

NEWS AND NOTES

THE following men attended the Fifth International Grassland Congress which was held at Noordwijk, Netherlands, June 22-26, and followed by a week's excursion covering grassland farming areas in the Netherlands:

Mr. W. R. Chapline, U. S. Forest Service, Washington, D. C.

Dr. O. S. Aamodt, BPISAE, Beltsville, Maryland

Dr. W. M. Myers, BPISAE, Beltsville, Maryland

Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N. C.

Dr. H. A. MacDonald, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

Mr. N. R. Ellis, Bureau of Animal Industry, Beltsville, Maryland

Dr. Ralph W. Phillips, FAO, Washington, D. C.

The program of the Congress was devoted to technical consideration of grassland problems under conditions comparable to those characterizing northwestern Europe.

Dr. E. J. Dyksterhuis has been made Chief of the Range Division, Soil Conservation Service, Northern Great Plains Region, Lincoln 1, Nebraska. Formerly he was located at Fort Worth, Texas.

D. W. Hedrick is doing graduate work leading toward the Ph.D. in range management at Texas A. & M. College, College Station, Texas.

Following the Fifth International Grassland Congress at Noordwijk, Netherlands, W. R. Chapline visited the Pasture Experiment Station near Ghent, Belgium, and the Forest Experiment Stations near Brussels Gembloux before going to Sutton Bonington, England, to attend the British Grassland Society meeting from July 11-14.

Carter P. Qualls is now with the U. S. Forest Service on the Kaibab National Forest. He received the M.S. degree in forestry at the University of California in June.

Roland J. Christiansen, Bureau of Land Management, has been transferred from San Francisco, California, to a position as Assistant Range Manager, with headquarters at Winnemucca, Nevada.

The Range Research program of the California Forest and Range Experiment Station has been expanded by the initiation of a new project on conversion of brush lands to more productive uses. This project, provided for by Research and Marketing Act funds, will be conducted in close cooperation with the University of California, the State Division of Forestry, and the California Region of the U. S. Forest Service.

A WORLD MEETING OF CONSERVATIONISTS

The "United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources," held at Lake Success, New York, August 17-September 6, may well prove to be a turning point from centuries of exploitation and depletion of the world's natural resources to an era of progress toward their conservation and better use. In world affairs, this meeting marked the first recognition of "range conservation" as a separate and important part of the conservation of all natural resources, and one requiring highly skilled and professional consideration. For this reason, as well as because of the general importance of the meeting, it is believed that members of the American Society of Range Management will be interested in

a general account of the events that led to the decision to hold such a conference, its purposes, and the subjects discussed.

Shortly before the outbreak of the late war, rising public interest in the conservation of all natural resources led to a proposal to President Roosevelt for a world congress at which such problems could be examined and discussed by technicians from many countries. President Roosevelt was enthusiastic about the idea but the outbreak of the war prevented it from being carried out at that time. Later, it is reported, the President discussed the subject at Yalta with Stalin and Churchill and it was agreed that after the War's end, such a world meeting would be worthwhile. Following the end of hostilities, and with the organization of the United Nations, President Truman proposed to that agency that it sponsor such a world conference. This proposal was adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council and in 1947, plans were gotten underway for it.

To outline the scope of the conference and to develop a proposed agenda, a "Technical Working Committee" of U. S. experts was set up at the request of the United Nations. This committee, under the chairmanship of Secretary Krug of the Department of the Interior, was made up of members from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, and State, and from such other agencies as the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Federal Power Commission, the Munitions Board, and the National Security Resources Board. Committee members were selected because of their knowledge in a particular field of natural resource conservation rather than because of their official position. Non-renewable resources were considered separately from the renewable natural resources. Leading experts of the U. S. Government were drawn upon to consider the problem of developing an

agenda dealing with the conservation and utilization of coal, oil, gas, minerals, and power. For the renewable natural resources, similar consideration was given by committee members M. A. McCall, Asst. Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Engineering for the subject of "crops"; F. G. Renner, Chief, Range Division, Soil Conservation Service for "range"; Lyle F. Watts, Chief, Forest Service for "forests"; R. R. Will, Administrative Officer, Office of the Secretary of Agriculture for "water"; and E. G. Weitzell, Bureau of Agricultural Economics for "economic aspects of conservation." After many weeks of deliberation, a preliminary agenda was developed and recommended to the United Nations.

In addition to the plenary sessions dealing with the integrated use of all natural resources, the final agenda grouped the numerous subjects under a series of technical sessions on *Mineral Resources, Fuels and Energy; Water; Forests, Land Resources; and Wildlife, Fish, and Marine Resources*. In the sessions on "Land Resources" provision was made for papers dealing specifically with the conservation and use of grazing lands throughout the world.

Each major subject was presented in an "introductory paper" which covered the broad aspects of the problem in many of the countries of the world. This was followed by an "experience paper" by an individual who presented the special aspects of the problem in his country. Some idea of the extent to which grazing land problems were covered is indicated by the following list of the major discussions:

"The Management of a Permanent Pastoral Industry." Discussed by Mr. E. Bruce Levy, Director, Grasslands Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Zealand and Mr. M. L. 't Hart, Centraal Instituut voor Landbouwkundig, The Netherlands.

"Relation of Sustained Livestock Production to Condition of Grazing Land." Discussed by Mr. C. A. Murray, Asst. Director Research, Department of Agriculture and Lands, Southern Rhodesia, Mr. C. L. Forsling, U. S. Dept. of Interior, U. S., and Prof. T. L. Bywater, College of Agriculture, Aberdeen, Scotland.

"Application of Ecological Principles in Determining the Condition of Grazing Land." Discussed by Prof. A. W. Sampson, School of Forestry, Univ. of California, U. S., Mr. D. M. de Vries, Mr. Th. A. de Boer, and Mr. J. G. P. Dirven, Graduate School of Agr., Wageningen, The Netherlands, and Dr. W. Davies, Director, Grassland Improvement Sta., Minister of Agr. and Fisheries, Drayton, Stratford-on-Avon, England.

"Seeding and Restoration of Natural Grazing Lands." Discussed by Prof. G. Nilsson-Leisner, Director, Government Seed Control Lab., Stockholm, Sweden and Dr. Wesley Keller, Geneticist, BPI-SAE., Logan, Utah.

"Recent Advances in Methods for Restoring Deteriorated Grazing Land." Discussed by F. G. Renner, Chief, Range Division, Soil Conservation Service, U. S., and Mr. D. A. Campbell, Soil Conservation and Ministry Control Council, Wellington, New Zealand.

"Game and Fur Conservation on Range Lands." Discussed by Dr. J. V. K. Wagar, Dept. Forest Recreation and Game Management, Colorado State College, U. S., and Mr. T. G. C. Vaughn-Jones, Director, Game and Tsetse Control, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, and Mr. D. I. Rasmussen Forest Service, Ogden, Utah.

Other distinguished technicians from France, Pakistan, Switzerland, and Italy were also on the program and discussed some phase of the improvement, conservation, or management of grazing lands in those countries.

In announcing the conference, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations significantly observed that:

"The conservation and wise utilization of natural resources are problems of immediate concern to all nations.

"For the countries most devastated by war, these problems appear with the greatest urgency as the need to apply the techniques of forward-looking resource use which will most rapidly bring back their ravished farm lands and factories to full productivity.

"For the most highly industrialized countries, already shocked by experience of temporary shortages of some of their basic resources, such as oil, coal, and steel, there is particular reason for concern over the rapidity over which they are consuming their stocks of irreplaceable materials.

"For the less fully developed countries, the greatest interest lies in the utilization of modern methods which will enable them to bring into sustained use resources as yet untapped and to build up more productive and diversified economics.

"But these are differences only of emphasis and degree. Preventable and costly waste, both of renewable and non-renewable resources, is a world wide phenomenon. No country has yet succeeded in exploiting to the full, the possibilities which the scientific utilization of resources offers for a sustained advance in the standard of life."

The above considerations largely determined the purpose of the Conference which was to call together distinguished "engineers, resource technicians, economists, and other experts in related fields" to exchange ideas and experience on the techniques of resource conservation and utilization. The primary concern of the conference was with the practical application of science to resource management

and human use, rather than with minute refinements in research and scientific methodology. The importance of "wide-spread application" of improved resource techniques, and their "economic costs and benefits" were particularly stressed.

The conference was unique in that, by instructions prior to the meeting, few of the papers in the technical sessions were read. They were printed and in the hands of all participants beforehand but were merely summarized by the author at the meeting itself. This left most of the time available for a full discussion of the points brought out in the paper, as well as an opportunity to discuss different and related aspects of the problem from other parts of the world. Complete participation of those in attendance was made possible by simultaneous translation in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese.

The text of the papers presented at the Conference, together with the summaries of the discussions, will be published and available to members of the American Society of Range Management who are interested.—*F. G. Renner*, Soil Conservation Service, Washington 25, D. C.

RANGE MANAGEMENT AT TEXAS A & M

The Department of Range and Forestry at Texas A & M is developing rapidly. First started in September 1946 with Dr. Vernon A. Young, Head of the Department, and Dr. Omer E. Sperry, and R. R. Rhodes, the Department now has eleven staff members.

When the divisions of instruction, research, and extension were coordinated November 1, 1946, the new Department became active in all three phases. At the same time the Tracy Herbarium became a unit of the Department of Range and Forestry. At this time the staff was in-

creased from three to five members, the new members being the Curator of the Herbarium and an Extension Forester.

In 1947, the graduate curriculum of the Department was expanded to meet the demands for work leading to the Master's and Doctor's degrees in the field of range management. Again the staff was increased, this time to eight members plus three teaching assistants. One of the above staff members became Extension Range Specialist and was the first person in the United States to hold such an assignment. The services rendered through this position soon became very popular in the state and, as one of the leading ranchers recently stated, "There should be at least four Range Specialists to assist Texas ranchmen and 4-H Club members with their range problems and demonstrations."

Field courses were initiated for County Agricultural Agents during the summer of 1947. A course in farm forestry was given at Camp Siecke in the piney woods of East Texas and a course in range management at Substation No. 14 near Sonora in the Edwards Plateau with the field work covering much of Central and West Texas. These courses were repeated in 1948 and 1949; a second section was taught in the piney woods of East Texas near Lufkin in 1949.

During 1947, the department also introduced several research projects for which funds were appropriated by the state legislature, federal government agencies, and private companies. Among the projects that are now active are: "The Eradication and Control of Noxious Species of Brush on Range Lands of Texas," which is divided into five sub-projects and financed by state-appropriated funds; "Distribution, Abundance, Economic Importance and Control of Poisonous Plants on Range Land," supported by the Research Mar-

keting Act; "The Effect of Grazing and Clipping on the Phosphorus-Deficient Range on the Encino Division of the King Ranch," a phase of the Swift Grant-in-aid project handled jointly by the Departments of Animal Husbandry, Agronomy, and Range and Forestry. Besides these, the Department cooperates with the experiment substations with their range management and brush projects. Following the initiation of the research program, two additional members were added to the Department staff. Research fellowships are also supported by the Dow Chemical Company and the Sherwin-Williams Company.

During the academic year 1948-49, the eleventh staff member was employed to assist in instruction and research. In the period 1947-49, twenty-six B. S. degrees were granted to range majors and ten students received Master's degrees. Each graduate was solicited for his services some time before graduation. The positions varied from a college staff appointment, employment by private business, range research and conservation with various government agencies to a ranch foremanship. During the present academic year, twenty-two graduate students were registered in the Department. Four of these are working for a Doctor's degree, and three hope to complete their work in 1950. During the academic year of 1949-50, seven outstanding graduate students representing widely distributed educational institutions will be taking work for the Doctorate, and a number of others will be working for the Master's degree. More than a thousand students took one or more courses in the Department during 1948-49.

It will be the policy of the Department of Range and Forestry in the future to strongly emphasize both the teaching and research phases of range management since we have a well-qualified staff

to handle such programs. The Department expects to move into new quarters within the next two years, since funds have been made available for a Plant Sciences Building on the campus which will house certain of the departments in the School of Agriculture. In addition, the 1200 acres of experimental range near the campus will be adequately fenced and desirable roads constructed during the 1949-50 academic year to meet intensive research and field laboratory needs. These together with the various large ranches and certain substation facilities will provide graduate research facilities for range management problems and projects for a number of years.

RANCHING SERVICE

"Western Ranching Services" is the name of a recently organized private agency designed to assist rangeland owners and operators with their problems. So far as the writer knows, this is the first organization of its kind designed specifically and solely to serve the rancher. According to a printed announcement, this Service is composed of range specialists headed by Mr. R. B. Peck, who for more than ten years was associated with Soil Conservation Service in range work over most of the western states. Although headquarters are at Delhart, Texas, the work area is the western states and Canada.

The organization has two objectives. The one major objective is to make survey appraisals and complete management plans of range properties, and appraisals of ranch real estate. This part of the program falls essentially under the heading of range management and operational planning. The other broad objective is that of rangeland development and is primarily concerned with action programs. Activities which the organization is in a position to advise on or con-

tract for especially are: Control of noxious plants, reseeding, irrigation resource development, and certain other improvements.

The motto of Western Ranching Service is:

“To assist the ranch owner to a fuller satisfaction in the joy of ownership and to the attainment of his long-sought goals.”

Mr. Peck's professional associates and friends over the West will wish him and his coworkers well in their undertaking. The writer's wish: “good going to Western Ranching Service, and don't permit a possible modest beginning to discourage you.” Potentialities for services seem limitless. The organization should prove useful to the operator and, incidentally, remunerative to the personnel.—*Arthur W. Sampson*, School of Forestry, University of California, Berkeley, California.

MY RANGE? MY SOIL?

Is this My Range?

I'm forced to laugh—

I own the deed and pay the tax!

Is this My Soil?

I build the fence!

What did I fence—I ask?—

My title is—

A man made thing—

Tho I fence with steel and stone—

I've only “borrowed”

This—“My Land”—

Where I have built—“My Home”

The Boss who made

It all—cares not

For deeds—or Bills of Rights—

It will still be His

When long I'm gone

Tho “courts” may stew and fight.

He's titled me—

No strings attached—

A steward of His Soil—

He loans me Rain—

The Sun—Thy Sky

And gives me strength to toil—

And—if I'm wise

And hear His Voice

And learn when He would teach

There's nothing

He would hide from me

All things within my reach

Each nite I kneel

With contrite heart

To ask that He will show—

My Son and me

A little more

That He would have us know.

—*Bruce Orcutt*,
Beaverside Ranch,
Miles City, Utah

WITH APOLOGIES TO OGN (OGDEN NASH)

Range men scale some dizzy pinnacles
of brevity

Which, if you don't know what they're
talking about, will threaten your sanity
and maybe even your longevity.

For plants' scientific names, they use
three letter symbols

Cuter'n mewing kittens or babies with
dimples.

SEN SEN is not an Oriental vixen or
halitosis smotherer

But two *Butterweeds* growing next to
each other.

ERO the Goddess of Love in Greek
mythology

Is *Wild Buckwheat* in a range manager's
orismology.

ASP is what you might associate with
Cleopatra's suicide

But *Bluebunch Wheatgrass* was never
booked for regicide.

In high school physics you learned an
ERG was a unit of work

But a range man will tell you its *Eleabane*, and smirk.

Should you happen to apologize with an, "OOP, I'm sorry."

Don't be confused if he says, "That's *Ninebark* by gorry."

Five will get you ten that if you say, "AAA!"

The answer you get will be, "*Amelan-chieralnisfolia*."

But don't for goodness sake, say, "I'm going *MAD*."

Because he'll come back at you with, "That's *Tarweed* by gad."

At last you find solace in the embraces of demon *RUM*

Think so, huh? Well, not so fast there, Chum—

Know what *RUM* is where the coyotes howl? *Sour dock*.

Easy does it now. You're ready for the padded block.

—*John Chohlis*

Soil Conservation Service,
Yakima, Washington

MESQUITE INVASION

That mesquite has invaded our southwestern range lands because the grass and cattle drained off the soil fertility was recently claimed by a soils authority.

Nothing that we have discovered from range observations or soil fertility, however, checks with this point of view. Mesquite grows on various fairly well drained soils from Louisiana to San Diego. It grows largest where there is little grass, plenty of water and high soil fertility.

Mesquite came in where grasses were killed or dwarfed from too much grazing. When mesquite-infested areas are rested

the grasses reestablish themselves and the two grow together.

Organic matter has been lost from the top soil of too many ranges, but given a chance the grasses will again take over because they are conditioned to growing thriftily in soil that will not produce a crop of hybrid corn.

What our ranges need is rest and rain and they will come back whenever there are enough good grasses left to restock them. There are numerous examples where conservation ranchmen are managing their ranges so that the grass is thickening in the mesquite areas.—*B. W. Allred*, Soil Conservation Service, Fort Worth 1, Texas.

ANNUAL MEETING

The next annual meeting of the Society will be in San Antonio, Texas, January 10–12, 1950.

Dave Savage, Chairman of the Program Committee, states that we have a tentative program. "It (1) emphasizes the contributions of stockmen in conservation work with a number of stockmen-members appearing on the program, (2) provides for an extensive panel of speakers from several geographic areas on the important subject of rotation versus continuous grazing, (3) carries several general subjects on broad phases of range management, (4) includes a good balance of papers on (a) range soils, (b) reseeding, (c) grazing capacity and utilization, (d) brush control, (e) classification of range condition, and (f) grass breeding and strain improvement, and (5) interesting tours of the grass nursery and seed laboratory at San Antonio and of the famous King Ranch."