



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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LAND ACQUISITION DIVISION
BEING FORMED IN BIOLOGICAL SURVEY--
DEFFENBACH HEADS NEW UNIT

Secretary of Agriculture Hyde has authorized the creation in the Bureau of Biological Survey of a new unit, effective July 1, to be known as the division of land acquisition. This new activity is authorized by an act of Congress, approved February 18, 1929, known as the Migratory-Bird Conservation Act. Its purpose is to meet more effectively the obligations of the United States under the Migratory-Bird Treaty with Great Britain by lessening the dangers threatening wild fowl from drainage and other causes, through the provision of areas of land and of water to furnish in perpetuity reservations for their adequate protection through acquisition by purchase, gift, or lease. The field of work will extend throughout the United States, including Alaska.

"In order to carry out the purposes of the Act," it was explained by Paul G. Redington, chief of the Biological Survey, "it is necessary to ascertain by examination of the numerous potential areas to be found throughout the United States those that are best adapted for refuges, to make appraisals in order to determine their character and value, and to conduct other activities incident to their acquisition with the funds made available by Congress from time to time.

"The units selected for migratory-bird refuges must be of such character as will best serve the purposes contemplated under the Act. Usually they will be more or less extensive areas of lowland, comprising marsh and woodland contiguous to or embracing water areas, or they may be areas that were formerly well suited as feeding and nesting grounds for migratory birds, but now useless

by reason of drainage developments or evaporation and subject to restoration to their natural conditions. The Migratory-Bird Conservation Commission created by the Act will consider and pass upon all lands recommended by the Biological Survey for acquisition for refuge purposes. The Secretary of Agriculture is Chairman of the Commission.

"In addition to having charge of the land acquisition under the Migratory-Bird Conservation Act, the new division will supervise all other land acquisition and cadastral survey activities of the Bureau of Biological Survey, including the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge and Bear River (Utah) Migratory Bird Refuge."

The new division of land acquisition will be directed by Rudolph Dieffenbach, senior land valuation engineer, who has been conducting work incident to the acquisition of lands on the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge and elsewhere for the Survey since 1925. Mr. Dieffenbach's experience on various phases of land work has extended over a period of more than twenty years. He entered the Forest Service in 1908 and shortly thereafter was detailed to District 4 where he was engaged during the major part of the time and up to 1912 in the classification of agricultural lands within national forests and on the relocating of national forest boundaries. From 1912 to 1920 he was in charge of the surveys of the boundaries of lands being acquired in District 7 under the Weeks law. From 1920 to 1925 he directed the examination and appraisal of lands being acquired by the United States under that act. In 1925 he was appointed forest valuation engineer in the Treasury Department, and after serving ten months in that capacity was transferred to the Bureau of Biological Survey to undertake the examination and appraisal of lands for the Upper Mississippi River Wild Life and Fish Refuge, and to conduct the negotiations for their acquisition. Mr. Dieffenbach was born at Westminster, Maryland, in 1884, and received his education in the Baltimore, Maryland, public schools, the Baltimore City College, and the Biltmore, N. C., Forest School, from which he received the degree of Bachelor of Forestry.