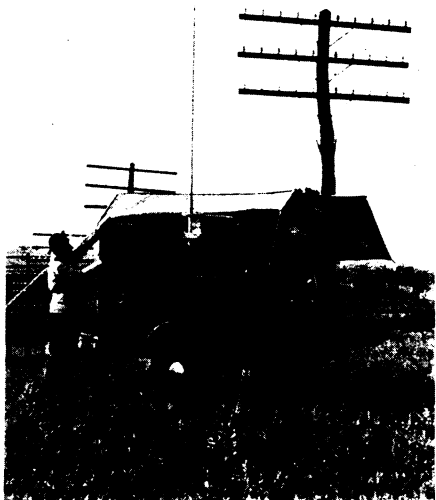


MANPOWER

# Laws Need Change

Government research agent charges that war work is hampered by workmen's compensation laws and attitudes toward physically handicapped.



**TRAILER**—This emergency outfit can easily be moved to any point where telephone communication wires are broken, completing vital circuits by radio.

canes, sleet, flood and fire during the past few years.

Anticipating such needs, the units are moved about the country on a seasonal basis.

"For example, during the hurricane season more equipments may be held in readiness along the Atlantic and Gulf Coast areas," Dr. Bailey said, "while during the winter months these same equipments have new locations in the sleet belt."

Today, with the United States at war, mobile radio telephone units stand ready to reach vulnerable points within a few hours. They can restore communications that could not be quickly linked by any other means.

*Science News Letter, January 23, 1943*

## ● RADIO

Saturday, January 30, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. William J. Morse, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will discuss "Soya Beans as a Food Part."

Monday, January 25, 9:15 a.m., EWT; 2:30 p.m., CWT; 9:30 a.m., MWT; and 1:30 p.m., PWT

Science at Work, School of the Air of the Americas over the Columbia Broadcasting System, presented in cooperation with the National Education Association, Science Service and Science Clubs of America.

"Big Fleas Have Little Fleas" will be the subject of the program.

➤ RECRUITMENT of labor for war production plants is being seriously interfered with and available labor is being inefficiently used because of faults in workmen's compensation laws in some states and the attitude of some employers toward the physically handicapped, Terry Foster, research agent for the vocational rehabilitation division of the U. S. Office of Education, charged at the Congress on Industrial Health sponsored by the American Medical Association in Chicago.

Changes in the laws and in employers' attitudes, he declared, will contribute now to the war effort and greatly facilitate the rehabilitation of the war injured. There will be one hundred thousand of the latter for each year of our participation in the war, he stated. In addition to this there is a constant pool, in peace time, of two million who are unemployed because of physical disability.

Employers should realize, he stated, that a disabled worker properly matched with a job is a safer risk than a physically normal worker improperly matched.

He urged changing present compensation laws so that they will really be compensation laws and not merely employers' liability laws. They should not only protect the employer and compensate the disabled worker but encourage and give him an incentive to rehabilitate himself.

Benefits allowed at present under some laws are so small that the worker may have to use all his compensation to pay for medical care for his injury, leaving nothing for rehabilitation for working again. As a result he is thrown on his family or the taxpayers, to be supported for the rest of his life. Second injury clauses, providing that management must be liable for the total results of a second injury which might run to total permanent disability and be prohibitively costly, are an effective barrier to the worker's reemployment in many cases.

Even in states where benefits are more nearly adequate, there is no encouragement to the worker to rehabilitate himself or any penalty for his failure to do

so. As a result, Mr. Foster charged, many workers are simply pauperized by the laws.

*Science News Letter, January 23, 1943*

## Social Security Blamed

➤ SOCIAL security and labor organizations which force a vast and increasing army of older workers to idleness and to charity disguised under the name of old age pensions were vigorously denounced by Prof. Anton Carlson, of the University of Chicago at the Congress of Industrial Health.

As a labor union carpenter and farm hand before going to college and entering on a career as medical scientist, Dr. Carlson said he spoke with experience and knowledge of all sides of the question. The labor organization or union philosophy of equal hourly wage for all workers in each special trade must, he said, share part of the blame for the discarding of older workers by management and for the destruction of morale and satisfaction in working of the superior worker who is held to the level of the mediocre worker.

Social security for the aging population, he declared, is all right in principle, but it should take the form of labor for which these people are capable, and not the form of pay for doing nothing. It is a sad reflection on education and no sign of intelligent planning if men and women over 60 have neither the opportunity nor training to do some work of value to themselves and society.

"By keeping in idleness older workers who can still perform useful labor," he charged, "we are not only wasting valuable human resources, but we are contributing to biologic parasitism in and degeneration of human society. Man is no exception to the biologic law that existence without effort and without struggle impairs the species."

*Science News Letter, January 23, 1943*

A double line of eggs reaching from the earth to the moon: that was not the total U. S. egg production in 1942, but merely the increase over previous years.