

GENERAL SCIENCE

Fate of Nobel Prizes Doubtful, Under Nazis

Science Academies in Lands Still Free Might Unite To Keep Long Tradition Unbroken, Is One Suggestion

WILL THE awarding of Nobel prizes continue in Nazi-dominated Scandinavia?

Swedish institutions administer these famous prizes in physics, chemistry, medicine and physiology and literature, while a special committee of the Norwegian Storting or parliament awards the Nobel peace prize.

With German troops in control of Norway, there is no possibility of the awarding of a peace prize, to be presented with appropriate ceremonies next December 10, Alfred Nobel's birthday. Herr Hitler is not in favor of the kind of peace the prizes represent. He has not liked Nobel prizes since the peace prize for 1935 was awarded to Carl von Ossietzky, the German journalist, then held by the Nazis in a concentration camp.

Presumably science is being carried on as best it may in Sweden, hemmed in by Nazi and Soviet invaded or dominated territory. Swedish scientists are thinking first of military defense, just as British scientists have in recent months given primary attention to making the British Isles safe from invasion.

Nominations for this year's Nobel prizes in the sciences and literature were submitted to prize-awarding institutions in Stockholm by January 31 if the usual practice was not upset by war conditions. Previous Nobelists are among those who make such proposals to the awarding bodies. The Swedish Academy of Science awards the prizes for physics and chemistry. The Caroline Medico-Surgical Institute of Stockholm awards the prize for physiology and medicine. The Swedish Academy awards the prize for literature.

From time to time some one or more of the Nobel prizes for a given year are not awarded. The way out for 1940 may be the "reserving" of all the prizes. Probably in present circumstances the funds that yield the equivalent of some \$200,000 a year for the monetary awards that accompany the honors are none too safe.

In the last 40 years (the first Nobel prize was awarded in 1901) over \$5,000,000 has been distributed in Nobel prize awards as a consequence of the bequest of Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite.

If the Nobel prize committees because of war conditions find that they can not operate, some temporary arrangements in the New World might be made to keep alive this great custom. The list of Nobelists is a singularly successful roster of scientific, literary and humanitarian immortals.

Nobelists in free countries might band together to aid the Nobel prize-awarding organizations carry on. The National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of London might lend their support to assuring an unbroken tradition, come what may.

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ENGINEERING

"Let It Sag" Solves Heavy Rotor Troubles

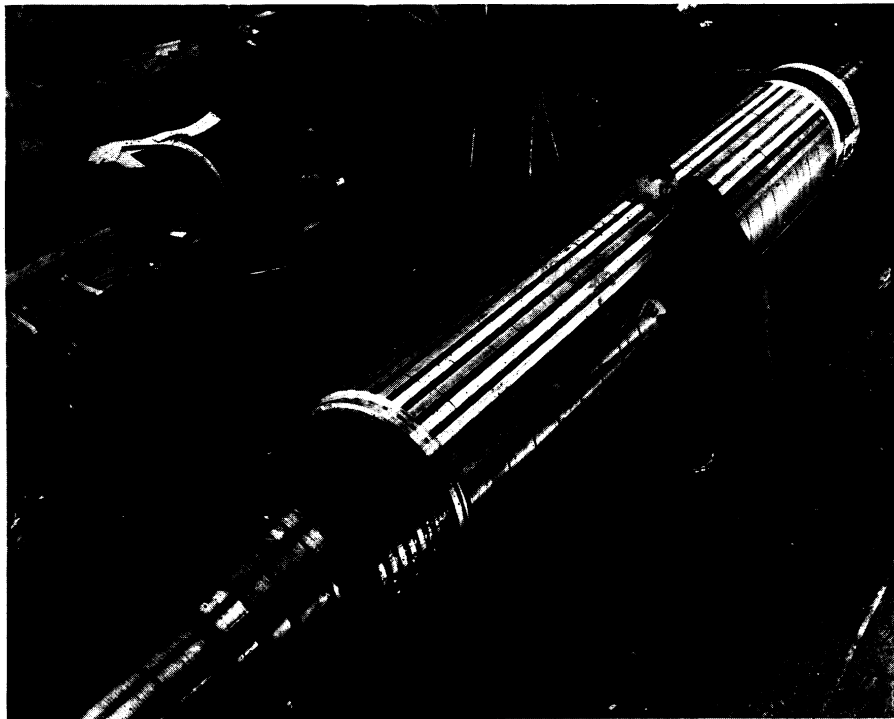
BY LETTING them have their own way, Westinghouse engineers have overcome troubles that arose in heavy machines such as rotors of large, turbine-operated generators.

The big rotors, although made of steel, are so heavy that they sag about fifteen thousandths of an inch. This would not be troublesome if it remained the same, but it was found that the sag changed. The rotor was stiffer in one position than after it had made a quarter of a turn. Thus, when spinning 3600 times a minute, it shivered up and down, producing excessive wear.

The remedy was to cut additional slots, so that it would sag in all positions. The surrounding parts are designed to take care of this, and the trouble has been eliminated.

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Although Japan's relations with England are generally said to have begun in the nineteenth century, an English pilot, William Adams, reached Japan in a Dutch merchantman in 1600 and became diplomatic adviser to a Japanese official and married a Japanese woman.



SLOTTED FOR SAGGING

Instead of fighting the tendency of long rotors to sag, the trick now is to let them go ahead and do it, controlling heretofore troublesome vibrations by judiciously placed crosswise slots.