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superseding manual labor by machines and discovering substances which can be used for destructive purposes. It would be a betrayal of the scientific movement if scientific workers failed to play an active part in solving the social problems which their contributions to natural knowledge have created.

The view that the sole function of science is the discovery and study of natural facts and principles without regard to the social implications of the knowledge gained, can no longer be maintained. It is being widely realized that science cannot be divorced from ethics or rightly absolve itself from the human responsibilities in the application of its discoveries to destructive purpose in war or economic disturbances in times of peace. Men of science can no longer stand aside from the social and political questions involved in the structure which has been built up from the ma-

terials provided by them, and which their discoveries may be used to destroy. It is their duty to assist in the establishment of a rational and harmonious social order out of the welter of human conflict into which the world has been thrown through the release of uncontrolled sources of industrial production and of lethal weapons.

Scientists must make their contribution to the evolution of a philosophy of world affairs in which the elements of competition among principalities or powers are brought into a more intelligent and coordinated scheme, which preserves man's moral and intellectual freedom while administering to his material needs. All that is noblest in the tradition of science should be used in an endeavor to bring order into the present chaos of man's activities and preserve for mankind as a whole the great heritage of truth, justice, toleration and liberty cherished as principles of scientific inquiry.

Science News Letter, December 24, 1938

ber of the sponsoring committee is Prof. Wesley C. Mitchell, Columbia University economist who is president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Prof. Franz Boas, former president of the AAAS and the dean of American anthropologists, is a member of the sponsoring committee, as is Prof. Urey. Others on the committee are Prof. Karl M. Bowman of New York University and director of the division of psychiatry of the New York City Department of Hospitals; Dr. John P. Peters of Yale University and secretary of the Committee of Physicians which has been battling the American Medical Association on behalf of group medical care. Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, director of Johns Hopkins University's Institute of the History of Medicine; Prof. D. J. Struik, Massachusetts Institute of Technology mathematician and editor of "Science and Society"; and Dr. Milton C. Winternitz, professor of pathology and former dean of the Yale Medical School.

Besides those named above, some of the prominent signers include Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Prof. Anton J. Carlson, University of Chicago physiologist; Prof. Clark Wissler, Yale University anthropologist and curator-in-chief of the department of anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History; Prof. Edwin G. Conklin of Princeton, past president of the AAAS and president of Science Service; and Prof. Walter B. Cannon of Harvard, co-chairman of the Medical Bureau and North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy.

Science News Letter, December 24, 1938

GENERAL SCIENCE

Group of Scientists Issue Anti-Fascist Manifesto

Three Nobel Prize Winners, 64 Academicians, and 85 College Presidents Among the 1,284 Signers

COUNTING among its 1,284 signers three Nobel prize winners, 64 members of the National Academy of Sciences and 85 college presidents, a ringing denunciation of Nazi and Fascist attacks on scientific freedom was issued by a committee of distinguished American men of science.

"We publicly condemn the Fascist position toward science . . . In the present historical epoch democracy alone can preserve intellectual freedom," the manifesto states.

Citing ruthless Nazi persecution of scientists—1600 teachers and scientists had been driven from their posts by the fall of 1936—the manifesto asserts that "any attack upon freedom of thought in one sphere, even as non-political a sphere as theoretical physics, is in effect an attack on democracy itself."

Persecution of Jews and "racial" theories of science, publication of one of which furnishes the occasion for this document, are condemned in no uncertain terms. "The racial theories which

they (the Fascists) advocate have been demolished time and again."

The three Nobel prize winners who are among the signers are Dr. Irving Langmuir, associate director of the General Electric Research Laboratory and chemistry prize winner in 1932; Prof. Robert A. Millikan, director of the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, California Institute of Technology and 1923 physics award recipient; and Prof. Harold C. Urey, Columbia University physical chemist honored with the 1934 chemistry prize for the discovery of heavy hydrogen.

The signers, who represent 167 universities and research institutes throughout the country, pledge themselves to bend their efforts to prevent themselves or America from suffering a similar fate.

The sponsoring committee and the list of signers itself are studded with the names of the noted figures of American science, including many present and former presidents of leading scientific societies. Among the signers and a mem-

MINERALOGY

Sodium Bicarbonate Found As a Natural Mineral

SODIUM bicarbonate, solace of dyspeptics and raiser of biscuits, has been found in thick deposits as a natural mineral, at depths below 300 feet under Searles Lake in California. The soda deposits are inter-layered with clay.

This is the first time that this chemical compound has been definitely identified as a naturally occurring mineral, states Dr. William F. Foshag, curator of mineralogy at the Smithsonian Institution. Hitherto it has been known only as a product of chemical manufacturing plants.

It is not regarded as very likely, for the present at least, that the new-found deposits will be commercially exploited.

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