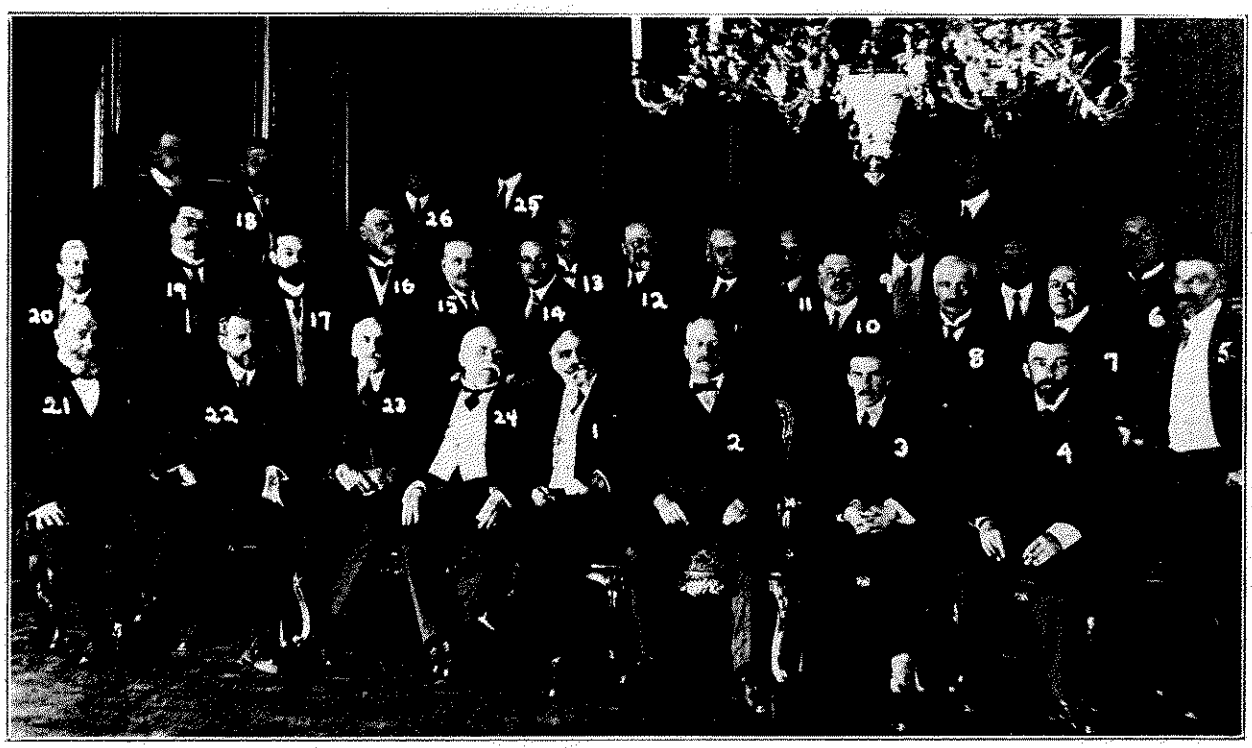
THE INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL CONFERENCE



1—Moureu, 2—Parsons, 3—Hay, 4—Swarts, 5—Lucion, 6—Biilmann, 7—Garelli, 8—Ciamician, 9—Kruyt, 10—Lormand, 11—Gerard, 12—Matignon, 13—Kestner, 14—Nicolardot, 15—Kowalski, 16—Bordas, 17—Bertrand, 18—Marie, 19—Quartieri, 20—Zenghelis, 21—Nasini, 22—Votocek, 23—Lindet, 24—Paterno, 25—Marotta, 26—Crespi

By CHARLES LORMAND, 4, Avenue de l'Observatoire, Paris, France

The third session of the International Chemical Conference met at Rome, June 21 to 25, with Professor Charles Moureu, member of the Institute of France, as president.

The program began with the meeting of the Council of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, composed of the representatives of the five nations which founded the Union. The Council considered the adhesion to the Union of seven new countries: namely, Canada, Denmark, Spain, Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Czecho-Slovakia, which were all admitted.

The General Assembly was then organized, consisting of the following delegates: *Belgium:* Prof. Frédéric Swartz of the University of Gand, member of the Royal Academy of Belgium; Dr. René Lucion, past president of the Société Chimique de Belgique, head of the laboratory at the Société Solvay. *Denmark:* Dr. Einar Biilmann, professor of chemistry at the University of Copenhagen, president of the Danske Kemiscke Foreningers Faellesraad for Internationalt Samarbejde; Mr. Warming, engineer-in-chief of A/S Dansk Svovlsyre og Superphosfabrik. *United States:* Dr. Charles L. Parsons, secretary of the American Chemical Society. *France:* M. G. Bertrand, president of the Société Chimique de France, professor at the Faculté des Sciences de Paris, chief of the Institut Pasteur; M. F. Bordas, assistant professor at the Collège de France, director of the laboratories of the Ministry of Finance; M. Jean Gerard, chemical engineer, secretary general of the International Union of Chemistry, and of the Fédération Nationale des Associations de Chimie de France; M. Paul Kestner, president of the Société de Chimie Industrielle; M. L. Lindet, member of the Institut, member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, president of the Association des Chimistes de Sucrerie et de Distillerie, professor at the Institut Agronomique; M. Ch. Lormand, chemist at the laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, member executive committee of *Chimie et Industrie;* M. Camille Matignon, vice president of the Société de Chimie Industrielle, professor at the Collège de France; M. Ch. Marie, secretary of the Société de Chimie Physique, and of the International Committee of Tables of Constants; M. Ch. Moureu, member of the Institut, president of the International Union of Chemistry and of the Fédération Nationale des Associations de Chimie, professor at the Collège de France; M. Nicolardot, examiner for admission and private tutor at the École Polytechnique. *Great Britain:* Sir William Pope, president of the British Federal Council for Pure and Applied Chemistry, and of the Society of Chemical Industry, professor at Cambridge University; Mr. Hay, chemical engineer, technical delegate to the Reparation Commission. *Greece:* Prof. Zenghelis, of the University of Athens. *Italy:* Prof. G. Bruni, of the Polytechnique at Milan; Prof. G. Ciamician, of the University of Bologna, president of the Associazione Italiana di Chimica Generale ed Applicata; Prof. F. Garelli, of the Polytechnique at Turin; Prof. R. Nasini, of the University of Pisa, member of the Conseil Supérieur de l'Instruction Publique; Ing. L. Parodi-Delfino, vice president of the Associazione Italiana di Chimica Generale ed Applicata; Prof. G. Oddo, of the University of Palerma; Prof. Plancher, of the University of Parma; Dr. E. Paterno, president of the Consiglio Nazionale di Chimica, professor at the University of Rome, member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, member of the Conseil Supérieur de la Santé Publique; Ing. F. Quartieri, director of the Società Italiana Prodotti Esplodenti; Prof. A. Peratoner, of the University of Rome. *Netherlands:* Dr. R. H. Kruyt, professor of physical chemistry at the University of Utrecht, president of the Nederlandsche Chemische Vereeniging. *Poland:* Prof. Kowalski, of the Polytechnic School of Warsaw. *Czecho-Slovakia:* Dr. E. Votocek, professor of general, mineralogical, and organic chemistry at the Polytechnic School at Prague, president of the Chemical Society of Bohemia.

The meetings were held at the headquarters of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the Corsini Palace, one of the most beautiful in Rome. The meetings were presided over in turn by one of the visiting delegates. Reports on the questions included

in the program were presented to the assembly by committees which had been appointed to give them preliminary consideration and to make recommendations.

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION

The plan of organization and administration of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, which was presented by M. Gerard, was as follows:

To adhere to the Union a country must establish a liaison between its chemical groups by the formation of a national council or federation. The initiative of this organization must be taken by a chemical society, the National Academy, the National Research Council or a similar national institution, or by the government.

The Union is governed by the Council, composed of delegates from each of the supporting countries, whose executive power is vested in a Bureau. The General Assembly receives reports from the Council, approves the accounts of the past session, adopts the budget for the following session, and considers the questions to be included on the program. Under the Council and an Executive Committee, a permanent staff carries out the program of action as defined by the Bureau. This staff is situated at the headquarters of the Union, and is the pivot of all the organizations connected therewith. The Council can also establish permanent committees as they may seem necessary.

An Advisory Committee, divided into sections corresponding to the different scientific and industrial branches, considers in detail the questions figuring in the program of action. The associated nations are represented in each section by delegates, elected for three years. The delegates of each nation constitute a National Committee, whose duties include the study of questions interesting to chemistry from scientific, industrial, and economic points of view.

A meeting of the Council, of the permanent committees, of the Advisory Committee, and of the General Assembly is held each year, under the title of the "International Chemical Conference."

The report presented by Professor Lindet, for the Fédération Nationale des Associations de Chimie de France, asking that the International Congress be joined to the Union, provides that the International Conference shall every four years be converted into an International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry. Elections to the Council, to permanent committees, and to the Advisory Committee shall take place at this time.

The languages for the Congress are English, French, and Italian. Communications may be made in another language, provided authors give a translation or an abstract in the official languages. To avoid errors in interpretation, communications, votes, resolutions, and official acts, if not originally offered in French, must be translated into that tongue.

To encourage research, the Council may, within the limit of funds granted each year by the Assembly, award prizes and medals to the authors of work considered worthy of such distinction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

UNIFICATION OF ANALYSIS—Passing to the report of M. Nicolardot on the unification of chemical analysis, the Conference voted that the international agreement signed at Paris on October 16, 1912, for unification of the presentation of analytical results on food materials, and for the creation in Paris of a permanent international bureau dealing with these matters, be ratified and put in operation as soon as possible.

CHEMICAL STANDARDS—In connection with the report of M. Crismer on an international institute of chemical standards, the Conference ordered the Council to organize a bureau divided into three sections: chemical standards, pure products for research, and technical products.

The Bureau of the Union will provide for the transfer of products from scientists, manufacturers, and dealers to the sections interested.

The United States will organize a branch related to the Union in the same way as the other Sections, which will be responsible for carrying out the conditions fixed by the donors. Three Sections shall be organized, by Belgium, Great Britain, and France.

In consideration of the importance of the thermochemical contributions, a special subcommittee urged the appointment of a committee to prepare a tentative plan for the establishment of standards from the thermochemical standpoint.

PATENTS—The report on the determination of the legal value of sealed applications for patents caused debate which ended in the following vote: The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry will organize a group of men competent from the technological and judicial point of view to study questions relative to patents. Italy has been charged with preparing a plan of organization. The Conference considers the first questions to be the legal value of sealed applications and the creation of international patents.

ATOMIC WEIGHTS—The examination of the report of Mr. W. D. Bancroft, chairman of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, led the Union to establish an International Committee on Atomic Weights. Messrs. Thorpe, Clarke, and Urbain, members of the old committee, were requested to continue this work.

It was decided to inscribe on the order of the day of the next Congress the two following proposals: that the revision of the table of atomic weights be decennial, in order to give time to check the latest determinations; and that the proposal of Dalton, of assuming H = 1 as the basis of the system, be re-adopted.

TABLES OF CONSTANTS—At the suggestion of M. Charles Marie, the Conference decided to connect with the Union the International Committee on Tables of Constants. Its secretary will present each year to the Union a report on the work of the Committee, which, after approval, will be transmitted to the International Research Council for final approval.

PHYSICOCHEMICAL SYMBOLS—In regard to physicochemical symbols, the Conference, at the request of the Chemical Society, will ask chemical associations and chemical journals of the adhering countries to republish the list approved by the old International Association of Chemical Societies at their last meeting at Brussels, September 23, 1913.

To draw the attention of the respective governments to the importance of the work of the Union, the following resolution was adopted: The Conference of the International Union of Chemistry resolves that all the delegates of the nations belonging to the Union are trying to make known the public value of the work of the Union.

The Bureau will send to the Italian government a verbatim report of the Conference with the request that it be officially transmitted to the governments of the other countries.

The Conference decided to hold its next meeting at Warsaw in 1921.

ENTERTAINMENT OF DELEGATES

Perfect arrangements for the meeting had been made by Professor Marotta, secretary of the "Consignio Nazionale di Chimica." This society rendered the stay of the delegates in Rome as agreeable as it was profitable. Special tickets permitted them to visit the museums, monuments, and wonders of the Eternal City. Brilliant receptions and banquets were offered. The Syndic of Rome personally received the members of the Conference.

The Naples Section of the Associazione Italiana di Chimica Generale ed Applicata had arranged an excursion to Pompeii to the new excavations.

The Italian manufacturers in their turn showed that their country, without ceasing to be the fatherland of art, is also capable of the industrial effort which modern society demands. The delegates were invited to visit three important Italian factories which the war brought into being and which are now being transformed for the work of peace, those of Bombrini Parodi-Delfino at Segni, Electro-Chimica Pomilio at Naples, and Prodotti Esplodenti at Cengio. Messrs. Parodi-Delfino, Pomilio, and Quartieri, the pioneers of Italian industry, and their colleagues, showered the delegates with information as to the results obtained in their factories, from the point of view of organization and of productivity. The banquets which they gave were the occasion for expressions of thanks, on the part of the heads of the delegations, to Italy for the cordiality of their reception.

The work of the International Union in the course of this Conference has one special value. It forms the basis of a permanent organization, the advantages of which will be felt in every country.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By J. B. McDONNELL, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

In anticipation of a revision of the tariff when the new Congress, which is to be elected this fall, comes in, the United States Tariff Commission is bending its efforts to complete the gathering of data on all American industries.

Schedule A of the tariff law deals with chemicals, and the Commission experts expect to have their data upon these industries completed and ready for submission to Congress sometime before the new Congress meets for the first time next March.