A. Adams, president of the institute.