

be operated simultaneously for the period of a year, affording, for the first time, a comprehensive study of the circulation of the atmosphere above Greenland—the glacial anticyclone. The work of Dr. Wegener has been stimulated by that of the University of Michigan Greenland Expeditions and will be devoted to the same end.

Evans S. Schmelling and William S. Carlson, of the department of geology, both of whom have taken part in the former expeditions to Greenland, will be sent to the two stations. The American-Scandinavian Foundation recently awarded to Mr. Carlson a scholarship which will enable him to study, in connection with his other scientific work, the possibilities for establishing a seaplane station on the northern airplane route to Europe. Max H. Demorest, of Flint, Michigan, will accompany the two members of the expedition, as assistant.

Necessary instruments for the work will be loaned by the United States Weather Bureau. Transportation for Mr. Schmelling has been planned through the cooperation of the Pennsylvania Salt Company, operators of a ship ore line between Philadelphia and Ivigtut. The Cryolite Mining Company, which operates a mine at the site in Greenland, will provide his food and living quarters for the year.

On all clear days members of the expedition will send up pilot balloons and follow their paths with the theodolite so as to discover the force and direction of the wind at all levels up to the place the balloon passes out of sight. Dr. Wegener will be sending out similar pilot balloons at his stations.

THE PAN-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

NORTH AMERICA will meet Latin America in Washington next September for discussion of the problems of agriculture that affect or are common to the two continents. Officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which is cooperating with the Department of State and the Pan American Union in preparing for this Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, Forestry and Animal Industry, believe it promises to be at least as important as any previous gathering for any other purpose in which the two continents have joined forces. The conference, which will be held at Washington from September 8 to 20, will be devoted to practical problems of agriculture, giving special attention to agricultural problems of an economic and scientific nature.

Called in accordance with a resolution of the Sixth International Conference of American States at Havana in February, 1928, the coming assembly will be the first Pan-American gathering to deal exclusively with questions related to agriculture. This subject has been on the program of several of the Pan-American scientific and commercial congresses,

and a group of the nations concerned has discussed various phases of the problem at other meetings, but at no previous conference has an attempt been made to cover such a wide range of agricultural topics or to consider in such a comprehensive way plans looking to the scientific and economic development of agriculture and its related industries throughout all the nations of the Americas.

Problems of inter-continental concern will be discussed in their broadest scope and with a view to formulating basic plans for effective continental cooperation in the development of the agricultural industries. Both governmental agencies and private organizations will participate, and the conference will endeavor to promote cooperation between governments and private citizens in the study of the problems presented.

The conference will consider broadly the problems of research in agriculture and forest development and methods of preventing and eradicating diseases and pests affecting plants and animals. Sponsors of the conference also anticipate that in discussing agricultural economics the members will explore the problems of competition which are now beginning to bear heavily on the nations in the tropical and subtropical regions of this hemisphere. Tropical countries of other continents now offer growing competition in production of such products as rubber, coffee, sugar, cacao, cotton and other vegetable fibers, tobacco and citrus fruits. In many of these products the new world formerly enjoyed practical freedom from competition.

The conference will also consider plans looking toward a coordination of research work by groups of the American nations acting in harmony to improve and develop the crops in which they have common interests. It will study the latest scientific methods both for the growing and for the marketing of agricultural products.

Reports dealing with the various questions on the agenda have been prepared by experts and are now being sent to the national committee in the different countries and to the private associations which are being invited to attend. This will promote advance study in preparation for the discussions at the conference itself, which will be chiefly round-table gatherings.

THE SUMMER MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

For the first time in many years the American Physical Society will hold a summer meeting. This meeting, which will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., from June 19 to 21, will be in the nature of a "vacation" meeting. Plans have been made to schedule the formal scientific program chiefly