

Dorsey, Minnesota, who emphasized the close relationship of genetic investigations on applied problems with other sciences, cooperation being particularly necessary to secure the greatest results. All who entered the discussion of this topic thought that cooperation should not go on so far as to attempt to direct another's research and that the success of any cooperation of this kind is limited by the mutual confidence of the workers.

At the close of the meeting it was agreed that no permanent organization should be formed but that informal meetings such as this should be arranged for whenever desirable. Professor L. J. Cole, who was elected chairman of the meeting, was voted to act as secretary *ad interim*.

D. F. JONES,

Secretary pro tem.

NATIONAL PARKS¹

WHILE a small number of scientific societies were represented, the conference was well attended, especially by those interested in natural parks for recreation purposes. Their aim is to secure more parks and protect existing ones. Very few of the existing parks and preserves are free from liability to extensive modification through recreation activities, scientific forestry, fires, or exploitation. Even the National Parks must be watched and defended against external aggression. There are now only a few areas aside from the National Parks which have been set aside with the intention that they should be left in a natural state. Most areas have been and probably will continue to be set aside primarily as recreation parks, or as forest preserves. The main business of those interested in areas to be held in an original state, must of necessity be to get areas set aside within these forest preserves and parks.

The following was made evident by the conference.

¹Report of the delegate of the American Society of Zoologists to the National Conference on Parks, Des Moines, Iowa, January 10-12, 1921. This report will be submitted to the American Society of Zoologists at their next annual meeting.
—W. C. ALLEE, *Secretary-Treasurer*.

1. That the forces interested in the establishment of natural parks and forest preserves for recreation purposes—to make “better citizens through contact with nature” are well organized, and are probably the strongest force operating to secure more parks and protect existing ones.

2. Science has left them quite uninformed of its needs for natural areas and of the practical significance of scientific results which may accrue from study of natural areas. They welcome the idea of biological study as a further argument for natural tracts.

3. They are, however, without constructive plans of management of the smaller tracts which will insure them against destruction from over use as recreation parks. Such plans of management must be based on knowledge of plant and animal ecology which they do not possess.

4. They are engaged in drafting legislation and in advising legislators without the counsel of those interested in preserves for research purposes.

5. It is incumbent upon scientific societies, museums, and universities to organize and to provide funds which will serve the following purposes: (a) to place information as to the scientific uses, and scientific management of natural areas, into the hands of those individuals and organizations working for the preservation of natural conditions; (b) to make possible the representation of scientific needs before legislative bodies and officials; (c) to provide for furthering the wise selection of new areas, and (d) to make existing areas accessible to scientists by the publication of lists and guide books.

V. E. SHELFORD

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

WORLD PRODUCTION OF COAL IN 1920

REPORTS received by the United States Geological Survey indicate that the total output in 1920 was about 1,300,000,000 metric tons. This, although a great increase over 1919, was still 42,000,000 tons short of the output in 1913, the last year before the Great War. The