



PREFATORY NOTES

By the President of the Directing Committee.

I. — Authority.

This number (*i. e.* No. 4 of the series) of the *Hydrographic Review* is published in conformity with Article 46 (*a*) of the Statutes of the Bureau, dated 1st. December, 1923, which Statutes entered into force on 1st. January, 1925, in accordance with the announcement conveyed to the States Members in Circular Letter No. 11-R of 27th. August, 1924.

II. — Remarks on the « Hydrographic Review ».

It is gratifying to report an increase in the number of articles now being received for publication in the *Review* from the Hydrographic Offices of the Associated States and other sources ; and it is satisfactory to remark that the writers of articles have endeavoured to accede to the request made in the last number of the *Hydrographic Review* that they should be sent in in a form suitable for publication and, if possible, in one of the official languages of the Bureau.

With the continued production of the *Review* an endeavour is being made to include in each number an article of a series on a particular subject ; for instance, it will be remembered that an article giving an account of a visit paid to the Dutch Hydrographic Department appeared in the last number of the *Review*, while in this number will be found a description of the Italian Hydrographic Office ; this article has been in course of preparation for some time, but, owing to various circumstances, was not completed in its entirety until recently ; during last autumn visits were paid by the President of the Directing Committee to the Hydrographic Offices of SPAIN and PORTUGAL, and accounts of these interesting visits will appear in the next number of the *Review* ; illustrations of the surveying vessels will also be produced serially.

In each of the former numbers an article on the " Work of the Bureau " has appeared, but now that the *Review* is published every six months, this article will appear annually only, *i. e.* in the November number.

III. — Special Publications.

As heretofore, articles on special subjects are being produced, when necessary, in the series of Special Publications of the Bureau which are issued in green covers, and these

articles are repeated in the number of the *Hydrographic Review* subsequent to the issue of the Special Publication ; on application copies of these Publications will be supplied to those desirous of possessing this material in separate form.

Special Publication No. 4, dated March, 1925, has now been produced, the subject being "ECHO SOUNDING", and it embodies all the information available on this subject subsequent to the issue of Special Publication No. 3 ; the contents of this Publication are repeated on pages inclusive of this issue.

An article entitled "INTERNATIONAL LOW WATER", contributed by Director J. M. PHAFF, has also now been produced as Special Publication No. 5, dated April, 1925, the contents of which appear on pages inclusive of this issue.

IV. — Adhesion of Poland and Uruguay.

The practical position in regard to both of these countries is unaltered but there is every reason to hope that POLAND will soon make a definite pronouncement of adhesion to the Bureau, and an encouraging communication has been received from URUGUAY stating that the matter has again been laid before Congress for decision.

V. — Auxiliary languages.

An invitation for the representation of the Bureau at the UNIVERSAL CONGRESS OF ESPERANTO at GENEVA in August next was received recently, and another invitation from the President of the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR THE USE OF ESPERANTO IN PURE AND APPLIED SCIENCES, which is to be held in PARIS during the month of May, has also been received. The Directing Committee fully appreciates the importance of the adoption of a universal language which could be utilised for abbreviations on all hydrographic documents, but the representation of the Bureau at Conferences dealing with one auxiliary language only is considered undesirable, as it would appear that the only satisfactory means of solving this most important question is the adoption of one of the many auxiliary languages after its acceptance by international opinion ; as has been previously remarked in the *Review*, it is extremely doubtful if any existing national language would be acceptable for this purpose by all those concerned, and the only alternative, therefore, is to await the time when an auxiliary language has been sufficiently perfected to be universally adopted as an international medium of expression.

VI. — International organisations dealing with subjects allied to Hydrography.

The official report of the proceedings of the Second General Assembly of the INTERNATIONAL UNION OF GEODESY AND GEOPHYSICS, which was held in MADRID in October last year, has not yet been published, but a few remarks on the subject are necessary. The President attended this Assembly as the representative of the Bureau and was associated primarily with the Section of Oceanography which formed one of the seven Sections into which the Union was divided, the other Sections consisting of Geodesy, Seismology, Metrology, Terrestrial Magnetism, Vulcanology and Hydrology. As Vice-President of the Section of Physical Oceanography, Admiral PARRY had the pleasure of proposing Señor ODON DE BUEN as President of this Section in succession to the late Prince ALBERT

OF MONACO, and he was elected unanimously to this important post, for which he is eminently qualified.

The Section of Geodesy commenced its meetings four days before the formal opening of the Conference, and even then found the time at its disposal too short to discuss fully the variety of subjects which were brought before it, and the same may be said with reference to the Section of Oceanography, with which this Bureau was chiefly concerned ; at the same time it must be remarked that the personal association of the representatives of so many nationalities interested in the same subject must undoubtedly prove of great benefit.

An endeavour was made to bring to the notice of those interested the activities of this Bureau on a variety of subjects, special allusion being made to tidal matters, terminology for submarine relief, nomenclature of oceans and seas for hydrographic purposes, the utilisation of echo sounding in its relation to oceanography, to hydrography, to the execution of bathymetrical surveys and to navigation ; a reference was also made to the proposed oceanographical research expedition of the UNITED STATES NAVY, which, if carried out, will be of such immense value in the further study of oceanography.

The most important work of the various Sections consisted of receiving reports, dealing with financial matters and making arrangements for work in the future.

There is no doubt that the Conference at MADRID was a decided success, and its organisation was carried out with the greatest care and attention to detail ; the meeting was honoured by the patronage of H. M. the King of Spain, who presided at the opening of the Conference, afterwards receiving in audience its President and Officers ; before its close the whole of the Delegates to the Assembly were most graciously received by the King and Queen at an evening Reception at the Royal Palace.

At the final Meeting the invitation of the REPUBLIC OF CZECHO-SLOVAKIA to hold the next Meeting of the Union in PRAGUE in 1927, was accepted.

The following representatives attended the Conference in connection with subjects allied to hydrography :

Señor ODON DE BUEN, President of the Section of Oceanography, Spain.

Señor RAFAEL DE BUEN, Deputy Director of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography.

Captain M. E. DRESCHSEL, Secretary-General of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Copenhagen.

M. FICHOT, Ingénieur hydrographe en chef, Paris (now Director of the French Hydrographic Service).

M. LÉ DANOIS, Deputy Director of Fisheries, Paris.

Dr. J. LIOUVILLE, Director of the Sheriffian Scientific Institute, Morocco.

Professor G. MAGRINI, Conseil international de Recherches, Italy.

Vice-admiral SIR JOHN PARRY, President of the Directing Committee, International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco.

M. ROUSSILHE, Ingénieur Hydrographe en chef, Paris.

MAHMOUD SHAKIR BEY, Deputy Director General, Survey of Egypt, Cairo.

Captain L. TONTA, Director of the Royal Italian Hydrographic Institute, Genoa.

Professor V. VOLTERRA, President of the Italian Section of Oceanography.

As was stated in the last number of the *Hydrographic Review*, an INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF GEOGRAPHY is being held in EGYPT in April (while this publication is in the press) ; hydrography and oceanography are the more important of the subjects affecting

this Bureau which are included in the Programme for discussion, and it is hoped that the representation by the President of the Directing Committee will be of use to this Bureau, and perhaps especially through personal contact with those of various nationalities who are interested in its activities.

VII. — Supply of information by the Bureau.

Requests for assistance in supplying information or in obtaining data for miscellaneous purposes have again been received from a variety of sources, and have been dealt with as necessary.

VIII. — Bibliography.

The importance of dealing with this matter is fully realised by the Directing Committee and any further suggestions which can be furnished by Hydrographic Offices, for the improvement in this compilation, will be much appreciated.

IX. — Results yielded by the Bureau.

In the first number of the *Hydrographic Review* it was stated that it was possibly somewhat early in the history of the Bureau to pronounce with certainty as to its eventual success. After a period of two years it is possible that it may be considered that the original announcement on this subject still holds, but it is felt by the Directing Committee that the Bureau has made distinct progress towards the attainment of its various objects. There is no doubt that intimate correspondence, involving co-operation between the various States Members of the Bureau has resulted, and it may be said, without undue optimism, that these intimate relations are not only being maintained, but correspondence on almost entirely new subjects is constantly being opened and any valuable or interesting information is disseminated for the benefit of the States Members.

It is impossible for the Directing Committee to judge how much of this dissemination concerning interesting subjects is of real benefit to the Hydrographic Offices and presumably this special point will not be satisfactorily decided until the holding of the next Hydrographic Conference.

X. — Hydrographic Conference, 1926.

It has now been decided that the next International Hydrographic Conference, in accordance with Article 50 of the Statutes of the Bureau, will be held in MONACO in the Autumn of the year 1926, and requests have been sent out from the Bureau to all the States Members desiring them to forward lists of subjects and questions to be discussed with full explanatory memoranda (Circular Letter No. 1-R/7-H, dated 13th. March, 1925).

