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GENERAL SCIENCE

New World Federation Foreseen After War

AFTER the war, what? When and if aggression is curbed, when and if exhausted, war-torn peoples go back to peaceful life, the problems of a disordered world will be far from solved.

Even in the midst of nations at war, scientists and others are giving much attention to the future task of making a peace that will be likely to endure. In this country the urgency for action by scientists is less acute, but plans are underway and ideas are being put forth and explored. Particularly a real effort is in the making to cement together the scientific resources and progress of all the American republics.

Only secondary in importance to the fighting of the war itself is the preparation for war's aftermath of innumerable social and economic problems, foreseen by the leading British science journal, *Nature*. The penalty for failure to solve these post-war problems is seen as the collapse of civilization.

"There can be no more peace or safety on earth without a profound reconstruction of the methods of human living," H. G. Wells has said. This sentiment is obtaining support among scientists, the British especially. The world is seen moving toward a collectivism of some sort, a league or federation.

Lest civilization crumble away, it is urged that there must be a genuine attempt to realize world-wide plenty and safety through a federation of mankind. Free and unfettered discussion, simple and sincere, would be necessary to determine how this might be obtained. This is perhaps mankind's most essential job for the future.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1939

GENERAL SCIENCE

Manifesto Proposes New International Order

IN AN England at war, scientists have been doing some faster and harder thinking on the state of the world, during and after the present war. A manifesto signed by some 57 members of the Royal Society, among them Sir Richard Gregory, Prof. Lancelot Hogben, Sir John Orr, Prof. A. J. Clark, Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, and the Bishop of Birmingham, points out that the "progress of science and its application to human well-being are threatened by the prevailing anarchy of interna-



tional relations." (*Nature*, October 21.)

A new international order, going far beyond the League of Nations in its claims on individual nations, is advocated. At the end of the war all nations prepared to renounce war between themselves would unite under a federal

government, which would have power to use armed force against aggression, control raw materials of undeveloped territories, undertake the education of backward communities without racial discrimination.

Science News Letter, November 25, 1939

the war, and this, as well as the workers engaged in those industries, will have to find other utilization.

British industry has at present a considerable reserve of trained personnel in the German, Austrian and Czech scientists who have sought refuge in Great Britain. They have so far been employed in their particular lines of work only to a slight extent.

During the last war it was a "non-Aryan" chemist, Dr. Fritz Haber, who enabled Germany to fight a prolonged war by his development of a synthetic process for the manufacturing of ammonia and nitrates, essential in the manufacture of explosives. Haber died in Switzerland, an exile from Nazi Germany. The Nazis will miss the many other Habers they have sent into exile, when faced with inevitable shortage.

Have scientists any surprises in store in the present war? Faced with this question, Prof. Philip smiled and replied: "It is not a question that I could very well answer; however, this much I can say: during the last war it was the chemist who produced some of the most unpleasant innovations, such as the use of the poison gases. It may be the physicists' turn now."

Science News Letter, November 25, 1939

GENERAL SCIENCE

British Scientists Will Not Be Wasted in This War

Research Workers Considered in Reserved Occupations And Will Not Be Permitted To Sacrifice Themselves

By DR. VICTOR COFMAN

Science Service London Correspondent

BBRITISH scientists have been indexed and classified, but not regimented.

A voluntary register, containing upward of 80,000 names, has been prepared, giving qualifications and type of work for which the specialists are best fitted.

This register was begun by the Royal Society and by various scientific and technical associations and has now been taken over and amplified by the National Service Department of the Ministry of Labour. It is available to the War Department who notify their requirements for trained personnel to appropriate Committees in charge of the register. Industrialists in need of specially trained men can also apply.

"British science is in a very much stronger position now than in 1914, especially as regards the number of trained men," Prof. J. C. Philip, told me. He is acting head of the Imperial College of Science and Technology of the University of London and chairman of the Industrial Chemistry Section of the Central Register of Scientists.

Although there is a surplus over present requirements, nevertheless the government has decided not to repeat the mistake of 1914 when brilliant young scientists were allowed to join the fighting forces indiscriminately. Physicists still remember with regret the loss of Moseley, whose brilliant career in X-ray research was cut short at Gallipoli.

Scientists and research workers are considered to be in reserved occupations and those not engaged in war work may continue their usual activities. At the same time, while full freedom is allowed to the individual, steps have been taken to inform research workers of the type of urgent problems that await solution. Some of these are of long duration, others have arisen since the war.

The "blackout" has called for scientific development. For instance, more effective phosphorescent substances were needed for use in underground shelters. Suitable "light filters" that would allow daylight in while preventing artificial light from passing outwards are being sought. Similarly gasoline restrictions make important devices for increasing miles per gallon, and alternative types of fuel are being exploited.

The Chemical Society has formed an advisory Research Council under the chairmanship of Sir Robert Robinson, to advise research workers in universities and other research institutions concerning general war problems needing investigation.

Another set of problems, which for the time being are left to the initiative of unofficial groups like Political and Economic Planning and the Engineers' Study Group, are those likely to arise at the end of the war. Large surplus capacity for the production of light metals, explosives, etc., will exist at the end of

● Earth Trembles

Information collected by Science Service from seismological observatories resulted in the location by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey of the following preliminary epicenter:

Monday, November 13, 2:45.8 a.m., EST

Near Lake Cashman, in Washington, southwest of Mt. Ellinor. Latitude, 47 degrees, 33 minutes north. Longitude, 123 degrees, 16 minutes west.

Tuesday, November 14, 9:53.8 p.m. EST

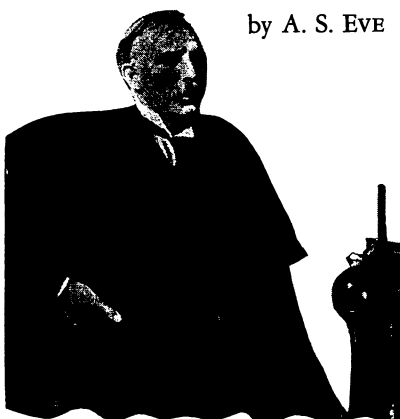
In New Jersey, 15 miles southeast of Wilmington, Del. Latitude 39 degrees, 45 minutes north. Longitude, 75 degrees, 18 minutes west.

For stations cooperating with Science Service, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Jesuit Seismological Association in reporting earthquakes recorded on their seismographs, see SNL, Oct. 28.

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