

PHYSICS

Atom Bomb Benefits

Can be reaped right away, without waiting for atomic power. Will flow from new engineering principles, new equipment and new methods.

► AMERICAN industry and science can begin reaping the benefits of large-scale atom-splitting right now, without having to wait for the development of atomic power, A. L. Baker, general manager of the Kellogg Corporation of Oak Ridge, Tenn., declared at a press conference in New York. These benefits will flow from the new engineering principles, new equipment and new methods which had to be used under the forced draft of war to produce the atomic bomb in time for use as a weapon.

Some of the beneficial by-products of the work on large-scale atom-splitting enumerated by Mr. Baker are:

Cheaper, more abundant sources of radioactivity for the treatment of cancer.

Improved methods for combating industrial hazards due to presence of poisonous substances.

High-vacuum, low-temperature dehydration of foods.

Improvements in vacuum distillation for the production of vitamins.

Better heat exchangers, new methods of separating gasoline fractions and more efficient mass-spectrum analysis for the petroleum industry.

New electronic techniques in high vacua for the electrical industry.

More efficient gas pumps; some of these, developed for this project, can deliver a stream of gas at a velocity greater than that of sound.

All told, about 5,000 new and improved products and procedures are now

available to American industry, awaiting only governmental release for volume production, Mr. Baker stated. He especially emphasized the improvements that have been made in pumps, and declared that in 20 years the benefits accruing from this one source alone would probably be worth the outlay of \$2,000,000,000 made by the government for the whole atomic bomb project.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

AERONAUTICS

New Advanced Plane For Private Flying

► WITH deliveries expected to be made soon, Stinson's new four-place Voyager 150 will be among the first postwar personal planes in the \$5,000 bracket to take to the air.

Typical of America's new peacetime light planes, the Voyager's 150 horsepower Franklin air-cooled engine makes possible top speeds of 133 miles an hour, 14,000 foot service ceiling, rate of climb at 770 feet a minute and a range of 500 miles at 125 miles per hour.

Capable of landing on a 230 foot field, it has complete contact flight instruments so arranged that additional instruments may be installed by those who contemplate night flying or flights solely by instrument.

A recent survey made of private plane operators indicate that among the additional instruments mostly in demand are two-way radios, directional gyros, drift indicators and turn and bank indicators,

as well as audible stall warnings, level flight and flap adjustment instruments.

With more planes in the sky, the next few years will probably see less of the "hit and miss" prewar flying and private plane owners, operating under strict navigation regulations, may be under constant control of ground stations.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

ENGINEERING

Automotive Council To Be Dissolved

► THE AUTOMOTIVE Council for War Production, after nearly four years of activity in the war effort, will soon be dissolved, it is announced by Alvan Macauley, its president. The reason is that the need for this voluntary organization of 654 manufacturing companies no longer exists now that the war is over.

This organization was created soon after Pearl Harbor to pool the mass-productive know-how of all the American manufacturers of motor vehicles, together with makers of trailers, bodies, automotive parts and accessories, and the major producers of automotive tools and dies, jigs and fixtures, and special purpose machinery.

At the time of the organization of the council it was agreed to dissolve when the war was over. It was created, according to Mr. Macauley, "for the purpose of arming our country more effectively for its deadly competition with the Axis enemies.

"We pledged," he said, "that the total productive power of this competitive industry would be applied, on a voluntarily cooperative basis, to the huge task of winning the war as quickly as possible."

Science News Letter, September 29, 1945

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