

RETIRING ADDRESS

Louis A. Woodward

BEFORE installing the president for the coming year, I wish to express my appreciation for the excellent cooperation and support received from each officer, director, and individual member of our organization. It is only through this whole-hearted, wide-spread cooperation, that it has been possible for the Society to continue its program for the advancement of the art and science of photogrammetry and make definite progress toward the objectives which we have set before us. During the past year, with everyone working under extreme pressure, it has been extremely difficult to devote as much time to Society affairs as we would desire. However, during this time hundreds of hours of hard work have been devoted to the business and technical affairs of the Society by many members, and this effort is largely responsible for our continued progress.

It is customary for the retiring president of most scientific and engineering societies to give an address. This procedure was established in the American Society of Photogrammetry in January, 1938 by Commander Reading. In Commander Reading's retiring address he stated, "It is indeed both a duty and a privilege for every retiring president to try to reciprocate for the honor and attention given him by an expression of the thoughts which he considers most timely and useful concerning the work of the Society." In continuing this custom, it is believed appropriate to make only a few brief remarks because of the type of meeting we are having this year as compared to the type usually held. In expressing such thoughts, it should be pointed out that my thoughts are not necessarily those of the Society or the organization with which I am connected.

There are at least four separate societies interested in surveying and mapping. They are: The American Society of Photogrammetry, The American Congress on Surveying and mapping, The American Society of Military Engineers, and The American Society of Civil Engineers. The particular field of each of these societies is rather broad and covers many other activities. However, they are all on common ground when surveying and mapping problems are considered. I would not suggest a consolidation of these organizations because each can help to further surveying and mapping. This country has needed adequate surveys and maps for many years and all organizations interested in this subject should exert their influence toward accomplishing this end. To be most effective, the several organizations having common interests should work very closely together. I believe our Society should take the lead in attempting to establish closer relations with each of the several societies that have interests similar to our own. In addition to the surveying and mapping fields, this should apply to optics, photography, and others.

Since most of our members are engaged in surveying and mapping, we are all interested in the post-war possibilities in this field. At present there are many ideas and questions as to *how, when, what, where, and who* will do the post-war mapping. I would like to comment on the "who" part of these questions. In my opinion competition between various Federal organizations in the past has been very beneficial. It causes the various organizations to continually attempt improvements in methods and equipment. I believe competition between Federal organizations and private enterprise should be given thorough consideration in post-war mapping plans. It should be remembered that our first interest and

responsibility is to produce adequate maps as economically and as rapidly as possible.

About a year ago, in my inaugural address, I pointed out that for many years sufficient consideration had not been given to map users; that the map maker frequently produced the type of maps he thought were required and it was up to the map user to use them, do without, or become a map maker. This condition has definitely improved during the past few years. However, there is still room for improvement. For example, if some of the post-war mapping plans now being prepared are approved, only the map maker and the needs of some of the map users will be satisfied, while the needs of a great many map users will be met.

The Federal Government is by far the largest map producer and map user in the United States. It is, therefore, only natural that the Federal Government would receive some criticism for its operations, policies, and procedures. When we criticize it is often because we do not have all the facts which caused certain policies and procedures to be established. In other cases criticism is made on the basis of all, or at least most, of the facts. In this connection I would like to read *parts* of the post-war mapping and aerial photography plan for the State of Nevada. The complete Nevada Plan will be published in PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING in the near future:

Because there have been no over-all base maps which could be utilized, each map-using agency has been forced to become a map-making agency, preparing base maps to meet the demands of its particular field, but which probably did not meet the requirements of some other bureau operating in the same area. The minimum of adequate information available precluded accurate compilation, and often the expense incurred in office work to prepare a reasonably acceptable base from limited and widely separated control points resulted in expenditures approaching the cost of field and office work for a first-class planimetric map. The outcome of this condition has been the expenditure of many hundreds of thousands of dollars for duplicate and overlapping mapping of a character not at all suited to meet the requirements of a National mapping program, and in most instances not satisfactory to the agency preparing the maps because of the lack of adequate basic information. It is probable that sufficient funds have been spent in Nevada during the past ten years for mapping to have provided state-wide coverage by base maps qualified to meet the standards of any National program; and yet, the mapping in Nevada which can be safely said to meet such standards, is limited to the comparatively few modern U.S.G.S. topographic sheets and a few aerial planimetric maps prepared by the Forest Service and the Grazing Service in cooperation with the State Highway Department. It must be emphasized that no criticism should be directed at the Federal and State agencies that have prepared base maps to meet their needs, but rather at a National policy which has permitted the complete mapping of the several states to lag to the extent that every map-using agency must prepare its own or go without . . .

Although the amount of money required to complete the job contemplated in this program amounts to a sizable sum, it must be borne in mind that unless a National mapping program is carried out which will result in a product of uniform standard and usable to all concerned, nearly as great an amount will be expended by the individual agencies producing base maps to meet their own requirements, but which will not be up to National standards. There seems no doubt that sufficient funds have been expended for base maps in Nevada since 1930 to have done the work called for in this program; but because of the lack of cooperative and unified action, such as is herein outlined, only an insignificant area is now adequately covered.

I do not believe that this criticism is intended to apply to the past three or four years, during which time most of our map production and reproduction facilities have been engaged in the mapping and charting of areas outside of continental United States. However, this does not excuse pre-war mapping conditions.

The question, therefore, is WHY does a condition such as outlined in the Nevada Plan exist? The Nevada plan specifically points out that NO criticism should be directed at the Federal and State agencies that must secure maps and information to carry out their programs. If the individual agencies are not to

blame, then who, or what organization or organizations, are responsible?

I do not propose to attempt to answer these questions. Without doubt there are some good reasons why these conditions exist, but reasons or no reasons, this condition should be corrected in the post-war period. I wonder if we, as individuals, are not largely responsible for present conditions. The public in general do not realize the necessity of having good maps. My definition of public in this case is everyone outside of the map production field. Until the public is sold, and we as map makers must undertake the job, we may expect difficulty in securing appropriations for mapping, whether they are Federal, State, or private appropriations. Selling the public is a big job. Private industry spends millions of dollars each year to sell their products. When private industry develops a new product to sell to the public, they do not just advertise that the public needs the product. Generally, a carefully planned advertising program is initiated which is intended to convince the public that they cannot get along without the product. Possibly we should follow this example which has been tried and proved successful by practical businessmen. We do not need maps, just to have maps. Our sales program should possibly point out the need for certain information before highways can be efficiently planned and constructed; dams, levees and bridges built; irrigation systems planned and constructed; land reclaimed by drainage; the need for certain information in the development and conservation of our natural resources; the advantages of certain information to railroads, public utilities, etc. At present, the word MAP, to the majority of the public, means something he can get free at any filling station. The job is too big for any one individual or any one of our existing societies. Our only hope is for each of us as individuals to point out the value and necessity of certain information to overall projects and for the various societies to work together along this same line.

In summary, I recommend that the American Society of Photogrammetry take the lead in establishing closer relations with societies having similar interests in order that combined effort of individuals and societies may be exerted to correct the present deplorable mapping situation.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In response to a letter from Mr. Woodward, 1944 President of the Society, Mr. Talbert Abrams, President of Abrams Industries, Lansing, Michigan, has consented to setting up an award to run for a ten-year period for the best article appearing in each volume of PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING. The final deed of award and rules and regulations governing its operation are being worked out with Mr. Abrams by a committee, for approval by the Board of Direction. It is hoped to have complete information available for the next issue of PHOTOGRAMMETRIC ENGINEERING.