



"In Terra Pax"

★ PEACE ON EARTH, yearned for all the more now that we are bitterly scourged with its evil opposite, will come abidingly to men of good will only if that good will extends to more than mankind. Too much and too long have we been accustomed to giving thought to peace as something concerning only ourselves, as if it were a privilege of an aristocracy with membership limited strictly to the human race. We must make our striving towards peace much more ambitious.

We may find a hint of both the extent and intensity required of us in the Vulgate Latin: "*In terra pax.*" That preposition, usually translated "on" and treated as if it didn't mean much, may be taken as meaning a great deal if we translate it just as it reads: "in". If we commit ourselves to seeking peace *in* the earth as well as *on* it, we pledge ourselves to a temperate use, rather than a greedy abuse, of the earth and all that therein is. If we really intend peace in the earth, there will be no more ghastly eroded gullies like wounds in our mother's body, no more denuded hillsides where we have callously stripped off her garments for our own momentary enrichment, no more silt-choked rivers like fever-filled veins. Instead there will be the seemly and gracious green of an earth ready to support us with its abundance yet without exhaustion; and abundance shared by beast and bird and fish living each after its own fashion. There will be streams and lakes with clean water again worthy of the ancient rite of purification.

If men of good will really do make the necessary effort and bring this peace to the earth itself, it will help strongly in promoting peace among men as well.

It is true that man does not live by bread alone, but bread he must have, and if he sees his share growing scant, he is apt to listen to false leaders who tempt him with visions of easy plunder of his neighbor's abundance. While feeding our enemies will not automatically cause them to give up their dangerous errors, it certainly will aid considerably in inducing them to listen to a more

reasonable and more generous doctrine.

The First Giver made every tree a Christmas tree, with gifts enough to go around beneath it. All we need to do is see to it that the number of trees is not unduly diminished and that the ground beneath is not wasted away. Then the gifts will continue, and we shall be disposed towards peace.

Science News Letter, December 19, 1942

INVENTION

Alien Patents Used

Many applications received to manufacture devices covered by foreign patents, under policy announced by President. Over 27,000 such patents are on file.

➤ MANY applications have already been received by the Office of the Alien Property Custodian in Washington for licenses to manufacture devices and materials covered by alien-owned patents, under the policy just announced by the President. Something over 27,000 such patents are now tabulated; they comprise all categories as classified by the U. S. Patent Office.

Of especial interest to American manufacturers, as judged by the numbers of applications, are patents in the fields of chemistry and metallurgy. Largest single class is organic chemicals, particularly drugs. Dyestuffs are also the objects of numerous inquiries; though probably the interest here is not quite so keen as it was in World War I days, when this country found itself "caught short" by the shutting off of the German aniline products on which we had become too dependent. That situation has been remedied during the past couple of decades.

Metallurgical patents of greatest interest to American industrialists seem to be divided principally between steel and the light metals, aluminum and magnesium. Steel makers want to try out electrical methods of smelting, and they also want to make certain types of alloy steels covered by German patents now vested in the Alien Property Custodian.

There are some applications for licenses in the field of fuels, especially gases, such as the manufacture of acetylene out of natural gas. This of course is of special importance in welding.

Among the mechanical patents available for American use under the new

ruling are many on aircraft and their accessories, that were taken out by such noted German firms as Junkers and Dornier. Very recently issued, for example, is the U. S. patent on the Dornier "umbrella-tailed" dive bomber that has already been seen in action, and photographed, by British observers. German and Italian experimental rocket-propulsion motors for planes are also covered by patents held in custody here, which are now available for American experimentation if desired.

German physical laboratories have been the scene of great activity in the development of electron microscopes, if patents taken out in this country are a good criterion. These designs can now be taken over under license by American scientists and their best features adapted to our own use, if they seem suitable for incorporation in American instruments.

Science News Letter, December 19, 1942

● RADIO

Saturday, December 26, 1:30 p.m., EWT

"Adventures in Science," with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over Columbia Broadcasting System.

Two Nobelists will appear when Dr. Irving Langmuir, retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, gives his presidential address, "Science, Common Sense and Decency," introduced by Dr. Arthur H. Compton, now president of the AAAS.

Monday, January 4, 9:15 a.m., EWT; 2:30 p.m., CWT; 9:30 a.m., MWT; and 1:30 p.m., PWT

Science at Work, School of the Air of the Americas over the Columbia Broadcasting System, presented in cooperation with the National Education Association, Science Service and Science Clubs of America.

"Worlds Begin" will be the subject of the program.