

speak will always be as clear as they can be, plenty of folks will understand. New words are not a bother whenever new ideas are reused as the vital things for which new words exist.

Science News Letter, July 19, 1947

OCEANOGRAPHY

Longest Mountain Range To Be Explored by Boat

► THE WORLD'S longest mountain range, that extends almost from pole to pole, is about to be systematically explored for the first time—and by boat. Thus far, men have had knowledge of its existence, but no one has actually seen more than its highest peaks.

This range is almost wholly under water, very close to midline of the Atlantic ocean; it is known as the Atlantic ridge. Top peaks are such islands as the Azores and Ascension.

The exploration will be conducted by an expedition in the research ship *Atlantis*, owned by the Oceanographic Institution of Woods Hole. Prime objective is to learn whether there are deep, eroded canyons in the flanks of the ridge. The expedition will also endeavor to learn the depth of its covering mantle of silt and obtain samples of this bottom material.

Science News Letter, July 19, 1947



MUD-DIGGING—To trap samples of ocean mud, this 10-foot long steel tube (behind middle man) is dropped over the side of the ship and plummets into the ocean bed through the pressure of an 850-pound lead weight (between middle and right men). A cross-section of sediment fills the tube, which then is hoisted to the deck.

NUTRITION

World Must Double Food

International cooperation is necessary and possible, states one of leading authorities on the world food problem. Prices must be stabilized.

► WORLD FOOD production will have to be doubled within the next 25 years, declared Sir John Boyd Orr, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It looks like a large order, but it can and will be done, he predicted.

Sir John, who is one of the world's foremost agricultural economists, spoke as the guest of Watson Davis, director of Science Service, on *Adventures in Science over the Columbia Broadcasting System*.

The alternative to bringing everybody in the world up to the American level of nutrition is not pleasant to contemplate, Sir John asserted: "Two world wars and a world depression are just a mild shake-up compared with what we are in for unless we can solve the fundamental problems of industry, agriculture and trade on a world scale."

The speaker was confident that a program of international cooperation to increase food supplies is possible even though international action in certain other fields has been having its difficulties. For one thing, he pointed out,

this program will be based on facts and not on theories, and it is in the interest of everyone to see it succeed.

Preparations for such a program have already been started, and will be the subject of a conference of the FAO at Geneva next month.

Sir John outlined the steps that will be recommended:

"A Preparatory Commission of 17 nations was set up some months ago to study long-term world food proposals made by FAO last summer. Their report makes strong recommendations for a world-wide agricultural and industrial development program such as we have been discussing, plus international commodity arrangements to stabilize the prices of major agricultural products in the world market.

"That latter provision is intended both to protect consumers from too high prices in a period of shortage and to safeguard producers in a period of so-called surplus by helping to prevent the kind of slump that ruined agriculture between the two world wars. Under these proposals, reserves of certain foodstuffs would be built up to prevent famine and to be used in other ways to meet human needs, and farmers in the high producing countries would have an assured market at steady prices.

"The whole program would be under the general guidance of an advisory body to be known as the World Food Council, or Council of the Food and Agricultural Organization, which would keep an eye pretty continuously on the world food situation and be prepared to meet problems as they arose. The actual operation of the program would be up to the individual governments—but the machinery would be provided through which they could work constantly together."

Science News Letter, July 19, 1947

"Distillers feeds" are grain-yeast feeds resulting from the processing of grain by a distillery; in the production of spirits from grain only the starch is removed, with the proteins, fats and minerals remaining, further enriched by yeast used in the fermentation.