

Discussion as to where the institute could most suitably be established has led to the selection of Cambridge, for it is essential that an institute of geodesy and geodynamics should be associated with a great school of mathematics and physics, and it is only in connection with a great Imperial university that that width and freshness of outlook are to be sought which are essential to a progressive and practical science. The committee has evidence that an institute at Cambridge would be cordially welcomed by the national survey departments, both terrestrial and oceanographic.

It is estimated that an endowment of £50,000 will be necessary if the proposed institute is satisfactorily to perform the double task of research and education, but it is hoped that if half that sum were contributed by private benefactions the remainder would be forthcoming from national funds. An essential part of the scheme would be the foundation of a university professorship of geodynamics to be held by the director of the institute. To place this professorship in line with other chairs recently endowed by private benefactions and usually associated with the names of the donors or founded as memorials of national sacrifice in the great war, a sum of £20,000 (which is included in the £50,000 mentioned above) would be required. It is certain that all who have to do with our shipping interests or with aerial navigation would ultimately profit from the establishment of such an institute.

#### THE CAWTHRON INSTITUTE

A NEW ZEALAND correspondent sends information to the effect that before the Parliamentary Committee of Industries at Nelson recently Mr. T. A. H. Field, M.P., one of the trustees of the Cawthron Institute, spoke concerning the proposals of the trustees. He said that during the war the trustees had been able to do very little, but in that period they had increased the income of the institute to £11,000 per annum, which would be spent in research work. The trustees had also initiated certain scholarships for scientific training which in

seven years' time would be absorbing £1,100 per annum.

In the course of his replies to questions, Mr. Field said: The Board of Science and Industry, recommended by the New Zealand Institute and strongly backed by the National Efficiency Board, would have a statutory grant and therefore be free from ministerial interference. This proposed board might assist the Cawthron Institute with grants and subsidies in those cases in which large scale experiments of an expensive type had to be undertaken. The idea of the Board of Science and Industry was to subsidize liberally all research work in New Zealand, whether carried out in government laboratories, university colleges, research institutes, or by private individuals. The money would be paid by direct grants or in the form of fellowships or scholarships to be held at specified institutions for special purposes. As to the financial position of the Cawthron Institute, the cash invested amounted to £213,000, besides which there is land at Annesbrook valued at £5,075, and observatory lands valued at £500. The trustees aim at keeping the capital at £200,000, and paying for buildings, equipment, etc., from income. It is proposed to appoint at first a director, a chemist, and then a plant pathologist and an orchardist, and then increase in the direction that occasion demands.

When the work of the institute is well under way great help can be given to technical rural education in the Nelson district by means of lectures, demonstrations and scientific advice. Courses of lectures could be arranged not only in Nelson, but also in other centers. Practical demonstrations would naturally be made on the experimental grounds owned or controlled by the Cawthron Institute in different parts of the district. As fresh industries take root in the district, it will be a natural function of the institute to help in the establishment and to foster the growth of these industries by carrying out investigations that will assist in their vigorous development. A sum of £12,000 to £15,000 should cover the cost of buildings and equipment. It is proposed to have a large and carefully selected library, which is one of

the first needs of a research institute. Otherwise a worker may spend weeks, months, or even years, in arriving at the solution of a problem which has already been solved by some other worker, or which with proper library facilities could be solved in a few days. This library will be at the service of all research workers in New Zealand. It is also proposed to maintain the most friendly relationship with the Departments of Agriculture, Education and Mines, so that the work of the institute and of the government departments should be complementary to each other, having for their ultimate objects the welfare and advancement of the Dominion and of the empire. The late Mr. Cawthron was very much interested in the establishment of a solar observatory in Nelson, whose climate is particularly suited for this purpose.

#### ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS OF ALASKA

THE *Pennsylvania Gazette* reports that Chief Louis Shotridge, of the Chilkat of the Tliknit Indians of Southwestern Alaska, long a member of the staff of the University Museum, has returned from four years' explorations among his own people. In that time he secured many hundreds of unique ethnological specimens for the museum, having spent most of his time collecting and writing down in the native language the manners, customs, traditions and religious rites of the various tribes. It is believed that Mr. Shotridge is the first trained anthropologist who has ever done work of this sort among the American Indians using the native tongue. Chief Shotridge took all his notes in the Chikat language and will now spend the coming months in reducing them to English and making explanatory notes, which will form unique volumes in the history of our aborigines.

Mr. Shotridge took along a phonograph to record folk-songs and especially the ceremonial chants which accompany every great demonstration of the tribe. Unfortunately, the guttural sounds did not record well, so he was obliged to commit all these songs to memory. They will be taken down at once in ordinary musical notation by an expert.

There are more than thirty of these ceremonial hymns. In addition he learned more than 100 folk-songs, which will be recorded. All of these will also be recorded on the phonograph.

Mr. Shotridge says that his people are so rapidly acquiring civilized customs and manners that before long there will be left none to hand down the ancient culture. He considers himself fortunate to have been able to find enough old people in his tribe to make the records complete.

The specimens he brought back are in many instances unique and some were given because the medicine men and chiefs foresee the extinction of native culture and want the relics preserved. The collections preceded Mr. Shotridge, and most of them are now on exhibition at the University Museum. Mr. Shotridge brought back a bride from his own tribe, who will assist her husband in his work.

#### A DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RECREATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

A NEW department, that of Forest Recreation, has just been established at the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse University. This department will assist in the development of the educational work of the college, both along investigational and instructional lines, in the proper uses of forest areas for public recreation purposes. The establishment of this department is in line with the endeavor of the college to make its work of real service to the people of the state and to increase the right use of forests and forest lands. This is the first department of forest recreation to be established in a school or college in this country.

With the great Adirondack and Catskill Forest Reserves, Palisades Inter-state Park, Letchworth Park and some thirty other public forest reservations, the whole totaling nearly two millions acres, New York state has unique forest resources capable of securing to its millions of people great public good in the way of recreational uses. Just as playgrounds are being established in villages and cities throughout the country where play may be organized and prop-