

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEARS 1921-1925

The following is a brief report on the campaign to increase the effectiveness of the Society and on other outstanding mathematical events of the last five years, together with an attempt to set forth some of the possibilities for the future.

### STATUS OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY IN 1921

In a quarter-century the Society had grown from a mere handful of mathematicians to a powerful organization of about 750 members, covering the United States and Canada. The faith and courage of its founders had been amply justified in the rise of American mathematics from a place among the beginners in research to one among the leading nations. No matter how much may be accomplished in the second quarter-century, progress cannot be expected to compare with that of such a dramatic period. The founding and support of two important journals and the establishment of the Colloquium Lectures were scientific events of the first importance. But the war had checked the growth of the Society and had raised ominous questions. Printing costs were soaring; the government, the industries, insurance, and the banks were drawing off some of the more promising of the younger well-trained mathematicians. The universities, struggling with greatly increased enrollments and hampered by depreciation of endowments, were calling on their faculties for increased hours of teaching.

### EFFORTS TO OVERCOME FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES

While the war had not been as disastrous to scientific endeavor in America as in many of the other countries involved, it left behind it acute problems. Since nearly the whole income of the Society is devoted to printing, the trebling of that cost seemed almost to spell disaster. The survival of the *TRANSACTIONS* was in question and a radical