

2. Minutes of the 1952 Meeting of Maize Geneticists

The meeting of maize geneticists held at Cornell University (A.I.B.S. Meetings) on September 9, 1952, was attended by approximately 40 people. Discussion was centered around an agenda prepared by the Coordination Committee which had been appointed during the year by Dr. C. R. Burnham. A summary of the minutes of the previous meeting at Minneapolis in September, 1951, was read and discussed.

Dr. H. H. Smith, of Cornell University, gave a brief report on the present status of the Maize Genetics Cooperation. Maintenance of the Cornell stocks and their distribution are currently in the care of Miss Sherwood. Dr. Smith emphasized that after a long period of beneficent financing the Rockefeller Institute is withdrawing its support of the Cooperation this year (1953). Funds from this source are available only through June 30, 1953. While doubt was expressed concerning the source of funds to finance the maintenance and distribution of the Cornell stocks Dr. Smith reassured the group that there would be little difficulty in securing funds to finance the News Letter at Cornell.

Dr. M. M. Hoover gave a report on the status of the request submitted by the Illinois Station for funds from Research and Marketing 9B3, New Crops (North Central 7). The proposed project outlined the following objectives: (1) Maintenance and preservation of adapted genetic stocks; (2) Development of new combinations of testers; (3) Linkage determinations of unplaced genes; (4) Search for new genes. NC-7 funds could be applied legitimately to objective (1) above, involving maintenance and preservation of adapted genetic stocks. Mr. Hoover reported that the request for funds had been approved by the Technical Committee, NC7, at a meeting at Wooster, Ohio, August 25-26, 1952, and that the funds, \$2500 in amount, probably would be activated July 1, 1953.

Dr. M. M. Rhoades, in charge of the Illinois Program, reported that inventories of maize stocks would be solicited generally and that planting would be begun in 1953. It is intended to convert stocks to make them more adaptable. He announced that a copy of the project requesting funds from Research and Marketing would be sent to everyone on the roster of M.G.C.

Dr. E. G. Anderson raised the question of whether R. and M. funds could be employed for conversion of stocks. Dr. Hoover offered that these funds could legitimately support this activity. Dr. Rhoades indicated that additional funds to support the remaining objectives of the program would be sought at the University of Illinois.

Dr. Burdick raised the matter of the linkage assignments which had long ago been "farmed out" chromosome by chromosome to various maize geneticists. The general concensus seemed to be that this had proved a relatively unrewarding enterprise. In view of the absence of Dr. Burnham, who has in hand the data on the assignments, final action on this question was postponed until the next meeting.

Dr, Wright brought up for consideration the question of the status of the present Coordination Committee, and the floor was opened for nominations. A motion was made that the committee members be continued: Dr. Wright, Dr. Anderson, Dr. Eckhardt, Dr. Laughnan. Seconded by H. H. Smith and passed with no discussion.

Regarding the News Letter, Dr. E. G. Anderson commended Dr. Smith for the efficient manner in which he had handled the News Letter in the past, pointing out the great service which this publication renders to our group and to others and suggested that in view of lack of funds in the future to finance it a subscription fee of \$1 might be levied. Dr. Smith pointed out that funds are still available for 1953 publication but that editing may have to be done elsewhere than at Cornell. Dr. Rhoades indicated that a subscription fee would work an undue hardship on graduate students. Dr. Smith pointed out that he thought there would be no difficulty in financing the News Letter either at Illinois or at Cornell. It was agreed that there would be no current charge to Coop members for the News Letter. The News Letter topic was concluded with a strongly worded statement from Dr. Edgar Anderson who counseled upon the proper use and care of the publication.

The need for an up-to-date summary on maize linkages and for continuing work on this aspect of maize genetics was emphasized by Dr. E. G. Anderson.* The matter of a current linkage summary was referred to the committee for further consideration.

John R. Laughnan

*EDITOR'S NOTE: In regard to summaries on maize linkages it should be noted that the 1935 Summary of Emerson, Beadle, and Fraser is now available in limited numbers from the Department of Plant Breeding at Cornell. Moreover, the recent publication of J. Weijer in Bibliographic Genetica XIV (3-4) 1952 includes a compilation of maize genetic types as well as a complete bibliography.