

carbides and some other carbides cemented together with cobalt have revolutionized the machining of metals.

"Synthetic rubbers have been developed, which, in certain respects, surpass natural rubber," Mr. Black declared. "Production of these rubbers has reached a point sufficient to take care of all domestic requirements under ordinary conditions; no longer are we dependent

on imported rubber. Entirely new plastics have appeared, each with its own special characteristics, some having exceptional clearness resembling crystal, others can stand temperatures that run far beyond boiling point of water. Plastics, reinforced with glass threads, are being used experimentally for airplane construction."

Science News Letter, December 2, 1944

ENGINEERING

Should Stay on the Job

Regardless of their understandable desire to fight, technical men are urged to remain on the industrial and research fronts where they are most needed.

➤ YOUNG technical men, regardless of their understandable desire to fight, must not be siphoned off to the armed forces but must remain where they are most needed—on the industrial and research fronts. This is one of the great lessons learned in the present war and it must not be forgotten in the future, declared Col. Bradley Dewey, former U. S. Rubber Director, at a joint meeting of the American Section of the Society of Chemical Industry and the New York sections of the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

At this meeting, Col. Dewey was awarded the annual Chemical Industry Medal in recognition of his work in colloid chemistry, especially pertaining to rubber, and for his accomplishments in the government's synthetic rubber production program.

In accepting the Chemical Industry Medal, Col. Dewey spoke on the role of organized research and business in American national defense.

"How was it possible," he asked, "for this peace-loving nation to leap from a standing start into a global war and to surpass quickly in both volume and quality the material of war which our dictator enemies had spent years in scheming, planning and producing? It was possible, I think, because American free enterprise in time of peace had given us for the time of war the needed teamwork of scientists and technical men and business men which was able to work the miracles of large scale."

Col. Dewey, speaking of the synthetic rubber program, gave credit to the work of government agencies, the Baruch Committee and the experts of the Office of the Rubber Director, all of which, he

said, had made valuable contributions. "But, when all is said and done," he continued, "the actual work—the job itself—was done by the research chemists and chemical engineers, the mechanical engineers, the construction and production men of industry."

Most of these men were working in teams in the laboratories and organizations of large units of American business, he said.

"I emphasize that the big job," he said, "was done by men with background and experience gained on their jobs with big chemical companies, big rubber companies, big oil companies and big engineering and construction companies."

"Thanks to the American competitive system, we had men of resource and intellectual daring, trained and fitted to cope with the new and ever-changing problems of war. We had men out of laboratories and offices accustomed to facing real problems realistically."

We who know the part that business men, scientists and engineers have played in this technological war must see that the lessons are not forgotten, he declared; "the government itself must in the future accept the full responsibility for seeing to it that our vitally needed young technical men . . . remain where they are most needed, on the industrial and research fronts."

Dr. Vannevar Bush, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, preceded the medalist on the program and presented some of the scientific and technical accomplishments of Col. Dewey. Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, spoke on the medalist's part in educational matters.

Science News Letter, December 2, 1944

AGRICULTURE

Buy Cotton by Variety, Is Advice of Experts

➤ THE VARIETY of cotton is important in buying cotton for specific uses, as the spinning value depends mainly on the crop variety, U. S. Department of Agriculture experts report. The spinning quality and strength of the yarn are likely to be about the same, irrespective of weather. Dry weather, which shortens the fibers, usually makes them stronger.

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