

METALLURGY

Steel as Good as Sweden's Best Can Be Made in Texas

Location of Wood Distillation Plants Near Deposits Of Iron Would Provide the Charcoal Needed for Steel

STEEL smelted with charcoal in the Swedish way, and as good as Sweden's best, is an American product fostered by wartime changes in the world's industrial setup, Dr. Donald F. Othmer, of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, disclosed.

Swedish steelmakers have always favored the use of charcoal in smelting because the absence of sulfur and other impurities from charcoal resulted in a very pure, high-grade metal. The Nazi war-lords have taken advantage of their position to monopolize all of Sweden's export production, and they may yet overrun Sweden itself. So we are getting no more Swedish steel.

At the same time, war-stimulated demands for two of the principal chemical products of wood, acetic acid and methanol (wood alcohol) have caused a great increase in their production by the American wood distillation industry. By-product of wood distillation is a very high grade of charcoal, excellently suited for quality steel production.

In northeastern Texas there is a great

deposit of iron ore that has not been worked hitherto because it is too remote from supplies of coking coal. But all over the region there are forests of post oak, of little value for lumber but very good for wood distillation, and of course yielding high-grade charcoal.

By establishing one or more wood distilling plants in that region, it will become possible to turn out new supplies of the war-needed chemicals, and at the same time to convert part of the now neglected iron ore into the finest steel.

A somewhat similar thing is happening on the Pacific coast. There, a plant belonging to one of the major oil companies, built to convert natural gas into ammonia for explosives and fertilizer, had accumulated a veritable mountain of gas coke, that piled up on the premises simply because there was little market for it in pre-war days. This coke is almost pure carbon, free of sulfur and practically ashless. It is now being converted into briquets, with the high-grade steel market clamoring for them faster than they can be loaded and shipped.

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PSYCHIATRY

Mass Neurosis Revealed In Nazi Scientific Journals

Selections from Supposedly Scientific Journals Reveal Pathology; Vast Mental Hygiene Program Needed

WAR neuroses among Nazi soldiers are treated by sentencing the offenders to hard labor, as close to the front lines as possible.

In German schools, young boys suspected of homosexual trends are first publicly disgraced, then isolated.

These are not rumors. They are the recommendations made by German psychologists and medical men, and published in their own scientific journals. Thirty-five such quotations, culled by Dr. Eugene Lerner of the Psychology Department at Sarah Lawrence College,

may be found in the current issue of the *Journal of Psychology*, (April, 1942).

These German quotations reveal a serious condition of mental and emotional disorder, Dr. Lerner believes.

"If pathological thinking of this sort can make its appearance with such frequency in professional, supposedly scientific journals, then the mental health of the community must indeed be in jeopardy," he said.

Immediate action by scientists was urged by Dr. Lerner to plan the gigantic mental hygiene program that will be

necessary in Nazi-terrorized and Nazi-indocrinated countries after the war.

Dr. Lerner asks his readers what they would think of the state of public mental health in this country, if they read such statements as the following in our own scientific journals:

"All are carried away with the intoxicating conquest of Europe. The era is one of exuberant excitement. Cultural activities are clothed in ecstasy and removed from the scientific and abstract. The duty of education is to foster and guide adolescent ecstasy."

"Objective truth is less important than cultural stimulation."

"The convention held by our national Psychological Association proved its willingness to follow the conditions prescribed by the Party for every science."

"The topics were strictly empirical, with no scientific . . . experimental, or psychoanalytic investigations."

"Mathematics should be taught, not as a 'general' reality, but primarily in relation to present political . . . life."

"Propensity to specific crimes is inherited." (*Z. pädag. Psychol.*)

"Slums are caused by delinquent inhabitants, not vice versa." (*M Schr. Krim. Biol.*)

"About half the workers who report sick are pure neurotics."

"If the man in mental difficulties cannot find his way through his immediate relationship to God, the Party takes up the task, and here German psychotherapy can help. All Germans—from artists to officers—are born psychologists and teachers in this new calling." (*Zbl. Psychother.*)

In analyzing these and other quotations, Dr. Lerner found the following abnormal personality trends:

1. Excessively dependent attitude, shown in over-valuation of the strength of other individuals, notably the Fuhrer. This indicates "a marked feeling of helplessness and infantile self-devaluation."

2. Compensating for this basic helplessness, sadistic aggression is equally conspicuous, with a great need for superiority and domination; grandiose self-exaltation as a member of the elect, "Nordic" group; and a tendency to put the blame on others which reaches psychopathic proportions in the intensity of hatred toward "Jews, communists, democracies", etc.

3. Other regressive, or infantile, traits include the need for obsessively rigid rules and regulations; the insistence on "joy and ecstasy" and pathological hatred of anything rational or scientific.

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