

end of the railroad at Moosonee (Moose Factory), Ontario.

During the summer there were collected 1,336 numbers of flowering plants and about 400 numbers of lower plants, the number of herbarium specimens being about 8,000. In addition, about 250 tree borings and wood specimens from 80 trees were collected by John Marr for a study of tree growth climatic correlations.

The party was composed of Dr. Ernst C. Abbe, Mrs. Lucy B. Abbe and Mr. John Marr, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota.

The expedition was supported by funds from the Graduate School of the University of Minnesota, supplemented with liberal grants from the National Academy of Sciences (Bache Fund), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Penrose Fund of the American Philosophical Society, the Smithsonian Institution, the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and the Minnesota Academy of Sciences.

ERNST C. ABBE

THE IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

THE Executive Board of the American Library Association on October 3 arranged for the appointment of a Joint Committee on Foreign Importations to act on behalf of the association and also of the Medical Library Association, the Special Libraries Association, the Association of Research Libraries and the Association of College and Reference Libraries. One or two other organizations may join in the project later. The following, of whom the first four form the executive committee, have accepted appointment to membership in the committee:

Harry Miller Lydenberg, New York Public Library, *chairman*.

Robert Lingel, New York Public Library, *vice-chairman*.

Keyes D. Metcalf, Harvard University Library.

Thomas Paul Fleming, Medical Library, Columbia University.

Dr. William Warner Bishop, General Library, University of Michigan.

Lawrence Heyl, Princeton University Library.

Bernhard Knollenberg, Yale University Library.

Harold L. Leupp, University of California Library.

Dr. Phineas Lawrence Windsor, University of Illinois Library.

Messrs. Lydenberg and Lingel conferred in Washington on November 4 with Dr. Archibald MacLeish, librarian of Congress, and B. L. Hunt, assistant legal adviser of the Department of State. Dr. MacLeish assured them of the willingness of the Library of Congress to aid American Libraries if it became necessary to lay their case before diplomatic authorities. Mr.

Hunt is acquainted with the library situation. He agreed to consider on behalf of the Department of State any statements forwarded by the Library of Congress and to see that action was taken through appropriate channels as the circumstances might warrant.

Present conditions facing American libraries may be summarized as follows: publications of all kinds will be irregular because of war conditions; shipments are subject not only to wind and weather but to transportation irregularities both on sea and land. So far as the committee can learn, however, no embargo on shipments of books and periodicals has been laid. Restrictions on exports of books from Italy were limited to a short period after the war began. On September 28, the Department of State cabled to the American Embassy in London, with a view to making some general arrangement for the transmission of general publications from Germany. As soon as a reply has been received by the Department of State, the committee will be advised. There seems, however, at the present time, to be no difficulty in exporting books and periodicals from Germany in neutral vessels. The report states that agents seem so far to have been able to make their shipments with no more delays or difficulties than one must expect under such circumstances. Further announcements will be made by the committee which has its headquarters at 476 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

The American Documentation Institute of the library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, requests that failure by a subscriber to receive European scientific journals be reported promptly. The cultural relations committee of the institute hopes to be able to surmount such war obstacles as interrupted transportation, embargoes and censorship, which seriously affected the progress of research during the last war. It is hoped that the principle will be established that materials of research having no relation to war shall continue to pass freely, regardless of the countries of origin or destination. Reports with full details of where subscription was placed and name and address of subscriber, volume, date and number of the last issue received should be addressed to the American Documentation Institute, Bibliofilm Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, Washington, D. C.

LECTURES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

DURING the academic year 1938-39 and the summer of 1939 the following speakers from out of town gave talks before faculty members and graduate students of the department of physics at the University of Wisconsin: