



PREFATORY NOTES

I. — Authority

This third number of the "Hydrographic Review" is published in conformity with Article 16 of the Statutes of the Bureau dated 17th. July 1920, Article 20 (a) of the Revised Statutes dated January 1922, and Article 46 (a) of the Proposed Definite Statutes, dated 1st. December 1923.

II. — Entry into force of proposed definite Statutes.

The proposed Definite Statutes, accompanied by Circular-Letter n° 16-R of 1st. December 1923 have now been in the hands of the States-Members for a considerable period.

The last paragraph of this Circular-Letter was as follows :

"Unless, of course, the proposed wording of any article is quite unacceptable it is hoped that the Members will find it possible to accept the version of the Statutes now put forward. Should it be considered absolutely necessary to alter any Article it is suggested that such amendment be limited to the bare minimum and that the general redrafting of the Statutes be postponed until the meeting of the next periodic Conference, for then most of the suggested modifications can be dealt with in as many minutes as it takes weeks to reach a decision by correspondence."

Replies have now been received from the majority of the Members, and only two objections of any importance have been raised ; the first involved the question of an alteration in the contribution of a certain country, which has been decided by an appeal made to the other States-Members ; it has been agreed that the second objection shall be allowed to stand over until the meeting of the next periodic Conference.

Under these circumstances it has been decided therefore that these Proposed Definite Statutes shall enter into force on 1st. January 1925, and Circular-Letter n° 11-R of 27th. August 1924 informing the States-Members to this effect has been distributed accordingly.

III. — Remarks on production of "The Hydrographic Review".

In June last, Circular-Letter n° 15-H was issued, its contents being as follows :

"(a) It is proposed in future to publish the "Hydrographic Review" half yearly, provided that sufficient material is available to make such publication of advantage. Special subjects will be dealt with, as heretofore, by means of the "Special Publications" issued in green covers, and, if it is consi-

dered desirable, the matter contained in these "Special Publications" will be included in the next number of the "Hydrographic Review".

(b) With a view to carrying out this decision, it is requested that articles of general hydrographic interest, suitable for publication, may be sent to the Bureau as early as possible, in order that they may be included in the next "Special Publication" or "Hydrographic Review", as may be considered desirable. It would greatly facilitate the work of the Bureau if all articles sent in were written in one or, if possible, both of the languages used by the Bureau.

(c) It is likewise requested that, should any illustrations or diagrams be necessary in connection with the articles sent, stereotype plates should be prepared and forwarded therewith: the expense of such preparation will, of course, be defrayed by the Bureau."

It is hoped that the above procedure may be found feasible, but as has been mentioned in previous publications, its execution must primarily depend on the assistance and co-operation of the Members themselves; it is particularly hoped that contributions may be supplied by those of nationalities which have not yet been represented by articles in the "Review"; in this connection, biographies, accounts of hydrographic and exploring expeditions, a description of the hydrographic office, etc. are obviously subjects that should, if possible, be dealt with by a representative of the country concerned rather than by a Member of another country.

It is also suggested that additional articles on some subject which has already been discussed in the "Review" should be contributed; the continuation of such discussions, especially by a member of a different nationality to that of the former contributor, obviously would prove of interest and utility.

It is to be remembered that the "Review" is *the only official medium for the free interchange of opinions*, etc. between the Hydrographic Services of the States Members, and it is hoped most earnestly that every advantage may be taken to utilise its pages to the fullest extent.

The foregoing remarks are primarily addressed to the Hydrographic Services of the States-Members, but the Directing Committee much hopes that contributions to the "Review" may be furnished also by others competent to discuss hydrographic matters, and now that the distribution of the "Review" has been so considerably increased (*see* Paragraph IV) the attention of our readers is specially called to this matter.

IV. — Distribution of "The Hydrographic Review".

With the object of ensuring as wide a distribution of the "Review" as possible, the States-Members were recently requested (Circular-Letter n° 22-H of 1924) to supply lists of existent organisations in their own countries which might be interested in or likely to be of assistance to the Bureau; satisfactory replies were received, and as a result, a number of additional institutions, etc. will receive copies of the "Review" in future.

It is hoped that the sale of copies of the "Review" will increase as the Bureau and its work becomes more widely known; the increase in this direction in connection with "Review n° 2" is already very noticeable.

V. — Adhesion of Poland and Uruguay.

The position in regard to both of these countries is the same as was stated in the previous number of the "Review", but a further communication has been sent recently to each country in the hope that a satisfactory decision may be arrived at.

VI. — Rehabilitation of the Japanese Hydrographic Office.

On the 21st. June 1924, Circular-Letter n° 8-R /14-H was sent out to the States-Members, communicating the contents of a letter received by the Bureau from the Japanese Hydrographer on the subject of the assistance rendered by the associated Hydrographic Offices and by this Bureau after the terrible earthquake of the 1st. September 1923 ; as it is considered that the subject will be of interest to others besides the States-Members, the letter from the Japanese Hydrographer referred to is now repeated :

“ I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of, and to thank you for, the copies of all the communications which have passed between the International Hydrographic Bureau and this Department, which you kindly sent to us so speedily after the request made by our letter dated October 6th, 1923. All the matters to which we have failed to send replies are now clear to us, and the answers will shortly be forwarded. Next I hereby have the honour to thank you for the great assistance you have given us and your deep sympathy in the great catastrophe of last September. ”

“ By a telegram dated September 16th. and a letter dated October 30th. 1923, we troubled your Bureau with a request to apply to all associated Hydrographic Offices to come to our assistance. ”

“ In virtue of your Circular-Letter n° 9-R /23-H, which was speedily sent out in compliance with the above request, we are now receiving from various Hydrographic Offices their past publications in replacement of those which we wholly lost in the great earthquake and fire. This is of inestimable help in the recovery from our great loss. I take this opportunity, with a high sense of gratitude to your Bureau and all the associated Hydrographic Offices for their great sympathy and valuable assistance, to inform you that we are sparing no pains to bring this Department into a perfect state of recovery as soon as possible. ”

“ Signed : K. UCHIDA ”

“ Rear-Admiral and Hydrographer. ”

VII. New Director of the I. H. B.

As announced in the previous number of the Review, Rear-Admiral A.-P. NIBLACK of the U. S. Navy was elected as a Director of this Bureau on the 29th. February last to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Captain S. H. MÜLLER, Royal Norwegian Navy ; Admiral NIBLACK took up his appointment and commenced his duties on the 8th. April.

J. F. P.

