

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the American Society of International Law was held in Washington on April 23-25. The principal subjects which appeared on the program were: obligatory jurisdiction of the Permanent Court of International Justice, Amos J. Peaslee, of the New York Bar; the "Root formula" for the accession of the United States to the Court, Philip C. Jessup, of Columbia University; the independence of the Court in its constitution and jurisdiction, and in the law to be applied, Manley O. Hudson, of the Harvard Law School; the policy of the United States in recognizing new governments during the past twenty-five years, Green H. Hackworth, of the Department of State; and the legal position of war and neutrality during the last twenty-five years, Charles E. Martin, of the University of Washington.

A conference on university training for the national service will be held at the University of Minnesota, July 14-17. Among the participants will be representatives of the United States Civil Service Commission and of several departments of the national government, several presidents of universities, deans of colleges, and heads of departments interested in special lines of training for national service, representatives of the committee on public administration of the Social Science Research Council, and the members of the sub-committee on personnel of the Committee on Policy of the American Political Science Association. The conference will deal not only with training in public administration, but also with training in law, medicine and public health, engineering, economics, agriculture, and several other specialties. In preparation for the conference, research work is being done in Washington and at the University of Minnesota, with a view not only to finding what specialized training is now being offered in universities for different branches of the national service, but also to ascertaining the number of different types of positions available in the national service, the entrance requirements, and other conditions affecting such employment. Members of political science departments and others interested in training for the public service are invited to attend.

Progress Report of the Committee on Policy. The American Political Science Association's new Committee on Policy held its first meeting at Princeton University on February 13 and 14, the following members being present: Edward S. Corwin, Frederic A. Ogg, Thomas H. Reed, W. F. Willoughby, Charles A. Beard, Charles E. Merriam, Harold W. Dodds, B. F. Shambaugh, Arthur N. Holcombe, Isidor Loeb, William Anderson, Luther Gulick, and Harvey Walker. The

larger part of the time was devoted to meetings of the four sub-committees, each of which developed a definite program of work and was allotted an appropriation from the funds of the Committee for carrying it on.

The sub-committee on research proposes (1) to secure information regarding the directions that political science research can most profitably take, and (2) to prepare aids to students, particularly younger students, in undertaking and prosecuting political science research. The first of these ends it hopes to attain by securing from a selected body of mature students and productive scholars among American political scientists, and from eight or ten leading students of political science abroad, articles of specified length setting forth the topics of inquiry which each believes important, why he believes them important, and the general character of the recommended studies. The sub-committee felt that it was desirable to offer an honorarium of one hundred dollars to each of the foreign scholars whose contribution is solicited. It is hoped that the result of this inquiry will be a symposium of highly stimulating and informative character that will be published as a volume. The sub-committee also proposes to prepare a selected bibliography of political science and a handbook for political science research workers containing information concerning agencies engaged in research, periodicals, serials, source materials, fellowships, etc., which will aid scholars in planning their work.

The sub-committee on personnel decided to proceed with the placement service for teachers of political science which had already been tentatively undertaken. It proposes to investigate the number and types of positions available and the training now required for such positions, particularly in college teaching, but also in the public service. It further plans to prepare a general research program dealing with training for the public service, to be carried out in conjunction with other organizations. The sub-committee is in favor of having those who enjoy the advantage of the placement service pay a small fee therefor; and a recommendation to this effect will be presented to the Council at its next meeting.

The sub-committee on publication decided to recommend that, beginning with the year 1932, six, instead of four, numbers of the *Review* be issued annually, and that six hundred dollars annually be appropriated from the funds of the Committee on Policy for editorial assistance. It also considered the publication of a political science classics series, a political science monograph series, and a political science docu-

ment series, and decided to send a questionnaire to the members of the Association for an expression of their opinion on these matters.

The sub-committee on political education has divided its work into two parts: (1) the promotion of the teaching of political science in elementary and high schools, and (2) the organization of a number of regional conferences each year on governmental topics, composed of fifteen to twenty politicians, officials, interested laymen, and political scientists, the aim being to foster close personal contact between prominent political scientists on the one hand and the officials and politicians on the other—groups that nowadays not uncommonly regard one another with distrust.

After hearing these reports, the Committee on Policy adopted the following budget:

Sub-committee on Research	\$ 3,500
Sub-committee on Personnel	1,775
Sub-committee on Publication	750
Sub-committee on Political Education	5,500
General Chairman (office and travel)	1,500
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Total	\$13,025

The balance of the grant from the Carnegie Corporation is left unappropriated to cover emergencies and such further meetings of the general committee as may be necessary. Very little more time and money will be devoted to such meetings; there will probably not be more than one during the remainder of the year, perhaps in connection with the summer meeting of the Council. The sub-committees, however, are all vigorously at work. The Committee will welcome suggestions from any member of the Association as to methods and as to subjects to be dealt with.

University of Michigan.

THOMAS H. REED, *Chairman.*

Political Geography as a Political Science Field. "Physical environment never compels man to do anything; the compulsion lies in his own nature. But the environment does say that some courses of conduct are permissible and others impossible."¹ Do these words of Dr. Ellsworth Huntington apply to the political scientist's special preserve? Some geographers have thought so. They have written books designed to disclose relationships between physical environment and politics.² Geography departments occasionally offer university courses

¹ E. Huntington, *The Human Habitat* (New York, 1927), p. vi.

² Cf. I. Bowman, *The New World* (4th ed., Yonkers, 1928); E. Huntington and