

at a price of one dollar, from the director, Dean Charles G. Maphis, University of Virginia.

The general results of the Institute would suggest that every state, and even every county, should maintain an institute of public affairs, after the manner of the old-fashioned farmers' institutes and of the present-day teachers' institutes, to the end that the electorate may more effectively accomplish its functions. Virginia's experiment furnishes a model that is subject to even further elaboration. For the 1928 meeting, indeed, the sponsors are already considering a conference of governors and addresses by nominees for the presidency.

MILTON CONOVER.

*Yale University.*

**Los Angeles Institute of Public Affairs.** The second Los Angeles Institute of Public Affairs, designed for persons interested in law and government, was held July 5-9. As was the case with the first Institute, held in the summer of 1926, the Institute this year was conducted in connection with the University of California summer session in Los Angeles and was sponsored by the political science department. The subjects dealt with at the Institute this year, both in formal lectures and in conferences, were in two general fields of interest, namely, state government and law. The following persons addressed the Institute and led the round-table discussions on state government: Hon. A. R. Heron, chairman of the California state board of control; Hon. William J. Cooper, superintendent of public instruction for the state of California; Mr. Clarence A. Dykstra, lecturer on municipal government in the University of California at Los Angeles; Professor W. W. Mather, of the Chaffey Junior College at Ontario, California; and Professor Russell M. Story, of Pomona College.

The subject of Mr. Heron's address was "The Reorganization of the Administrative Services of the State of California." The speaker noted that the reorganization of state administration in California now in progress is the outcome of many years of study in this as well as in other states. At the present time two principles are guiding the reorganization plans. "The first is that of grouping together in one department all functions which have organic relationship. The second is that of providing for the governor a group of advisors, nine in number, consisting of the directors of the main departments of government, who will constitute a council" which will meet with the governor in an advisory capacity and for consultation purposes. Mr. Cooper spoke

on "The Program of Administrative Reorganization and the State System of Education." He paid special attention to the California state constitutional amendment of 1913 which provided "two heads to the California school system, one an elected superintendent of public instruction, and the other a state board of education." In his opinion "a complete and thoroughgoing reorganization of the system will require the passage of a constitutional amendment either abolishing the state board of education or abolishing the superintendent of public instruction's office or subordinating one to the other." At the session of the Institute devoted to the subject, "Administrative Reorganization and a New Constitution for the State of California," Mr. Dykstra discussed the need of a new constitution and the difficulties encountered in attempting to revise the state fundamental law. Professor Mather compared the two constitutions which California has had and presented a tentative plan for constitutional reorganization. The conference addressed by Professor Story considered "The Organization and Functioning of the State Legislature." In the course of his remarks Professor Story suggested, among other things, that there should be developed in American democracy a more adequate technique than now exists whereby the public might be brought to a full realization of the fact that the ultimate responsibility for legislative inefficiency rests with the electorate.

Four sessions of the Institute were devoted to consideration of legal subjects. These sessions were in charge of Dean Roscoe Pound, of the Harvard Law School, who lectured twice and twice acted as conference leader. The subjects of the lectures were: "The Task of Civil Justice" and "The Materials and Methods of Judicial Decision." The subjects for the conferences were: "Problems of Judicial Organization and Administration" and "Problems of Legal Procedure."

Among other things Dean Pound said that, speaking generally, the task of civil justice is the harmonizing of human claims by their systematic evaluation and by decision upon and enforcement of them. More specifically, four tasks face civil justice if the broader goal is to be reached. These are: the settlement of individual disputes; the enforcement of duties; the discovery of safe pathways for the conduct of enterprises; and the making of rules for the guidance of individuals in their social relationships. In the course of his treatment of the materials and methods of judicial decision he stated that the three important elements of the law might be enumerated as follows: a number of legal precepts; a body of traditional ideas; and a group of philosophical, political, and

ethical ideas as to the end of the law. The last of these, he observed, is made up to a large extent of an idealized picture of the legal and political institutions of pioneer America. In the conferences Dean Pound stressed the steps which are under way to adapt judicial organization and administration so as to function more effectively in modern industrial and urban communities. He also gave considerable attention to the rule-making power of the courts, the selection of judges, and improvements in methods of instruction in law schools. He commended as forward steps the judicial council of California and the recent bar organization act.

The interest shown in this year's Institute, both by those connected with the University of California summer session in Los Angeles and by the general public, was exceptionally encouraging. Dr. C. G. Haines, chairman of the committee in charge, has announced that plans are under way for a third Institute during the summer of 1928.

ORDEAN ROCKEY.

*University of California at Los Angeles.*

**The Institute of Politics at Williamstown.** Between July 28 and August 25, the seventh session of the Institute of Politics was held at Williamstown. Said the executive secretary, Professor McLaren, at the beginning of the session: "New problems arising in the world, or problems of long standing entering upon new phases, present difficulties that require discussion. We have come to recognize that the United States has entered upon a new phase in its relations with the other members of the family of nations. Our power to produce goods and the consequent necessity to sell them almost equals that of all the rest of the world. This recent development has brought us face to face with a many-sided problem and if we are to solve it successfully we must take stock of our situation." This the Institute attempted to do through eight round-table conferences, of which five bore directly upon American interests and policies, supplemented by three lecture courses and five special addresses. The practice of holding general conferences, which has prevailed at previous sessions, was somewhat modified. Instead of considering certain special topics in general conference, each round-table leader held two general conferences for all members of the Institute, in which he summarized the most important features of his round-table.

Another novelty was the study of Latin America from a new angle. Hitherto this subject has been considered under the able leadership of the head of the Pan American Union. But this year Professor William R.