

-:- NORTHWEST SCIENCE -:-

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The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Northwest Scientific Association

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Northwest Scientific Association, held December 28 and 29, 1938, at the Davenport Hotel, Spokane, Washington, had an official registration of 160, an increase of 12 more than the year previous. The usual visitors and guests swelled the section attendance to over 200.

The speaker at the opening general session was W. A. Rockie of the Soil Conservation Service and a former president of the Association, who spoke on the agricultural conditions and possibilities in Alaska. At the joint luncheon with the Associated Engineers of Spokane, the Washington Water Power Company's film on power development in the Pacific Northwest was shown.

Retiring President C. C. Todd, Dean of the College of Sciences and Arts, State College of Washington, Pullman, spoke on "The First Northwest Scientists," at the annual dinner. Philip H. Pope, Whitman College, gave the address at the Sigma Xi breakfast and showed pictures depicting the plant and animal life of the Tropical rain forest of Panama.

Aside from the general sessions section meetings were held for the following groups: (a) Bacteriology and Public Health; (b) Botany-Zoology; (c) Chemistry-Physics-Mathematics; (d) Education-Psychology; (e) Engineering; (f) Forestry; (g) Geology-Geography; (h) Social Sciences; (i) Soil Conserva-

tion, and a new section that plans on meeting from time to time with the Association, (j) Snow Survey and Hydrology. A total of 70 papers was presented.

Officers elected for 1939 include: Dr. E. F. Gaines, State College of Washington, Pullman (agronomy), president; Dr. F. W. Gail, University of Idaho, Moscow (biology), vice-president; W. B. Merriam, Eastern Washington College of Education, Cheney (geography), secretary-treasurer, with J. H. Ramskill, Missoula, retiring president, and Dr. John Erlich, University of Idaho, added to the list of councilors.

Trustees elected included Dr. R. F. E. Steir, retained as chairman; Thomas Large, Spokane; W. A. Rockie, Spokane, and H. T. Gisborne, Missoula, for the one-year term. Dr. O. W. Freeman, Cheney, was chosen to continue as editor of Northwest Science, the Association's official publication.

The following section officers were elected:

Bacteriology-Public Health — Chairman, Miss Jacqueline Bahrenburg, St. Luke's Hospital, Spokane, Washington; secretary, Dr. Ernest McCulloch, State College of Washington, Pullman.

Botany-Zoology — Chairman, Dr. J. Warren Severy, University of Montana, Missoula; secretary, Dr. Leslie Headrick, Whitworth College, Spokane.

Chemistry-Physics-Mathematics — Chairman, John A. Carlson, Whitworth

College, Spokane; secretary, Dr. R. W. Gelbach, State College of Washington, Pullman.

Education-Psychology — Chairman, Dr. O. J. Williamson, Eastern Washington College of Education, Cheney; secretary, R. F. Hawk, Eastern Washington College of Education, Cheney.

Engineering — Chairman, W. L. Maloney, Symons Bldg., Spokane, Washington.

Forestry — Chairman, Dr. E. R. Martell, University of Idaho, Moscow; secretary, Vernon A. Young, University of Idaho, Moscow.

Geology-Geography — Chairman, Thomas H. Hite, Soil Conservation Ser-

vice, Moscow, Idaho; secretary, Ray C. Treasher, Oregon Bureau of Mines and Geology, Portland, Oregon.

Social Science — Chairman, Willis B. Merriam, Eastern Washington College of Education, Cheney; vice-chairman, Dr. Cecil E. Marshall, University of Idaho, Moscow; secretary, Charles R. Randall, North Central High School, Spokane.

Soil Conservation — Chairman, William J. Green, County Agent, Spokane; secretary, Sam L. Sloan, Soil Conservation Service, Spokane.

W. B. MERRIAM,
Secretary.

The First Northwest Scientists

C. C. TODD*

For fifteen years the Northwest Scientific Association has been fostering research in the Pacific Northwest. Some of the founders of our organization may rightly feel themselves pioneers in a significant forward movement, but no one, of course, thinks that collection of scientific data in this region began with the inception of our society. Perhaps few realize, however, that the scientific history of the Northwest dates back to the early eighteen hundreds and that the Lewis and Clark expedition and David Thompson's journeys in the Columbia River area made rich contributions to Science, not incidentally, but as the product of definite and detailed planning.

Credit for the boldly conceived Lewis and Clark expedition in all its aspects is accorded by everyone to that remarkably versatile and farseeing statesman, Thomas Jefferson. The political significance of the enterprise in connection with our westward expansion, familiar to all, needs no review. Its launching in 1804 was coincident with the transfer of the Louisiana Territory but similar

plans, including the scientific possibilities, had long before been conceived in Jefferson's mind.

While Commissioner in Paris, he urged John Ledyard, an intrepid explorer who had sailed with Captain Cook, to travel by land to Kamtschatka, cross to Nootka Sound, thence down to the latitude of the Missouri, make his way across the continent to that river and down it to the then United States.

This somewhat fantastic adventure was actually begun, but Catherine of Russia changed her royal mind and, retracting her permission, sent her police to bring Ledyard back and dump him in Poland.

Not to be deterred, however, was Jefferson, who in 1792 proposed to the American Philosophical Society that a subscription be taken up to engage a competent person to ascend the Missouri, cross the "Stony" (Rocky) Mountains and descend the nearest river to the Pacific. André Michaux, a French

*The address of the retiring president of the Northwest Scientific Association, presented at the annual dinner, December 28, 1938.