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NEWS OF SOVIET METEOROLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

- USSR -

by A. N. Lebedev, A. G. Smirnov

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NEWS OF SOVIET METEOROLOGY AND HYDROLOGY

[This is a translation of two articles written by A. N. Lebedev and A. G. Smirnov, respectively, in *Meteorologiya i Gidrologiya* (Meteorology and Hydrology), No 9, Moscow, 1959.]

At the Main Geophysical Observatory imeni A. I.

Voyeykov

On 29 May 1959, at the Main Geophysical Observatory [GGO], a conference of the Scientific Council was held dedicated to the memory (on occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death) of the greatest scientist of the first half of the 19th century, Alexander Humboldt. At the Scientific Council conference, which was attended by the scientific community of GGO and other Leningrad institutes, close attention was paid to the reports by Academician A. A. Grigor'yev "The Scientific Significance of the Creative Work of A. Humboldt" and by Professor Ye. S. Rubinshteyn "To The Memory of Alexander Humboldt."

In his extensive and meaningful report, Academician Grigor'yev demonstrated the greatness of the scientific legacy of A. Humboldt, illuminated the methodological foundation of his scientific views, and presented a characterization of his most important studies in various fields of natural sciences -- geology, geography, meteorology, botany, etc. It was emphasized in the report that "Humboldt was one of the first of the great naturalists of the first half of the 19th century who consistently adhered to materialistic views on nature and who endeavored to make them a foundation of his studies and to propagate them in his works."

Professor Rubinshteyn dwelled in her report on a description of A. Humboldt's travels to tropical countries and to Russia and referred to the great significance of his lectures in the propagation of scientific knowledge. She gave a detailed description of the conditions under which he traveled in the territory of old Russia.

Professor M. I. Budyko, chairman of the Scientific Council, in his brief concluding remarks, pointed to the fact that the name of Alexander Humboldt was of particular significance to the Main Geophysical Observatory since he had contributed to its establishment.

In the Administration of the Hydrometeorological  
Service of the Estonian SSR

On 12-13 May 1959, at the Administration of the Hydrometeorological Service UGMS of the Estonian SSR, a conference was held on the subject of organizing a Hydrometeorological Foundation and of the status of hydrometeorological knowledge about the territory of the Estonian SSR and the adjacent sea. In addition to UGMS staff-members, representatives of manufacturing, planning, and scientific establishments and higher educational institutions of the Estonian SSR as well as of the Main Geophysical Observatory imeni A. I. Voyeykov took part in the work of the conference.

The following reports were read at the conference: "On the Activities and Problems of the Hydrometeorological Foundation of the UGMS of the Estonian SSR" by the chief of UGMS of the Estonian SSR, A. G. Smirnov, "On the Status of Hydrometeorological Knowledge of the Territory of the Estonian SSR and the Adjacent Sea", by the director of the Tallinn Hydrometeorological Observatory, E. P. Maaivere, and "Basic Tasks of Climatology in Connection with the Development of the National Economy of the USSR in the period 1959-1965" by Professor Ye. S. Rubinshteyn (GGO).

Brief reports on the state of scientific research work in the field of hydrometeorological thematics in the institutions which they represented were read by representatives of Tartu State University (TGU), the Institute of Physics and Astronomy (IFA), and the Institute of Construction and Construction Materials (ISiSM) of the Academy of Sciences Estonian SSR, the Estonian Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture and Land Improvement (ENIIZiM) of the Ministry of Agriculture Estonian SSR, and the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute (TPI).

Representatives of the Estonian Planning Body Estonproyekt, the Administration of the Fishing Industry of the Estonian Sovnarkhoz, and other organizations voiced grievances, in their speeches, against the Administration of the Hydrometeorological Service and scientific institutions of the Estonian SSR for inadequately publicizing existing data on hydrometeorological observations, for poor popularization of hydrometeorological knowledge, and for an insufficiently high level of scientific research work in the field of hydrometeorology in the republic.

Representatives of ENIIZiM and Estonproyekt made reference, in their speeches, to great difficulties in planning operations as the result of a paucity of observations on frost penetration of the soil, the sparse network of

hydrometric stations in lowland swamps, and the lack of developed drainage features, extending over a period of many years, throughout the republic.

The conference took note of the extensive work on hydrometeorological research accomplished by the scientific associates of TGU, IFA, and ISiSM of the Academy of Sciences Estonian SSR, ENIIZiM, and TPI.

In its resolution the conference recommended an acceleration of the realization of measures for the creation of the Hydrometeorological Foundation and for the organization of its normal function, an intensification of the study of the hydrometeorological regime of the territory of the Estonian SSR and the adjacent sea, an improvement in the coordination of scientific research work in hydrometeorology being performed by institutions of the Estonian SSR.

Many participants in the conference made reference to the positive significance of its convening and spoke of the necessity for conducting similar conferences in the future,

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