

located on the Atlantic coast. When a Great Lakes station and a Pacific station were afterwards developed, he continued to guide the work as chairman of the modified Board (incorporated in 1912 as the Biological Board of Canada), retaining this position until 1921 and remaining a member of the Board until his death.

Dr. Prince played a leading part on various fishery commissions in Canada, and with Dr. D. Starr Jordan formed the International Fishery Commission, established by treaty in 1908, which prepared common regulations for the fisheries in waters contiguous to Canada and the United States.

Dr. Prince was a keen naturalist and intensely interested in people. By charm of manner and breadth of interests he exercised a wide influence in a multiplicity of personal contacts throughout Canada and elsewhere. He was the author of more than fifty papers, nearly all on fishery subjects, and initiated or stimulated a large part of the investigations of Canadian waters, effectively applying to the first stage of fisheries research in Canada the knowledge and experience he had developed in Great Britain.

A. G. H.

Mr. G. P. V. Aylmer

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Gerald Percy Vivian Aylmer, African traveller and explorer, which took place on December 20 at Newcastle-on-Tyne in his eightieth year.

Mr. Percy Aylmer, as he was generally known, was born in 1857 and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. Notwithstanding the fact that as a result of a fall in the hunting field at Cambridge one leg was permanently deformed, Mr. Aylmer on

leaving the University entered on a life of travel and strenuous adventure. In 1881, after taking a course of study in astronomy, he went to the Sudan with F. L. and William D. James and E. Lort-Phillips. The party entered the then unknown Basé country and mapped this region for the first time. Until then, it is said, no white man who had attempted to enter this country had ever returned. In 1884 the same party succeeded, where Burton, Speke and others had failed, in crossing the Horn of Africa and reaching the Webbe Sinbeli River. Here again uncharted lands were traversed; parts of Somaliland, including Wal-Wal, were then mapped for the first time. Observations on the natural history and natives of the country were noted in Aylmer's diaries, it is stated by Sir Alfred Pease in a communication to *The Times* of January 1; but unfortunately these have never been published.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. J. A. MacWilliam, F.R.S., emeritus professor of physiology in the University of Aberdeen, on January 13, aged seventy-nine years.

Dr. R. J. Tillyard, F.R.S., formerly chief Commonwealth entomologist in Australia, on January 13, aged fifty-five years.

Dr. T. B. Wagner, consulting chemist on foods and chemical engineer, president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in 1913, and vice-president of the Society of Chemical Industry (London) in 1908, on November 12, aged sixty-seven years.

Dr. Theodor Wiegand, president of the Archaeological Institute of Berlin and director of excavations at Pergamon, aged seventy-two years.

News and Views

International Congress of Genetics and the U.S.S.R.

THE next International Congress of Genetics was to have been held at Moscow in August next, the preparations for it being in the hands of Russian geneticists. A wireless message from Moscow to the *New York Times*, which was published in *Science* of December 18, stated that the Congress had been cancelled by the Soviet Government; that genetics had been attacked as of no practical value by T. D. Lysenko, who is known for his work in the vernalization of wheat and other crops; that Prof. N. I. Vavilov, the distinguished head of the plant-breeding services in the U.S.S.R., had been arrested; and that Prof. S. G. Levit, who is director of the Maxim Gorky Medico-Genetical Institute and was general secretary of the Organization Committee for the International Congress of Genetics, had been heavily attacked in the Communist party press for allowing a member of his staff to publish a paper in which it is concluded that the Buryats of Siberia have a mental age of

twelve years. Prof. Vavilov has since sent to the *New York Times* a message, a copy of which has been sent to us by the Soviet Union Year Book Press Service, denying the story of his arrest and pointing out the large growth which has taken place in the Institute of Plant Breeding under his direction during the Soviet regime. According to a report circulated by Science Service, of Washington, D.C., Prof. H. B. Ward, permanent secretary of the American Association, has received a message from the U.S.S.R. indicating that the Congress of Genetics has been postponed but not cancelled. As the titles of papers for the Congress were to have been sent in soon, it is clear that a more definite announcement regarding the postponement is desirable, since many geneticists were already making arrangements to attend. These Congresses have been held every five years, the last being at Ithaca, New York, in 1932. No adequate grounds for a postponement have yet appeared.