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THE AUSTRALIAN MEETING OF THE PAN-PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

THE second meeting of the Pan-Pacific Science Congress was held in Australia from August 13 to September 3, 1923. Melbourne was the meeting place for the first half of the session and Sydney for the second half. With this meeting, coming three years after the first or Honolulu meeting, it may be taken for granted that the original idea of international conferences of scientists for the purpose of dealing with problems of the Pacific region has taken shape as a definite and permanent organization. From the fact that the date and place for the third meeting has already been fixed as Japan, 1926, it may also be assumed that meetings will be held once in three years, in different countries of the region.

The thing of foremost impressiveness for all the "overseas" members was the seriousness with which the Australians regarded the congress, as indicated by what they did to make the meeting a success.

Take first the financial obligations they took upon themselves in connection with it. A fairly close estimate of what I, as one of the members, cost the country sums up to about \$600. Assuming this as the average for each of the guest members, we have the not inconsiderable total of \$60,000. Prorating this among 5,000,000 population of the commonwealth gives a per capita figure of one and two tenths cents. On a proportional basis the United States, with its population of 110,000,000, would yield \$1,320,000. What chance would there be of raising this amount were San Francisco or St. Louis, let us say, to be selected as the meeting-place of the congress?

Something about the way Australia met the expenses is interesting. It was done partly through direct appropriation by the Commonwealth government; partly through the granting of free transportation by the state governments on their state-owned and operated railway and tram lines; partly through appropriations by scientific organizations; and partly through gifts from individuals. The whole affair was managed by the Australian National Research Council.

But when the stolid matters-of-fact about money and management have been set forth, only a little has been done toward producing the evidence of the seriousness with which the congress was taken by the nation. From governors and premiers down to train

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