cater for the many calls for identifications and assistance from the farming community. In July, 1891, Maskell spoke to the Wellington Philosophical Society on "The Establishment of an Expert Agricultural Department in New Zealand" and a resolution was forwarded to the Minister of Lands[21].

In September the resolution was reported to the Legislative Council, the Upper House, by the Hon. Robert Pharazyn, of Wanganui, a sheep farmer-naturalist serving on the New Zealand Institute Board of Governors. It was debated and endorsed. The Department was formally established on March 31, 1892, but its initial lack of experts led Maskell to issue a further pamphlet, and the matter was taken up by a conference of Agricultural Society delegates the following May. The present scientific staffing of the Agriculture Department is thus a tribute to Maskell's initiative.

Resolutions urging the need for forest conservation date from 1879. There had previously been a Forest Act in 1874, and a short-term Conservator of Forests (1876-77)[22]. Another Act in 1885 established a State Forests Branch of the Lands Department under Thomas Kirk until *it* was abolished for the sake of economy three years later. The New Zealand Institute had a notice of motion on the establishment of a Forestry Board in 1905, and in 1911 Otago Institute (after discussing an address by Bathgate) urged on Government a more vigorous policy of afforestation both for timber and conservation, and the appointment of a scientifically trained Chief Forester[23]. A Royal Commission on Forestry was appointed in 1913 and this led, after delay due to the war, to the setting up in 1920 of the Forest Service that has persisted until today, with scientifically trained foresters. We certainly cannot claim that the scientists' opinions were the *only* stimulus to Government action in these cases, but that action followed a considerable amount of pressure by scientists.

When New Zealand, in 1914, took over Western Samoa from Germany, she acquired the Apia Geophysical Observatory. At intervals during the next 20 years the Institute pleaded for continuation of the seismological observations at Apia, in the face of a strong reluctance by Government to spend the money necessary for its maintenance. In 1927 Cabinet decided, in fact, to close the observatory, but was dissuaded by the New Zealand Institute. In 1935 the Society's representatives on the Observatories Committee could claim that their efforts had staved off a major scientific disaster that would have discredited New Zealand in the eyes of the world.

During the First World War considerable attention was given by the Institute and its branches—and eventually by the whole community—to the application of science to industry. Germany was showing an integration of science and industry much superior to that of the British Commonwealth. The Privy Council circulated papers in March and in May, 1916, which apparently triggered the local interest. The main incorporated Societies reported on the subject later in 1916. The Institute offered its services to Government, and was invited by the Government's National Efficiency Board to advise on scientific and industrial research.

The Committee set up for this purpose by the Institute, formed by co-option of representatives of other bodies and industrialists to a nucleus of scientists, worked in the latter half of 1917 in consultation with the incorporated societies. The Chairman of this Committee was George Hogben, outstanding as an educational reformer, but remembered by the Royal Society primarily as a pioneer seismologist. (We are told that during the East Coast quake of 1904 he went missing and was found underneath the hotel billiard table, carefully timing the intervals between shocks with his watch.)

Hogben's committee presented its recommendations for the constitution of a Board of Science and Industry in January 1918. They were accepted by the National Efficiency Board and transmitted to Government. But with the Armistice