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FOREWORD

In view of the great development in all branches of science during the war, the Third Hydraulics Conference had as its principal theme the application of war-stimulated developments in the fields of hydraulic engineering and fluid mechanics to peacetime problems. Because of the ever present interest of hydraulic engineers in river problems, one day was devoted to that subject and, in addition, one evening was used to indicate a type of hydraulics used by the mechanical engineer.

This meeting broke previous attendance records, there being approximately 325 present, representing 38 states, four provinces of Canada, and seven other nations. The large attendance necessitated transferring the sessions from the historic Old Capitol to the modern University Theatre on the banks of the Iowa River, an ideal setting for such a meeting.

Housing and dining facilities were difficult to provide at this time, making it necessary for guests to forego the usual Conference dinner and to "double up" in University dormitories. All took these inconveniences in good spirit, however, and many, in fact, appreciated the new friendships formed because of this forced proximity. As the guests arrived on Sunday afternoon they were taken to the home of Dean Dawson where luncheon trays were available and where acquaintances were renewed or begun. This and other opportunities for personal meetings provided one of the major benefits of the Conference.

It was possible to force one concession from a local caterer with the result that the conference speakers were entertained at a banquet at the Country Club. Three members of the group favored the others with reviews of personal experiences, Mr. Bell describing life with the Navajos, Dr. Rossby his meeting with the Russian meteorologists, and Captain Saunders his cartographic preparation for Byrd’s antarctic expedition. Inspired by these tales, Dr. Wrather, head of the U. S. Geological Survey, related an Arabian experience reminiscent of the times of the "Arabian Nights."
A laboratory inspection was held on the second day of the Conference; the weatherman entered into the spirit of this occasion with a drenching rain (the same rain which spoiled Mr. Riter’s intended remark about the need for irrigation in Iowa), making it a thoroughly hydraulic affair.

Plans are already underway for the Fourth Hydraulics Conference. Housing difficulties may necessitate a change in time of the year for this meeting, but it is hoped that nothing will interfere with the continuation of the Conference series at three-year intervals.