

National Committees of Astronomy, others very large ones. In order not to increase unduly the membership of the Union it was proposed that members of National Committees be no longer automatically members of the Union. But the National Committees retain the power to nominate members of the Union. The resolution was accepted without discussion.

The President announced that the Executive Committee proposed to refer resolution (*g*) to Commissions 18 and 31 for further consideration, (*h*) to Commissions 4 and 31, and (*i*) to Commission 4.

A vivid discussion then developed around the recommendation (*j*), proposed by the Executive Committee. Shapley considered that the resolution would be untimely; if it were insisted upon he would propose to add German and Russian, but he would prefer to drop it altogether. Minnaert proposed to add Esperanto. Milne desired to omit the specifications English or French. Answering Shapley's comments the President said that it had not at all been intended to be discriminatory; the only purpose of the resolution was to enable astronomers all over the world to learn something of the work of their colleagues. Jackson then proposed to change the wording of the resolution, so that it would express satisfaction over what is already being done in this direction and would encourage further extension of this practice. It was decided that the Executive Committee should reformulate the resolution in this sense, and bring the amended resolution before a subsequent General Assembly.

After the General Secretary had announced that Dr Lyot had installed his new monochromatic filter at the Federal Observatory and that all members interested were invited to observe the Sun through this filter, the President adjourned the General Assembly.

Meeting on August 18, 1948, 10.30, in the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule

Opening the Assembly the President announced that replies had been received from Miss Eddington, Mrs van Rhijn and Messrs Carnera and Russell to the messages sent after the General Assembly of August 11.

He next announced the recommendations which the Executive Committee wished to make in order to fill the vacancies in this Committee arising because Dr Adams, Prof. Mikhailov, the President himself and the General Secretary would retire, according to the By-Laws, at the end of this meeting. Profs. Ambartsumian and Struve were proposed as new Vice-Presidents for the next two terms, and Prof. Strömgren as new General Secretary.

The Executive Committee proposed to elect Prof. Lindblad as President for the following three years.

In the absence of Dr Beals, who had presided over the Finance Committee, the following report of this Committee was presented by its vice-chairman Dr Sadler:

In accordance with the Statutes (Section IV, no. 8) the Finance Committee presents separate reports on the accounts for the years 1938-47 and on the estimates for 1948-51. The following report, prepared by a sub-commission, has been unanimously adopted by the full committee:

We have examined the account of Income and Expenditure for the years 1938 to 1947 in conjunction with the Auditor's certificate and with the books and vouchers made available to us; we are satisfied that they represent a true account of the operations of the Union during that period.

The circumstances have necessarily been difficult and we would wish to record our appreciation of the manner in which the General Secretary has handled the accounts of the Union; he has afforded us all facilities.

For the first time, the accounts have been audited professionally; this has greatly simplified our work. It would seem to us that the activities of the Union would be more

readily seen if a brief analysis of income and expenditure could be appended to the accounts.

We note that there is a formidable list of countries in arrear with their subscriptions, some for many years; with the introduction of the new rate of subscription, it is desirable that a fresh start should be made and it is hoped that the countries concerned will make every effort to pay off these arrears.

(Signed) J. J. NASSAU
 Y. ÖHMAN
 D. H. SADLER

The complete Committee has had before it a list of applications for grants provisionally approved by the Executive Committee and estimates of income from various sources. There are two difficulties in arriving at a firm estimate of income: The newly adopted method for determining the number of units of subscription makes the total number of units available to some extent uncertain; and the assistance that may be expected from U.N.E.S.C.O. cannot be accurately assessed. The grants provisionally approved were estimated to require an annual sum of about 13,000 dollars (40,000 gold francs) in addition to the minimum reasonably expected to be made available from U.N.E.S.C.O. This can be provided by 80 units of 163.30 dollars (500 gold francs) and the Committee therefore unanimously accepted the suggestion of the Executive Committee that the unit of the subscription should be increased to 500 gold francs, which is the maximum permissible under the Statutes.

The Finance Committee proposes to the General Assembly:

1. That the following grants be made during the period 1948-51:

(a) ANNUAL GRANTS						<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Gold Francs</i>
Commission	5	(Bibliographie mensuelle)	...	...	...	163	500
"	6	(Telegram Bureau)	...	...	...	392	1,200
"	10	(Cartes héliographiques de la photosphère)	...	...	...	327	1,000
"	11	(Cartes synoptiques)	...	...	...	882	2,700
"	19	(Central Latitude Bureau)	...	...	...	980	3,000
"	20	(Minor Planet Centre at Cincinnati)	...	...	...	980	3,000
"	27	(Name list of variable stars)	...	...	...	261	800
"	27	(Ephemerides of eclipsing binaries)	...	...	...	327	1,000
"	31	(Bureau de l'Heure)	...	...	...	4,409	13,500
"	38	(Exchange of Astronomers)	...	...	...	3,919	12,000
Bureau of the Union		...	...	...	...	<u>3,266</u>	<u>10,000</u>
						15,906	48,700

(b) SPECIAL GRANTS (once only)

	Dollars	Gold Francs
Commission 12 (Solar spectrum tables)	1,960	6,000
„ 18 (Publication of longitude results 1933) ...	816	2,500
„ 19 (Publication of latitude results to the end of 1948)	2,613	8,000
„ 19 (Expenses of moving the central bureau to Turin))	327	1,000
„ 23 (Carte du Ciel))	6,859	21,000
„ 24 (Publication of 3rd edition of the Parallax Catalogue))	1,633	5,000
„ 27 (Charts of variable stars in the Southern Hemi- sphere))	261	800
„ 27 (Translation and printing of introduction to <i>Catalogue and Ephemerides...</i>))	261	800
Executive Committee—grant towards expenses of joint symposium of I.A.U. with the Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics)	3,266	10,000
	<u>17,996</u>	<u>55,100</u>

2. That until the next meeting the unit of subscription should be 500 gold francs.

(Signed) C. S. BEALS
President

(Signed) D. H. SADLER
Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee

The adoption of the report and the resolutions contained in it was moved by Dr Sadler; it was seconded by Dr Shapley, and carried without discussion.

The President said that among the resolutions proposed by the Executive Committee there was one implying a change of By-Laws. In order to promote the continuity in the Union affairs also at the time of a change of General Secretary, when both President and General Secretary retire at the same time, it was proposed that the retiring President and General Secretary remain members of the Executive Committee in a consultative capacity. This resolution would require at least two-thirds of the votes of the countries present. He proposed that this change of By-Laws be discussed at the present Assembly though it had not figured on the official agenda. As none of the countries objected, the resolution itself was put before the Assembly and carried without any opposing vote.

The other resolutions and recommendations proposed by the Executive Committee and by the various standing commissions which had been distributed to those present (see pp. 59–70) were then read.

The President said that as all resolutions had been amply discussed in the commissions concerned, he would move their adoption *en bloc*. The motion was carried without objection. The meeting was then adjourned to 14.30.

Meeting on August 18, 1948, 14.30, in the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule

The President announced that the resolutions of Commission 15 had become available too late to be read at the morning's meeting. These resolutions were now read and agreed to.

The President said that the next business of the Assembly was to elect the new President. He moved the election to this office of Prof. Lindblad, which was carried by acclamation. Following the proposals made in the morning's Assembly by the Executive Committee Profs. Ambartsumian and Struve were then elected as Vice-Presidents, and Prof. B. Strömgren as General Secretary.