

honorary members: Prof. Cayeux (France), Prof. Glinka (Russia), Prof. Murgoci (Rumania), Prof. Ramann (Germany), Sir John Russell (England), and Prof. Winogradsky (France). The acting-chairman and general secretary is Prof. Hissink, Groningen, Holland. The *International Mitteilungen für Bodenkunde* has been taken over as the official journal of

the society, and will be in future published by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome.

The society has undoubtedly an important future, and it is hoped that it will have many British members. Further information can be obtained from either Prof. Hissink or Dr. B. A. Keen, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden. B. A. KEEN.

International Mathematical Congress.

DURING next August, Toronto is to be the scene of two great scientific gatherings. The British Association will hold its ninety-second annual meeting on August 6-13, and an International Mathematical Congress will be held on August 11-16. International gatherings of mathematicians have previously been held in Zurich (1897), Paris (1900), Heidelberg (1904), Rome (1908), Cambridge (1912), and in Strasbourg (1920). The North American continent is for the first time the meeting place of such an assembly. The natural boundary of distance, with the incident expense of transportation, is being in a large measure overcome by the generosity of the Governments of the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Ontario, each of which is making a contribution of 25,000 dollars to defray the expenses of the Congress. The greater part of these funds will be used to assist the passage of eminent European men of science, mathematicians, and representatives of those sciences and professions which apply mathematics. It is estimated that the attendance from Europe will exceed one hundred and fifty. The British representation on the applied side promises to be large. At least twenty will come from France, nearly as many from the Scandinavian countries, and more than a dozen from Italy. Not less than fifteen European countries will be represented. The attendance from Canada and the United States is expected to run into the hundreds.

Difficulties in arranging suitable dates for the Congress delayed the sending out of notifications. The Organising Committee has tried to notify all those likely to be interested resident in countries adherent to the International Mathematical Union, or eligible for adherence thereto. In all, some six thousand notifications have been sent out, and a large number of universities and learned societies have been invited to be represented by delegates. Among those bodies which will be represented are the National Committees of the International Mathematical Union. These Committees are, as a rule, appointed by the National Academies of the respective countries, and through them the Academies might be regarded as obtaining representation. Many of the Academies, however, will, in addition, be directly represented. This, for example, will be the case with the Reale Accademia dei Lincei and the Académie des Sciences de l'Institut de France. Many specialised scientific societies too have named delegates. Among such are the Société Mathématique de France, the Circolo Matematico di Palermo, the American Mathematical Society, the Physical Society of London, the Société Française de Physique, the Royal Astronomical Society, the Royal Meteorological Society, and sister societies in a number of different countries. Statistical and actuarial societies will also be represented. The Institution of Naval Architects, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and other engineering organisations have appointed representatives. The same is true of the British Association and the corresponding organisations in France and the United States. The National Physical

Laboratory and the Bureau of Standards have also named delegates, while many universities will be represented, including, among others, Cambridge, Paris, and Rome.

The Congress is being held under the auspices of the University of Toronto and the Royal Canadian Institute, and will be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the International Research Council. Prof. J. C. Fields, president of the Royal Canadian Institute, is chairman of the Organising Committee, and the other members of the Committee are Sir Robert Falconer, president of the University of Toronto, Prof. A. T. DeLury, Prof. J. C. McLennan, Prof. C. A. Chant, Mr. T. H. Hogg, Dr. J. S. Plaskett, Prof. M. A. Mackenzie, Prof. E. F. Burton, Mr. J. Patterson, Mr. W. P. Dobson, Wing-Commander E. W. Stedman, and Prof. J. L. Synge (secretary). Dr. F. A. Mouré, bursar of the University of Toronto, is acting as treasurer. An Editorial Committee has been organised, with Prof. Fields as chairman. There are also associate committees to deal with hospitality, excursions, printing, publicity, meeting rooms, signs and messengers, finance and transportation.

An excursion has been arranged for a selected party to the Western Provinces on special trains, leaving Toronto on the night of Sunday, August 17, and returning in about three weeks' time. There will also be an excursion through Northern Ontario, and excursions to Niagara Falls on August 9 and August 16, the route being by steamer across Lake Ontario, the journey each way taking about two hours.

The Congress will meet in the following sections:

Section I. Algebra, theory of numbers, analysis.

Section II. Geometry.

Section III. (a) Mechanics, mathematical physics.

(b) Astronomy, geophysics.

Section IV. (a) Electrical, mechanical, civil and mining engineering.

(b) Aeronautics, naval architecture, ballistics, radiotelegraphy.

Section V. Statistics, actuarial science, economics.

Section VI. History, philosophy, didactics.

It will be observed that this scheme of sections differs from those adopted at former congresses in the additional attention devoted to the applications of mathematics. It has been devised in order to secure in the sphere of applied mathematics full opportunity for consideration not only of those questions the interest of which is purely scientific, but also practical problems of engineering the solutions of which contribute directly to the cause of material progress.

The Organising Committee would be obliged if those who expect to attend the Congress would notify the secretary to that effect, stating their order of preference in accommodation from a choice of hotel, boarding-house, or university residence. Abstracts of papers intended for presentation should be in the hands of the secretary well in advance of the meeting.

Further information may be obtained from Prof. J. L. Synge, secretary of the Organising Committee, International Mathematical Congress, Royal Canadian Institute, 198 College Street, Toronto, Canada.