

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The tenth meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the offices of the Council on January 25, 1917. Messrs Carty, Chittenden, Conklin, Dunn, Pupin, Vaughan, Welch, and the Secretary were present.

The Secretary presented Dr. Holmes' report, dated January 16th, on the composition of the Committee on Anthropology. It was understood that this committee will be formed in coöperation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as has been done with other science committees.

The Secretary presented the following resolution of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, accepting designation by the National Research Council as the Aeronautical Committee of the Research Council:

RESOLVED: That the invitation of the National Research Council that the members of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics act as the Committee on Aeronautics of the National Research Council be accepted on appointment of its members by the National Research Council as such committee.

The Executive Committee adopted the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That the National Research Council acknowledges the acceptance by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics of the invitation of the National Research Council to serve as its "Aeronautics Committee" and hereby appoints Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Chairman, and Dr. Joseph S. Ames, Prof. Chas. F. Marvin, Prof. M. I. Pupin, Brig. Gen. Geo. O. Squier, and Dr. S. W. Stratton, members of the Aeronautics Committee of the National Research Council.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Committee of the National Research Council cordially thanks the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics for its generous action in placing its services at the disposal of the National Research Council in this matter.

Dr. Vaughan then presented the matter of the Medicine and the Hygiene Committees, urging that these two committees be merged. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the former action of the Executive Committee creating separate committees for medicine and for hygiene be reconsidered, and that one committee, to be designated the Medicine and Hygiene Committee, be appointed. Dr. Vaughan then presented a list of names for this committee; explaining the need of a large committee by the fact that the many different aspects of medicine and hygiene must be considered.

The Executive Committee approved the appointment of the persons listed and authorized the organization of the committee.

The eleventh meeting of the Executive Committee was held on February 7, 1917. Messrs. Carty, Dunn, Pupin, and the Secretary were present; also Dr. Bogert by invitation.

The meeting was devoted principally to the discussion of the appointment of a committee of submarine detection, recommended in a telegram received from

the Chairman of the Council. It was voted to call a joint meeting of the Executive Committee and the Military Committee in Washington on February 17 to act upon this question.

The general policy of the Research Council in regard to the giving out of information was discussed; and it was voted that the chairmen of all committees be requested not to give out any statements, written or oral, regarding matters of public policy or interest, save through the intermediary of the office of the Council.

Dr. Bogert gave an informal account of some of the work of the Chemistry Committee. He recommended the appointment of older, retired chemists as advisory members of the committee. He also reported the appointment of Wilder D. Bancroft, of Cornell University, as Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Electro-chemistry. All of Dr. Bogert's recommendations were agreed to by the Committee.

The twelfth meeting of the Executive Committee, consisting in a joint session with the Military Committee of the National Research Council, was held on February 17, 1917, at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington. Messrs. Carty, Chittenden, Conklin, Dunn, Millikan, Pearl, Pupin, Stratton, Vaughan, Walcott, and Welch, and the Secretary of the Executive Committee, and General Gorgas, General Squier, Admiral Taylor, and Admiral Griffin of the Military Committee, were present; also, by invitation, Dr. Bogert, Chairman of the Chemistry Committee.

Dr. Stratton, speaking as Secretary of the Military Committee, told of two important problems that are already under way, which had originated with this committee. The first is the disposition of the opium confiscated by the Government; the second, the preparation of a specification for a good blanket. The Military Committee was of the opinion that the Government should use confiscated opium, turning it into harmless salt rather than to destroy it. Action to this end has been taken. Conferences regarding the matter of blanket specifications are under way.

The procedure to be followed by the Military Committee was discussed; and the Executive Committee agreed that the Military Committee shall correspond with the chairmen of the various other committees of the Council which may be concerned in the problems originating with the Military Committee.

It was voted to recommend to the President of the National Academy of Sciences that Admiral Ralph Earle, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance of the Navy Department, and Mr. Herbert C. Hoover be made members of the Research Council. The former thereby becomes a member of the Military Committee.

The Secretary reported that Eliakim H. Moore had been made a member of the Council and Chairman of the Mathematics Committee.

It was voted that an Engineering Committee be authorized and that the

personnel be determined by conference between members of the Executive Committee and the presidents of the national engineering societies, in order that the full coöperation of the engineers of the country might be secured.

It was voted that a Committee on Anatomy be authorized and that Dr. Hale be requested to nominate its chairman.

At this point the meeting adjourned, and the members assembled at a luncheon kindly provided by Dr. and Mrs. Walcott. Members of the Council of National Defense and its Advisory Commission, namely, Messrs. Godfrey, Coffin, and Gifford, joined the members of the Council at luncheon.

The members reassembled thereafter in conference with the members of the Council of National Defense; and, after an explanation by Dr. Carty of the formation and scope of the work of the National Research Council, the relations of the two bodies were discussed.

The thirteenth meeting of the Executive Committee was held on February 26, 1917. Messrs. Carty, Dunn, Pupin, and the Secretary were present.

The particular object of the meeting was to consider a resolution to be forwarded to the Council of National Defense, defining the form of relations that the National Research Council desires to hold with the Council of National Defense. After full discussion, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: That the National Research Council, established at the request of the President of the United States for the organization and promotion of scientific research in the interest of national defense and national welfare, is of the opinion that its services to the National Government in its coöperation with the Council of National Defense will be most effective if acting directly with the Council of National Defense through its Director.

The Secretary was instructed to transmit this to the Director of the Council of National Defense as an expression of the attitude of the Research Council.

The fourteenth meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Research Council was held on March 7, 1917. Messrs. Carty, Chittenden, Conklin, Dunn, Stratton, and the Secretary were present.

The Secretary announced the completion of the Committees on Astronomy, Agriculture, Physiology, Geology; and stated that the Committees on Botany, Zoology, and Anthropology have not yet been completed. He reported Dr. Hale's recommendation that a Committee on Anatomy be authorized.

Messrs. John C. Merriam and Charles R. Cross were appointed members of the Census Committee.

The Secretary reported that Carl L. Alsberg and Alonzo E. Taylor have been appointed members of the National Research Council by the President of the National Academy of Sciences.

The Secretary read the offer of the faculty of Sloane Laboratory of Yale University of its services and facilities, to the National Research Council for research work for national defense. Dr. Stratton presented letters with similar offers from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the General

Electric Company, and the Jefferson Physical Laboratory of Harvard University. These offers all placed at the disposal of the Research Council valuable facilities for conducting research. The Executive Committee instructed the Secretary to prepare and transmit a resolution, expressing appreciation of these offers; and to inform the Council of National Defense that the National Research Council holds these facilities at its disposal.

The Secretary presented Dr. W. M. Davis's report on the work of the Geography Committee. It was received, and the Secretary was instructed to inform Dr. Davis that the Executive Committee approves the proposed plan.

The Secretary presented the report of Dr. J. M. Clarke, Chairman of the Geology Committee, requesting the Executive Committee to approve his action in taking steps to better the instruction in geology in the engineering schools and colleges of the country. The Executive Committee voted to endorse Dr. Clarke's action. Reports were also presented from Prof. E. C. Pickering, Chairman of the Committee on Astronomy, and Dr. V. C. Vaughan, Chairman of the Committee on Medicine. It was voted that an Engineering Committee be authorized, to consist of the following members of the National Research Council, with whom others may be joined from time to time by the Executive Committee: Gano Dunn (Chairman), J. A. Brashear, J. J. Carty, W. F. M. Goss, Clemens Herschel, C. F. Rand, C. E. Skinner, S. W. Stratton, Ambrose Swasey, and Elihu Thomson.

It was voted to appoint a new Nitrate Supply Committee to consist of the Chiefs of the Departments of Ordnance of the Army and of the Navy, representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Mines, and Bureau of Standards, and Messrs. Leo H. Baekeland, Gano Dunn, C. H. Hertzy, A. A. Noyes, and W. R. Whitney, members of the former Nitrate Supply Committee. (This committee was subsequently replaced by a similarly constituted one appointed officially by the Secretary of War.)

The Secretary reported that in response to the resolution adopted by the National Research Council, a resolution was adopted by the Council of National Defense on the 28th of February as follows:

RESOLVED: That the Council of National Defense, recognizing that the National Research Council, at the request of the President of the United States, has organized the scientific forces of the country in the interest of national defense and national welfare, requests that the National Research Council cooperate with it in matters pertaining to scientific research for national defense, and, to this end, the Council of National Defense suggests that the National Research Council appoint a committee of not more than three, at least one of whom shall be located in Washington, for the purpose of maintaining active relations with the Director of the Council of National Defense.

The Secretary reported the appointment of a Sub-Committee on Smokeless Powder by the Military Committee. This Sub-Committee is composed of Admiral Griffin, Admiral Earle, Messrs. C. D. Walcott, Comey, and Harry T. Brown.

The fifteenth meeting was held in New York on March 22, 1917. Messrs. Carty, Conklin, Dunn, Hale, and the Secretary were present; also upon invitation Drs. M. T. Bogert and J. M. Clarke.

It was voted to ask Dr. Charles H. Herty to become a member of the Publicity Committee and to take especial charge of chemical publicity in accordance with the general publicity policy of the Publicity Committee of the Council.

Dr. Hale spoke of the urgent need of acting in accordance with the resolution of the Council of National Defense, by appointing a committee of three to work with the Council of National Defense in Washington, of which one member, as requested by the Council of National Defense, shall be in Washington permanently, with headquarters in close connection with the Council of National Defense. After full discussion of the matter it was voted that a committee of three be appointed to cooperate with the Council of National Defense, in accordance with the resolution of that Council, to consist of Dr. C. D. Walcott, Dr. S. W. Stratton, and Dr. R. A. Millikan; that an office be secured in Washington in the Munsey Building as headquarters of the Research Council, and that Dr. Millikan be asked to take charge of it.

Dr. Hale stated that Mr. Tod Ford of Los Angeles is willing to come to Washington and give all his time to the work of the Research Council. It was voted that Mr. Ford be employed as Assistant Secretary in the office of the Research Council in Washington.

Dr. Hale proposed the formation of a volunteer corps of scientific observers to go to Europe to study the development of scientific research in the problems of the war. After discussion it was voted that Dr. Hale be authorized to appoint such persons as he elects to proceed to Europe to study the conditions there brought about by the war, and to take such other steps as he deems advisable to further this general purpose.

Dr. Clarke, Chairman of the Geology Committee, then reported briefly upon the work of his committee. He asked the approval of two sub-committees, one on Camp Sites, another on the Location of Distant Artillery by Seismological Measurements. He was authorized to appoint them, with Dr. Penrose as Chairman of the Sub-committee on Camp Sites, and Dr. Woodworth of that of Seismological Measurements.

Dr. Hale then offered his resignation as Chairman of the Committee on Research in Educational Institutions, and suggested that Dr. R. H. Chittenden be asked to accept the Chairmanship in his stead. The committee accepted with regret Dr. Hale's resignation and approved the appointment of Dr. Chittenden.

In view of the proffered assistance of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers, it was voted that the President of the American Institute of Consulting Engineers be asked to suggest one of its members to be appointed a member of the National Research Council.

CARY T. HUTCHINSON, *Secretary.*