

U.S. National Academy of Sciences Awards

It is announced by Science Service that the Elliot Medal for 1931 has been awarded to the late Prof. Davidson Black, of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, for his researches on the skull of Peking man. The medal and honorarium is awarded annually for work on zoology or palæontology. The first award of the Charles Doolittle Walcott Medal and honorarium of 1,350 dollars of the Academy has been made to Dr. David White, of the U.S. Geological Survey, in recognition of his work on the pre-Cambrian algeæ of the Grand Canyon of Arizona, which are among the very oldest of plant fossils. Other awards just announced are: Agassiz Medal, to Dr. Bjorn Helland-Hansen, of the Geophysical Institute, Bergen, Norway; Public Welfare Medal, to Dr. David Fairchild, formerly of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and the Elliot Medal and honorarium of 200 dollars for 1930, to Dr. G. E. Coghill, Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, Philadelphia.

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At the meeting of the National Academy of Sciences held in Washington on April 23-25, the following elections were made. *Members*: Prof. V. Bush, professor of electrical engineering and vice-president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Prof. H. S. Gasser, professor of physiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York; Prof. E. N. Harvey, professor of physiology, Princeton University; Prof. D. R. Hoagland, professor of plant nutrition, University of California; Prof. E. O. Lawrence, professor of physics, University of California; Prof. J. F. Norris, director of the research laboratory of organic chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Dr. J. H. Northrop, biochemistry, member of the Rockefeller Institute; Prof. C. Palache, professor of mineralogy, Harvard University; Dr. T. M. Rivers, pathology, member of the Rockefeller Institute; Prof. E. Sapir, Sterling professor of anthropology and linguistics, Yale University; Dr. E. C. Stakman, plant pathologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Prof. H. S. Vandiver, associate professor of mathematics, University of Texas; Prof. N. Wiener, professor of mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Prof. S. Wright, professor of zoology, University of Chicago. *Foreign associates*: Prof. V. F. K. Bjerknes, professor of meteorology in the University of Oslo; Prof. Robert Robinson, Waynflete professor of chemistry in the University of Oxford.

Native Lands in Kenya

ANY apprehension that the rights and sentiments of the Kenya natives in the matter of their lands are likely to be endangered by future government action, taken without full knowledge, should be allayed by the Report of the Kenya Land Commission which has now been issued with a White Paper stating the views of the Government. (Cmd. 4556, 11s. and Cmd. 4580, 2d.) The appropriation of a part of the native reserve in the development of the Kakamega gold-fields, notwithstanding

arguments advanced in justification, aroused a feeling of uneasiness and a fear lest any policy of development, however short-sighted, might in future be allowed to override obligations or measures framed to preserve the integrity and ultimate stability of native society. The report of the Commission and the supporting body of evidence, which examine native claims relating to the land in detail, tribe by tribe, provide a permanent record defining the position in native land tenure, and at the same time, by recommending that the Native Lands Board no longer exercise administrative functions but be devoted entirely to the office of protection—a recommendation accepted by the Government—ensures that, given a satisfactory constitution of the Board, the interests of the native as determined in this combination of Domesday and Magna Charta, shall not go by default. Further, the Board is given the power of veto over leases of land exceeding ten acres in extent. The principle of leasing is to take the place of exclusion of land from the reserve and exchange, the land thereby remaining part of the reserve. This, together with the requirement that native opinion shall be consulted, is not only in harmony with the sentiment and practice of the natives, but also avoids the more objectionable features which have hitherto appeared in land development.

THE Commission does not confine itself to present grievances and difficulties, but has a clear view of the future development of the native. Not only are 1,474 sq. miles added to the native reserve in satisfaction of present claims, but also a further area, totalling in all more than 2,000 sq. miles, is to be set aside to meet present and future economic requirements. In part of this additional area the system of tenure is to be more elastic than in the native reserve. Tribal tenure will no longer be the only system, and the tendency of the native towards other forms of the economic unit will be recognised. In other words, the native will be afforded an opportunity to habituate himself to a form of tenure more nearly in accord with the economy of European civilisation. It is also suggested—though this recommendation will not be adopted until it has been considered by the local legislature—that certain reserve boundaries should be eliminated or modified to permit intertribal expansion and interpenetration. The trend in these recommendations towards a modification of native culture is carried further in the stress laid on the necessity for a less wasteful use of the land and the references to proposals for restriction of the excessive number of cattle now carried. As cattle form the currency and wealth of the native, should these proposals be given effect, he must needs accustom himself to some new form of wealth. Up to the present, the increased resources which civilisation has brought to the native, in so far as they are not absorbed in the acquisition of an excessive number of cattle, would appear mainly to have been expended wastefully. On the whole, it may be said that in its outlook on the future, the report, recognising that the native is entering upon