

Railways and the general public were mainly responsible.

The number of forest workers directly employed by the commission varied between 4,555 in the summer of 1938 and 5,395 in the following winter. Further forest workers' holdings, which have an average of 11 acres each, were established, and increased the total number of holdings to nearly 1,400.

Seven eighths of the woodland in Great Britain is privately owned. A census of all those woodlands of not less than five acres was started early in 1938, and will provide reliable information on the condition and contents of the woods in view of the importance of the reserves of standing timber for national defense.

The commissioners have continued to assist planting and direct sowing by local authorities and private owners by means of grants up to £2 an acre for conifers and up to £4 an acre for hardwoods, and by a proceeds sharing scheme. So far 120,000 acres have been planted privately with the aid of grants.

Enthusiastic use has been made of the camping grounds in the Argyll National Forest Park, opened to the public by the commissioners in 1936. The number of visitors who made use of the facilities provided there was 29,500, compared with 20,400 in the previous year. Progress has been made with plans for establishing the Snowdonia and Forest of Dean National Forest Parks. The Dean National Forest Park will be opened shortly.

#### THE AUSTRALIAN METEORITE IN THE COLLECTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

A 2,000-POUND meteorite, probably a fragment of one of the largest to have struck the earth, has been added to the meteorite collection of the Smithsonian Institution. This specimen was found in 1903 near the town of Pearce Dale, not far from Melbourne, Australia—the general area of the Cranbourne meteorite which was discovered in 1854.

The largest piece of the Cranbourne meteorite, weighing over three tons, is now in the British Museum; the second largest piece, weighing about one and a half tons, is in the Melbourne Museum. Smaller fragments are displayed in museums all over the world.

It is not known definitely whether this meteorite is actually a part of the Cranbourne fall, but according to E. P. Henderson, of the institution, it will probably prove to be so. That two separate meteorite falls of such large size would occur within such a limited area is quite improbable. The meteorite probably exploded in midair and fragments may be found some distance apart. It will shortly be placed on exhibition at the U. S. National Museum. A study will be made to determine its composition and relationships

to the Cranbourne meteorite, which must be considered as one of the major collisions between the earth and a body from space. It is, however, said to be by no means the largest known meteorite.

Stony meteorites are more numerous than the iron variety, but all the largest falls, both as to size and weight, are iron meteorites. There are many scars upon the surface of the earth where meteorites have struck, notable among which is the great Meteor Crater in Arizona. The fall of 1908 which struck in northern Siberia produced a shock observed on seismographs far distant from the point of impact.

The Smithsonian has added thirty different falls to its collection so far this year. Most of these have been found in the United States. The Australian iron is by far the largest received this year, but several good-sized ones have come in from Chile and Mexico.

#### THE PROPOSED INTER-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN PUERTO RICO

SECRETARY ICKES has made public the report of the commission appointed by President Roosevelt to make recommendations for the proposed establishment of an Inter-American University consisting of six graduate schools and research units grouped about the University of Puerto Rico, of which they would be an expansion but not an integral part.

The chairman of the commission was Dr. Isaiah Bowman, president of the Johns Hopkins University. Other members were Senator Elbert D. Thomas; Frank P. Graham, president of the University of North Carolina; David L. Crawford, president of the University of Hawaii; Dean Thomas E. Benner, of the University of Illinois; Alvin Johnson, director of the New School for Social Research, New York; Victor S. Clark, economic consultant, Library of Congress; Richard Pattee, of the Division of Cultural Relations of the State Department, and Max Radin, professor of law, University of California.

Of the six special service units recommended for inclusion in the program, one already is in existence. This is a School of Tropical Medicine, the increased support and enlargement of which is recommended, as well as its merger with the proposed organization.

The other units would be a Graduate School of Tropical Agriculture, a Graduate School of Economics and Business, an Institute of Languages, Literature and History of the Americas, an Institute of Law and a Tropical Fishery Research Laboratory.

These units would form the Inter-American Institution of the University of Puerto Rico. Their control as a group by a single board independent of the university is recommended, although an interlocking relationship between this board and the board of trustees of the university is suggested.

Virtually the entire burden of building and support-