

Office will also strengthen the hand of those Bureau Chiefs who realize that some low bids are often not the most desirable ones.

However, the real object of specifications is to make known just what service is desired. They must, therefore, be explicit and readily understandable to all. Since they materially effect the quality and cost of the work, they must be well adapted to the purpose of the work. Slight changes in the specifications may double the cost of the work, yet may not add one whit to the accuracy of the results. Discussion of and standardization of specifications, so far as may be possible to standardize them, will prove both interesting and beneficial.

There is quite a divergence of opinion concerning tests. This applies especially to the proper method of testing topographic maps. Tests serve two distinct functions. One to see that the work accomplished meets the requirements of accuracy in accordance with the specifications. The other one, and to my mind the most important one, is that if made during the progress of the work, they indicate changes that may be made in the method, advantageous both to accuracy and cost of results. On large jobs, one of the most difficult problems is that of standardizing the work of many different operators each having different ability or characteristics, in an effort to produce a map which, as a whole, will maintain a fixed standard. During the progress of the work, tests of each man's results will show just where that individual errs from the standard. They will develop the fact that one man can with ten located points per acre, produce just as good topography as another will with twenty such points. A study of the reason for this may result in correcting the condition. Every man in charge of a mapping project is neglectful of his duty if he does not have proper tests made. It is easy to be satisfied with ones own work and to feel that it is satisfactory, but in that direction lies poor work and inefficiency.

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ARE WE PROVINCIAL?

by

L. T. Eliel

Photogrammetry is being practiced extensively on every continent. Different methods, equipment and conditions have developed a local technique in many centers of activity. Countries as close together as Canada and the United States have special methods and preferences.

We, in the United States, may easily isolate ourselves in an impregnable aura of complacency and self satisfaction. We are inclined to believe that everything should be done as we do it.

A glance around the world shows that a good many other fellows have ideas which we must admit are interesting, even if we can't unbend enough to call them good. At least, it has been

too difficult in the past to learn enough about them to form any very conclusive ideas as to relative merits.

The American Society of Photogrammetry will bring to the desk of every member all of this information, translated into good English and carefully selected. Discussions will be carried on in our columns.

Are we all familiar with the activities in China, Russia and Japan? Tremendous projects are under way in these countries. Do we know that Peru and Columbia have equipment and extensive programs? Are we familiar with the detailed photogrammetric method by which nearly all of Switzerland has been mapped? Do we know how mapping is being done in Colonial France? How about the extensive work in Persia, Iraq, Turkey, Roumania, Spain and Portugal? The Scandinavian Countries have some very interesting pages in their programs. Perhaps as much area has been aerially mapped in South Africa as in the United States. How did the detailed maps of Rio de Janeiro and San Paulo turn out?

This is the sort of information that our "News Letter" will bring to members of the Society.

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CURRENT WORK AND PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

by
C. W. Collier

While it is common knowledge that a large amount of photogrammetrical work has been done during the past year, few people appreciate either the scope of the work which has actually been under way or its implications. Is it not an interesting coincidence, if such it may be called, that the large and sudden increase in photogrammetrical activity has accompanied a tremendous expansion of governmental planning activities? If the apparent connection between these two subjects is in truth a real connection, the future of photogrammetrical work must look bright indeed.

It is obvious that the United States is entering upon a new phase of coordinating its activities in accordance with carefully developed plans. This is particularly true insofar as the use of land is concerned. In this field of activity we find the Agricultural Adjustment Administration controlling in detail the production of crops upon many million acres of land. The United States Forest Service is acquiring large new areas and is undertaking gigantic schemes for the control of wind and climatic factors in the Mississippi Valley. The Department of the Interior is undertaking the extraordinarily difficult task of planning and controlling the use of vast and scattered acreages of the Public Domain. The Soil Erosion Service is planning in detail the use to which 28000 square miles in twenty-seven different states may be put, in order that erosion and floods may be controlled, the initial program probably being but a preliminary to a vastly expanded undertaking which will effect the entire United States. The Tennessee