



PLASTIC—Sales tax tokens of cellulose acetate are being used in some states, thus conserving many tons of metal for warfare. These plastic tokens are molded complete in one operation, requiring no subsequent stamping or polishing.

conductivity and magnetic properties the same as the old coin.

All of these properties are utilized in vending machines and other coin machines, such as subway turnstiles, to eliminate slugs and fraudulent coins. Manganese was placed in the coin in order to give it the proper electrical characteristics.

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You might care to watch the change closely for the new penny or Jefferson nickel with the mint mark. When you receive them in change, inspect them but keep them in circulation so that as little critical materials as possible are used for coinage.

Due to the scarcity of metals, particularly copper, zinc, tin, aluminum and others that have been used in coins, the use of plastics for coins has been suggested. While coins of federal issue have been made only of metal, nevertheless one of the most widely used plastics, cellulose acetate, is being used as the material for sales tax tokens.

Different colors are used to distinguish different mill values where more than one denomination of token is used in a state, as well as to differentiate between adjacent or closely associated states collecting sales taxes.

The tokens have a lustrous dirt-resistant surface and a range of colors.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Outbreak of Glue Itch

Lost time in war plants has been caused by unusual number of cases of skin disease. Methods for treatment and prevention are given by the Public Health Service.

➤ AN OUTBREAK of glue itch among workers in the plywood and laminating industries is causing much lost time in war plants making planes, gliders, propellers and other airplane accessories, Dr. Louis Schwartz, Dr. Samuel Peck and Dr. John E. Dunn, of the U. S. Public Health Service report.

Skin trouble from glues has been often reported in the past but there has been no such outbreak as that which is now occurring in the plywood and laminating industries," they state in *Public Health Reports*.

Glue itch, technically called glue dermatitis, affected 600 out of 800 workers in one factory during its first six months of operation. These workers lost about 1,500 work days, not counting the time lost by those who stayed on the job while receiving treatment in the plant first aid station. In another factory there was a monthly labor turn-over, because of the skin trouble, of more than 40 among a total of 100 employees. In a third of the seven plants investigated, the fingers of most of the workers were inflamed and cracked by the glue.

Irritating substances in the glues cause

Tests show that they can withstand the abrasive wear of constant handling.

As an aid to the war effort, Mexico has issued a new five-centavos piece, replacing its nickel coin with a copper one. The copper coin is the new five-centavos (cinco centavos) piece which has very recently begun to circulate in Mexico. Composition of this coin is 95% copper, 4% zinc and 1% tin. It replaces a coin of somewhat smaller size which contained 20% nickel and 80% copper. In Mexico the authority that issues coins and currency is the Banco de Mexico.

The new cinco centavos pieces are known in Mexico as "Josefitas," due to the fact that they bear upon their face the image of Maria Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez, a heroine of the early nineteenth century whose name is imperishably linked with the independence of Mexico.

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the trouble. Urea-formaldehyde and phenol-formaldehyde resin adhesives caused most of the trouble in the plants inspected, but glues with such harmless-sounding names as gelatin glue or casein glue may have irritating chemicals added.

For treatment, the federal health service doctors advise that only soothing wet dressings, such as boric acid solution or Burrow's solution, should be used during the acute stages when there is swelling, blistering and oozing of the skin. In the later stages when the eruption begins to dry and crust, mild fatty-base ointments should be used.

Prevention depends on keeping the glue off the skin and washing it off promptly when it does get on. The Public Health Service advises installation of suitable exhausts to remove fumes and dust; provision of clean overalls daily; protective gloves, aprons and sleeves; installation of facilities for hand washing with soap and running water; washing or changing of brushes and sponges every two hours; and compulsory showers, on company time, after work.

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