



TO STUDY VALUE OF INVENTIONS

Harris and Ewing

First meeting of the new National Inventors Council, which will serve the nation by examining inventions for their possible usefulness in the present emergency.

INVENTIONS

National Inventors Council To Serve as Clearing House

TO ACT as a clearing house for America's inventive genius, the National Inventors Council has been created by the government to serve in the present emergency somewhat the same function that the Naval Consulting Board did during the first World War.

The new council of 12 has been organized by Secretary of Commerce Harry Hopkins with the cooperation of Commissioner of Patents Conway P. Coe. It will have offices in the Department of Commerce Building and will be closely related to the Patent Office but not a part of it. Dr. Charles F. Kettering of the General Motors Corporation is chairman.

At the first meeting of the council plans were made to give prompt consideration to any volunteer suggestions that are received. As the military and other government services need problems tackled, it is contemplated that the council will call such needs to the attention of inventors likely to achieve the desired results.

Much of the work of the new council necessarily will be secret.

In addition to Chairman Kettering, the members of the National Inventors Council are: Dr. George Baekeland, vice-president of Bakelite Corp.; Conway P. Coe, U. S. Commissioner of Patents; Dr. William D. Coolidge, director of General Electric Research Laboratories; Watson Davis, director of Science Service; Frederick M. Feiker, dean of George Wash-

ington University School of Engineering; Dr. Webster N. Jones, director of College of Engineering, Carnegie Institute of Technology; Lawrence Langner, patent lawyer, New York City; Dr. Thomas Midgley, vice president of Ethyl Gasoline Corp.; Dr. Fin Sparre, director of research, du Pont Corp.; Dr. Orville Wright, Dayton, Ohio; Fred M. Zeder, vice-president in charge of engineering of Chrysler Corp.

Science News Letter, August 17, 1940

MINING

War Spurs Canadian Hunt for Minerals

THE CANADIAN government is sending out 170 men in 37 geological, topographical survey and exploratory parties this summer to roam the Dominion in every mineral-producing province, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

In view of Canada's wartime mineral requirements, particular attention is being given to investigations in connection with such minerals as have direct bearing on the war effort. The work of the Geological and Topography Bureau of the Department of Mines and Resources is largely directed toward the extension of the gold mining industry which provides foreign credits now so essential, and toward an evaluation of the resources in petroleum, an increased domestic supply of which is necessary for

wartime needs and to limit dependence on foreign sources. Investigations will also be made of deposits of the so-called war minerals, such as chromium, manganese, molybdenum and tungsten, which are of particular importance in the production of arms and munitions.

While the geological survey and exploratory parties will be largely spread throughout Canada and the Far North, the topographical survey work will be devoted entirely to surveys in the foothills district of Alberta which is now of importance as a potential source of petroleum supplies.

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CHEMISTRY

Synthetics Recommended For Making War Materials

WAR MATERIALS can be made from synthetic resins or plastics produced through use of raw materials which abound within the continental limits of the United States, it is indicated by a survey reported in *Modern Plastics* (August).

Already used in telephones, radios, electrical devices, automobiles, spectacles, film, surgical instruments, airplanes, guns, gas masks, and other things useful in peace and war, more extensive use of plastics is suggested to relieve pressure on other materials.

The chief raw materials consumed in the plastics industry can be derived from a few natural substances such as air, water, coal, petroleum crudes, salt, sulfur, cellulose and limestone. All these raw materials are easily obtained.

Phenolic resin, the most familiar of the plastics, accounts for 29% of the 1939 production. This resin is made from two disinfectants, carbolic acid and formaldehyde. Cellulose acetate is next in production with 25.6%, followed by cellulose nitrate with 19.7%. Other resins are: Urea, 10.9%; vinyl, 6.7%; casein, 5.3%; acrylic, 2.1%; polystyrene, 0.3%.

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RADIO

Jack Price, photographic columnist of *Editor and Publisher*, and author of "News Photography and News Pictures" will discuss Military Photography, as guest speaker on "Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, Thursday, Aug. 22, 4:00 p.m., EDST, 3:00 EST, 2:00 CST, 1:00 MST, 12:00 PST.

Listen in on your local station. Listen in each Thursday.