

## RESOLUTIONS CARRIED BY THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS (AMSTERDAM).

WE have received from the Secretary of the Executive Committee, Dr. M. J. Sirks, a draft of the resolutions carried, unanimously, at the final plenary meeting of the Congress on September 7 :—

## GENERAL.

1. That the Botanical Section of the International Union of Biological Sciences should act as an administrative connecting link between successive International Botanical Congresses, which maintain their full independence from an international point of view to such an extent that any country which has not joined the Union will have the same rights as those which have joined.

It is proposed that this Botanical Section be authorized to carry through any resolutions carried by the International Botanical Congresses.

2. By reason of the growing financial difficulties and the prohibitive price, for certain museums and laboratories, of transmission by post, rail, and boat, it becomes impossible to guarantee the indispensable exchange of collections of dried plants. It is therefore necessary to obtain for this exchange the free transport now accorded to the exchange of scientific publications.

The Congress asks the Office of the International Union of Biological Sciences to take the necessary steps with various governments in order to obtain this postal privilege.

## SECTIONAL.

3. That the Seventh International Botanical Congress shall arrange a Section for Agronomy on the same lines as that of the Sixth Congress.

*Cytology and Genetics.* 4. That the Botanical Section of the International Union of Biological Sciences on behalf of the Sixth International Botanical Congress should apply to the International Committee for Genetical Congresses for the appointment of an International Committee to study the different meanings of various cytological and genetical terms used in the literature, to propose exact definitions of these terms, and to suggest if and what further steps are necessary to improve the terminology of genetics and cytology.

5. The Sections of Genetics and Cytology take the occasion of their presence in Holland to record the deep sense of debt which the sciences of Genetics and Cytology owe to Hugo de Vries. It is a satisfaction that he lived to see the imposing structure which has been erected on the foundations, in the laying of which his painstaking investigations and prophetic vision had so large a share.

*Geobotany.* 6. The Sixth International Botanical Congress appeals to all botanists and cartographers to employ for the same plant communities the same colouring, and for socio-logically related plant communities, especially in survey maps, similar tints, in accordance with the proposals which the Fifth International Botanical Congress put forward at Cambridge.

7. The Sixth International Botanical Congress draws the special attention of Public Bodies, Scientific Institutes, and Societies for the International Protection of Nature to the danger of inconsiderate destruction of primitive vegetation to which, in the future, vast territories, especially in tropical and subtropical countries, will be exposed through brushwood and prairie fires.

It points out the often radical changes brought about by this practice in the biologic complex. On the one hand, a very great number of species are threatened with extinction—many of them being of the greatest interest from the scientific, æsthetic, and economic points of view. On the other hand, countries formerly covered with a woody vegetation are becoming, or are in process of becoming, desert in consequence of the changes which the destruction of this vegetation produces upon the local climate, the hydrologic conditions, and the physico-chemical characters of the soil.

The Congress emphasizes the necessity :

(1) Of constituting in these countries permanent reserves for safeguarding the equilibrium of the natural conditions and the lives of the plants and animals (National Parks).

(2) Beside the territories thus constituted as permanent Reserves, to lessen in some measure the consequence of the deforestation and exploitation by maintaining an adequate proportion of forest areas.

(3) To prevent the substitution of natural formations of woody autochthones by those of exotic species (in accordance with the conclusions of the International Conference for the Protection of the Fauna and Flora of Africa, London, 1933).

8. The Sixth International Botanical Congress is conscious of the great dangers arising from the destruction of tropical and subtropical vegetations, and also of the changes caused in such regions by the action of man.

The Congress recommends the study of these problems by the botanists of these countries and that they should inform their governments.

Information should be collected and published with a view to the most efficient protection of the indigenous vegetation.

The Congress appoints a Committee for studying this subject and for submitting a report to the Seventh Congress. The following members of this Committee are nominated : I. B.

Pole Evans, President; H. Humbert, E. D. Merrill, and J. Nabelek, Vice-Presidents; R. Bouillenne, H. Brockmann Jerosch, A. Chevalier, L. Emberger, A. W. Hill, J. Jeswiet, P. Ledoux, R. Maire, G. Negri, L. R. Parodi, and M. F. Gallego Quero, and as Secretary J. Trochain.

9. That the programme of the Seventh International Botanical Congress shall include the study and the delineation of the characters of the various types of steppes, their origin, their development, and especially the discriminative criteria for climatic associations and secondary associations which have been confused under the names "steppe," "prairie," "savannah," and the definitions of the corresponding phytogeographic regions.

10. That a committee shall be appointed to elaborate proposals for a classification of climates from a phytogeographical point of view and to submit them to the Seventh International Botanical Congress.

11. The Geobotanical Section recommends:

(1) To use the term *Sociation* for vegetation units characterized mainly by dominance in the different layers, in the sense of Scandinavian plant-sociologists.

(2) To use the term *Association* for vegetation units characterized mainly by characteristic and differential species in the sense of Zürich-Montpellier plant sociologists, or at least for units of the same order of sociological value; *Subassociation* and *Facies* can, where necessary, be used for their subordinate units.

(3) To unite sociations and associations into alliances in the sense of Zürich-Montpellier plant sociologists, and the alliances into higher units.

12. *Mycology and Pathology.* The Sixth International Botanical Congress wishes to express its appreciation of the admirable work accomplished by the Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures at Baarn since its foundation in 1906, and views with grave concern the present financial difficulties of what is essentially an international institution.

*Pathology.* 13. The Committee on Description and Nomenclature of Plant Viruses appointed by the Fifth International Botanical Congress 1930 reports that it has made progress in developing a scheme for the nomenclature of plant viruses, and asks that the Committee be empowered to continue its work.

14. It is recommended that the term "physiologic race" be substituted for "physiologic form" as the former seems more appropriate. It is recommended further that the word "race" be used in general to designate biotypes or groups of biotypes that differ from each other in physiologic characters.

15. The Sixth International Botanical Congress is of the opinion :

that an effective and unceasing campaign against destructive plant diseases and insect pests can be successfully prosecuted only by international action and mutual co-operation ;

that close and frequent international discussion of the problems of plant quarantines should take place to bring about improvement of the health conditions of plants and plant-products offered for export ;

that such action will greatly facilitate international trade in the commodities concerned ; and

recommends that this resolution be brought to the attention of the League of Nations, emphatically endorsing the League's proposal to give this matter urgent and careful consideration with a view to facilitating and expediting the purpose and aims of this resolution.

*Systematics.* 16. The Sixth International Botanical Congress agrees to the following propositions by the International Standing Committee for Urgent Taxonomic Needs :

(1) Compilation of a new Phytography. The book should not treat the whole content of de Candolle's 'Phytographie'; it should prepare a compilation of the collections represented in the larger herbaria of the world. Institutes are asked to draw up a list of their collections.

(2) Photographs of type-specimens. The scheme to photograph the types of all plants is important, and should be encouraged, but involves very great expense. As the means of most Institutes are restricted at the present time, this point should be postponed to the next Congress.

(3) International Dictionary of Botanical Terminology. The dictionary should be restricted to Phanerogams. The Cryptogams are to be worked out by specialists in the individual groups. The Latin word should be translated and explained in English, French, and German. For use in countries of other languages the botanists of such countries should supply translations. All terms would be given in alphabetical sequence. At the end, the most important terms for single categories (*e.g.*, leaf, root, Orchids) might be placed together.

(4) It is highly desirable that the Linnean type-specimens at the Linnean Society and at the British Museum should be photographed.

17. *Subsection Nomenclature : Votes of Thanks.*

To the Editorial Committee of the 'International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature,' ed. iii. (1935), namely, Professor Harms (General Editor), Dr. Rendle, and Professor Hochreutiner, for the successful manner in which they carried out their difficult task.

To the Executive Committee of the Fifth International Botanical Congress, Cambridge, 1930, for defraying the cost of publication of the 'Synopsis of Proposals' and 'Preliminary Opinions' concerning nomenclature.

*Resolution.*

That the Sixth International Botanical Congress accepts the decisions of the Section of Taxonomy and Nomenclature concerning the modification of the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature, ed. iii. (1935), and sanctions the appointment of the Standing Committees by this Section.

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