

## Foundation Affairs

### THE INCEPTION OF THE FOUNDATION FOR THE STUDY OF CYCLES

**I**T may be in point to record for you the steps leading up to the creation of the Foundation for the Study of Cycles. In a nutshell, the steps are as follows: 1. In 1931 there was held at Matamek, Province of Quebec, Canada, the First International Conference on Biological Cycles. 2. That Conference created a permanent committee. 3. In 1940 that committee was reorganized to include representation from economics and from sciences other than the biological ones. 4. A non-profit, tax-exempt scientific and educational institution was created with the name Foundation for the Study of Cycles, Inc. 5. The reorganized committee took over as the governing body of the new corporation.

To start at the beginning, in the early summer of 1931 Mr. Copley Amory of Boston and Washington, an amateur biologist of note, organized an international conference on biological cycles. The conference was held at his summer home at Matamek during the last week of July, 1931.

The Matamek conference was not the first conference called to discuss cycles. The Carnegie Institution of Washington had held two conferences on this subject in Washington, in 1922 and 1928 respectively. The Washington conferences, however, had concerned themselves more largely with weather, magnetic, sunspot, tree ring, and geological cycles. There had never, as far as I know, been a conference on biological cycles as such prior to the conference at Matamek.

You may be interested in a brief description of the Conference written by Charles Elton, of Oxford University, one of the conferees. This description was written as the foreword of an Abstract of

Proceedings of the Conference, published in 1933. Elton wrote:

"The Matamek Conference on Biological Cycles was called by Mr. Copley Amory for the purpose of discussing the occurrence of cyclical phenomena in wild life and the possible determining causes of such cycles. Invitations were issued to more than eighty persons in Europe and in America, scientists whose previous studies indicated more than passing interest in the subject and government officials whose services were affected by cyclical fluctuations.

"Almost without exception, those invited to form part of the Conference showed considerable interest in its organization. Long standing programmes of summer work precluded acceptance by many of those invited. Others who accepted were prevented from attending by unexpected duties, notably in the case of Canadian government officials due to an important session of the Dominion Parliament and to preparations for a Provincial general election in Quebec.

"Twenty-five attending members finally gathered in conference at Matamek Factory on Thursday, July 23rd, 1931, the sessions continuing until Saturday, August 1st. A number of government officials and leading industrialists were present at the opening of the Conference at Matamek Factory, or at the official luncheon tendered the Conference members by the Provincial Government on Wednesday, July 21st.

"The Government of the Dominion of Canada took part in the Conference through the Right Honourable Sir George Perley, Minister without Portfolio, who consented to preside over the Conference sessions but was prevented from doing so by unexpected Parliamentary duties; through Dr.

Charles Camsell, President of The Royal Society of Canada, Deputy Minister of Mines, who acted as Chairman of the Conference; and through officials of several departments who took part in the deliberations or aided in the organization work.

"The Government of the Province of Quebec shared in the Conference through the active interest of the Honourable L. A. Taschereau, Premier of the Province, and of other Ministers and officials. The Honourable Hector LaFerté, Minister of Colonization, Game, and Fisheries, tendered an official luncheon to the Conference, at Montmorency Falls near Quebec. The Honourable Adélarde Godbout, Minister of Agriculture, represented the Province at the opening of the Conference at Mata-mek Factory, Provincial deputy ministers also being present.

"Leading scientific societies and institutions were invited to take part in the Conference, and several did so as indicated in the list of attending members and in one of the resolutions adopted by the Conference. Individuals and corporations also contributed to the Conference, notably the Clarke Steamship Company Limited and the Lower St. Lawrence Transportation Company Limited, which supplied free transportation for the members between Rimouski and Mata-mek in a special steamer assigned for that purpose.

"A preliminary Report on the work of the Conference was prepared by Professor Ellsworth Huntington, of Yale University. The present Abstract summarizes the papers and discussions in somewhat more detail. Complete Proceedings of the Conference also may be issued."

The officers of the Conference were:

The Rt. Hon. Sir George Perley  
Honorary Chairman  
Mr. Copley Amory,  
Chairman, Permanent Committee  
Dr. Charles Camsell, Chairman of  
Sessions  
Dr. W. Reid Blair, Chairman,  
Editorial Committee  
Professor A. G. Huntsman, Chairman,  
Resolutions Committee  
Mr. Thornton W. Burgess, Chairman,  
Reception Committee

Lieut.-Colonel Frank M. Stanton,  
Honorary Secretary  
Mr. Alfred C. Dobell, K.C.,  
Honorary Counsel  
Mr. Louis Carrier, Honorary Librarian  
Miss Ruth Vane Stiles,  
Recording Secretary

The attending members of the Conference were:

Copley Amory, A. B. (Harvard), F.R.G.S.  
1811, C Street, Washington, D.C.  
Rudolf Martin Anderson, Ph.D. (Iowa)  
Chief, Division of Biology, National  
Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ont.  
Harold Elmer Anthony, B.S., M. A.  
(Columbia) Curator, Department of  
Mammalogy, The American Museum of  
Natural History, New York, N. Y.  
David Lawrence Belding, M. A., M. D.  
(Harvard) Professor of Pathology  
and Bacteriology, Boston University  
School of Medicine, Boston, Mass.  
Colonel William Reid Blair, D.V.S., LL.D.  
(McGill) Professor of Comparative  
Pathology, New York University  
Director, New York Zoological Park,  
New York, N. Y.  
Thornton Waldo Burgess  
Naturalist, 61, Washington Road,  
Springfield, Mass.  
Donald Roy Cameron, B. A. (McGill),  
B. Sc. F. (Toronto), M. E. I. C.  
Associate Director of Forest Service,  
Department of the Interior, Ottawa,  
Ont.  
Charles Camsell, A. B. (Harvard), LL.D.  
(Queen's), F. G. S. A., M. E. I. C.  
President, The Royal Society of  
Canada Deputy Minister of Mines,  
Ottawa, Ont.  
Louis Carrier  
Special Correspondent, The New York  
Times Le Canada, 33, St. James  
Street West, Montreal, Que.  
Aurel Macedon Comsia (Graduate,  
Schemnitz Forestry School, Hungary)  
627, Milton Street, Montreal, Que.  
Ralph Emerson DeLury, M.A., Ph. D.  
(Toronto) Assistant Director,  
Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, Ont.  
Alfred C. Dobell, K. C.  
Honorary Counsel to the Conference  
71, St. Peter Street, Quebec, Que.

## CYCLES -- Report for May 1951

- (Unable to attend; present at Provincial luncheon)
- John Richardson Dymond, M.A. (Toronto)  
Associate Professor of Systematic Zoology, University of Toronto  
Assistant Director, Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, Ont.
- Hermann A. Eidmann, Dr. phil.  
o.ö. Professor der Zoologie,  
Forstliche Hochschule, Hann.Munden,  
Germany
- Charles Sutherland Elton, M.A. (Oxon.)  
University Demonstrator in Zoology, Oxford University  
Director, Bureau of Animal Population, Department of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, University Museum, Oxford, England
- Francis M. Gibaut  
Provincial Superintendant of Maritime Fisheries, Quebec, Que.  
(Unable to attend; present at opening)
- Robert Gladding Green, A. M., M.D.  
(Minnesota) Professor of Bacteriology and Immunology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Alfred Otto Gross, A. B. (Illinois),  
Ph. D. (Harvard) Professor of Biology, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me. Director, New England Ruffed Grouse Investigation, Boston, Mass.
- Johan Hjort, Ph. D., Sc. D., F.R.S.  
Vice-President, Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer  
Director of the Biological Laboratory and Professor in the University of Kristiania, Oslo, Norway  
(Unable to attend; contributed a paper)
- Ellsworth Huntington, M. A. (Harvard),  
Ph. D. (Yale) Research Associate in Geography, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
- Archibald Gowanlock Huntsman, B. A.,  
M. B. (Toronto), F. R. S. C.  
Professor of Marine Biology, University of Toronto  
Director, Atlantic Biological Station, St. Andrews, N. B.
- Remington Kellogg, A. M. (Kansas),  
Ph. D. (California) Research Associate, Carnegie Institution of Washington Assistant Curator, Division of Mammals, United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.  
(Unable to attend; contributed a paper)
- Harry MacDonald Kyle, D.Sc. (St. Andrews)  
Marine Biologist, 41, Clouston Street, Glasgow N. W., Scotland
- Aldo Leopold  
Game Investigator, Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, 404, University Avenue, Madison, Wis.
- Harrison Flint Lewis, M. A. (Toronto),  
Ph. D. (Cornell)  
Chief Federal Migratory Bird Officer for the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, National Parks Branch, Ottawa, Ont.
- Hans Mayer-Wegwlin, Dr. oec. publ.  
o.ö. Professor der Forst Wissenschaft, Forstliche Hochschule, Hann. Münden, Germany
- The Rt Hon. Sir George Halsey Perley,  
K. C. M. G., B. A. (Harvard)  
Member of Parliament for Argenteuil;  
Senior Minister of State, Canada  
(Unable to attend)
- Earle Bernard Phelps, B. S. Chem.  
(M.I.T.) Professor of Sanitary Science, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.
- William Rowan, M. Sc. (Toronto), Ph.D. (London), F.Z.S. Professor of Physiology and Zoology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta.
- Lieutenant-Colonel Frank M. Stanton  
Treasurer, Clarke Steamship Company Limited  
Honorary Secretary to the Conference 65, The Esplanade, Quebec, Que.  
(Unable to attend; present at opening)
- Charles Haskins Townsend, Sc. D.  
(Washington and Jefferson) Director, New York Aquarium, New York, N.Y.

As this is an account of the genesis of the Foundation for the Study of Cycles, it does not seem appropriate to describe in these notes the papers presented at the Conference, the discussion that revolved around them, and the scientific results obtained. These matters are fully covered in a report on the Conference by Ellsworth

Huntington, of Yale, and the Abstract of Papers and Discussion, by Elton referred to above, as well as in the full proceedings of the Conference which have also been published.

From the standpoint of the Foundation the matter that needs mention is merely the last official act of the Conference on Thursday, July 30th, 1931:

" Moved by Mr. Cameron; seconded by Mr. DeLury:

" That a committee consisting of the chairman (Dr. Camsell), Dr. Blair, Dr. Huntsman, with Mr. Amory, be appointed to select a standing committee. Carried. "

The Permanent Committee thus selected consisted of the following persons:

The Rt. Hon. Sir George Halsey Perley,  
K.C.M.G., B.A. Senior Minister of  
State, Canada

The Hon. Hector LaFerté, LL. L., K. C.  
Minister of Colonization, Game and  
Fisheries, Province of Quebec

Charles Camsell, B.A., LL.D.  
President, The Royal Society of  
Canada

Deputy Minister of Mines, Canada  
Patrick Ashley Cooper  
Governor, Honourable Hudson's Bay  
Company

Henry Fairfield Osborn, LL.D., Sc.D.  
President, The American Museum of  
Natural History

Madison Grant, A. B., LL.B.  
President, New York Zoological  
Society

Sir George Garneau, B. ès Sc. Ap., Ing.  
Civ., LL.D., Chev. Lég. d'H.  
Professor of Analytical Chemistry,  
Laval University  
Member, National Research Council,  
Canada

Ellsworth Huntington, M.A., Ph.D.  
Research Associate in Geography,  
Yale University

W. Reid Blair, D.V.S., LL.D.  
Director, New York Zoological Park

Copley Amory, A.B., F.R.G.S.  
Chairman, Permanent Committee

Louis Carrier  
Secretary, Permanent Committee

We now leave the story for nine years until 1940, at which time the Permanent Committee was reorganized.

During these nine years, some of us in the States, in Canada, and in Europe, without ever having heard of the Matamek Conference, had been observing and recording cycles in human activity, particularly business activity, stock prices, and commodity prices. Most of us in this field knew nothing whatever of cycles in other phenomena.

In 1940 some of us began to wonder if the economic cycles with which so many of us were familiar might not have their counterpart in natural phenomena. In an effort to answer this question, I did a considerable amount of library research. This research uncovered the fact that cycles had been discovered in volcanic eruptions, in earthquakes, in the thickness and thinness of rock strata, in disease, in ocean currents, in weather, in the productivity of crops, in human emotion, in sunspots, in terrestrial magnetism, and in the abundance of fish, insects, birds, and wild animals. I also observed that at least some of the lengths alleged for the cycles in these natural phenomena were lengths with which I had become familiar in economic data. Here indeed was something to make one sit up and take notice. Perhaps all of us who were studying cycles were dealing with something much more fundamental than we realized.

I continued my investigation. In the process I ran across a reference to the Matamek Conference which had been organized by " a Mr. Copley Amory, of Boston. " Wishing to see the full proceedings, I wrote to Mr. Copley Amory, at Boston, but the letter was returned by the Post Office for a better address. I had none.

I then remembered having seen the name of Professor Ellsworth Huntington, of Yale, mentioned in connection with the conference. I dispatched a letter to Yale repeating my request for a copy of the proceedings. Professor Huntington wrote back that Mr. Amory now lived in Washington.

I wrote to Mr. Amory at Washington but received no reply. However, a month or so later, my secretary announced " Mr. Copley Amory, of Washington, D.C. " Mr. Amory turned out to be full to the ears with

wisdom and a knowledge of wildlife and wildlife cycles, but quite as innocent of knowledge of cycles in economics as, until a month or two previous, I had been in respect to cycles in wildlife and other natural phenomena.

Mr. Amory and I compared notes. We both agreed that if the mystery of cyclic behavior was to be solved, the problem must be attacked on a broad front. Cycles in every sort of natural and social phenomena must be studied. The wave lengths discovered must be compared. And, when correspondences appeared, investigation must be made to see if there were interrelationships. We agreed further that a scientific and educational organization to which people could give money must be created and that it should be called the Foundation for the Study of Cycles. We agreed that the Permanent Committee of the Matamek Conference should be reorganized and that the reorganized committee should be the governing body of the new corporation.

In fact, with one exception, we agreed upon everything. The one point of difference between us concerned the Chairmanship of the Committee of the Foundation. I wanted Mr. Amory to be Chairman of the new Committee. He demurred, but I finally prevailed upon him to take the job.

The complete roster of the Committee for the Foundation for the Study of Cycles, as finally determined, was as follows:

#### Canada

Hon. Charles Camsell, C.M.G., B.A.,  
LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.G.S.A., M.E.I.C.  
Commissioner of the Northwest  
Territories Canadian Government

Frank Cyril James, B. Com., A. M., Ph.D.  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor  
McGill University

#### Great Britain

Hon. Patrick Ashley Cooper, B.A., LL.B.  
Governor  
The Honorable Hudson's Bay Company  
Charles Sutherland Elton, A.B., M.A.  
Director Bureau of Animal Popula-  
tion Oxford University  
Julian Sorrell Huxley, F.R.S., M.A.,  
D.Sc. Zoological Society of London

#### United States of America

Charles Greeley Abbot, S.B., S.M., D.Sc.,  
LL.D. Smithsonian Institution  
George Baekeland, A.B., E.M.  
The Bakelite Corporation  
Hon. William Cameron Forbes, A.B., LL.D.  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Hon. Alanson Bigelow Houghton, B.A.,  
LL.D. Chairman, Corning Glass Works  
Chairman, Institute for Advanced  
Study, Princeton University  
Ellsworth Huntington, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.  
Professor of Geography and Clima-  
tology Yale University  
Wesley Clair Mitchell, A.B., Ph.D.  
M.A., LL.D., D.Litt. Director  
National Bureau of Economic Research  
Copley Amory, A.B., F.R.G.S.  
Chairman

When the Committee was set up and the corporation finally got going, all we needed was money. Mr. Amory generously contributed \$500 and we were off!

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### Charles Gates Dawes

It is with deep regret that we announce the death on April 23rd, 1951 of General Charles G. Dawes, a member of the Committee of the Foundation for the Study of Cycles.

General Dawes was elected to our board of directors on February 6th, 1950 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Ambassador Alanson B. Houghton.

General Dawes was much interested in the work of the Foundation. He himself had done considerable cycle research and had made extensive practical use of the results of his research. He was of great help to the Foundation. His death is a real loss to all of us.