ECONOMICS

Europe Recovery Thwarted

➤ "POLITICAL boundaries are thwarting the economic rehabilitation of Europe and hampering the economic growth of many other regions of the world," Dr. Howard A. Meyerhoff, geographer and geologist, and administrative secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, told Science Service.

Dr. Meyerhoff, who was a professor at Smith College for 25 years, said he thought that very few Marshall Plan officials realize the necessity for permitting the development of a natural industrial region in Europe centering around the iron ore of the German Ruhr and the coal resources of French Lorraine.

However, Dr. Meyerhoff said, the political and economic integration of Europe for which ECA Administrator Paul Hoffman is working would be of some help in the development of this Ruhr-Lorraine natural region.

Dr. Meyerhoff develops this idea of natural industrial regions in THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR (Winter Issue), published by Phi Beta Kappa. Mere possession of basic raw materials such as iron ore and coal, Dr. Meyerhoff writes, is not enough to make a nation rich. High living standards, he says, depend on the free flow of raw materials, machines and some consumer goods.

"Basically," declares Dr. Meyerhoff, "there is no such thing as a well-rounded national economy, even among those nations that nature has favored."

Instead, he asserts, the industrial world is organized into several clearly defined industrial nuclei that dominate trading areas of varying sizes and importance. These nuclei are localized around centers of maximum energy production, such as the coal fields of the Appalachian-eastern interior of this country and the midlands of Britain. When political boundaries get in the way of the free flow of goods to and from these areas, he declares, the standard of living is lowered.

Dr. Meyerhoff told Science Service that a good example of an industrial nucleus which has been choked off by political boundaries before it had a chance to get started can be found in Newfoundland and New Brunswick, Canada. Newfoundland has the world's sixth largest reserve of iron ore, and New Brunswick has good coal resources. Those resources could serve a region extending down through New England to the Hudson river, he declares, were it not for the tariffs to be found at the Canadian-American border.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

GENETICS

Huxley Indicts Lysenko

➤ JULIAN Huxley, British scientist and former Director-General of UNESCO, accuses Trofim Lysenko, President of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, of destroying scientific method and of dividing the world of science into warring camps based on political differences.

His new book, just published, HEREDITY EAST AND WEST (Schuman), is a carefully documented indictment of Lysenko's genetics and his use of it to destroy the impartiality of science as it is known in the West.

"I at first imagined," writes Dr. Huxley, "that there might be something in Lysenko's claims. However, the more I heard and read, the clearer it became that Lysenko and his followers are not scientific in any proper sense of the word—they do not adhere to recognized scientific method, or employ normal scientific precautions, or publish their results in a way which renders their scientific evaluation possible."

Although Dr. Huxley shows point by point that Lysenko's theories are invalid, unprovable, or downright false, he states that, "it speedily became clear that the major issue at stake was not the truth or falsity of Lysenko's claims, but the overriding of science by ideological and political authority."

Despite a Russian attack on himself as "the specious director of UNESCO," Dr. Huxley takes pains to point out that he is "not concerned to be either anti-Soviet or pro-Soviet". He adds, "I consider that the methods used by certain groups and certain sections of the press in the U. S. A. to denigrate (defame) the U. S. S. R. and to foment hatred of communism are equally bad and equally regrettable."

"If I criticize or condemn some of the methods used, that is not because I am hostile to the U. S. S. R.," writes Dr. Huxley, "but because I believe that they are bad—bad in themselves, bad in their effects on human progress and achievement, and in the long run for the U. S. S. R."

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

ENGINEERING

Fluorescent Light Gives Natural Look to Colors

➤ THINGS look more like they ought to under a new fluorescent lamp announced by the lamp division of General Electric, in Cleveland. Due to a new phosphor in them, the lamps bring out the "full beauty" of all colors, and are complimentary to people's complexion.

The new phosphor, a coating to use inside the lamp's tube to convert invisible light waves to visible light, is a "double-activated calcium phosphate," G. E. scientists state. It is designated the DR phosphor. It will be used in two new lamps, a "de luxe cool white" and a "de luxe warm white" lamp, the latter particularly desirable in social environments such as beauty shops, restaurants and homes.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

Words in Science— ALLIGATOR-CROCODILE

➤ MANY people are interested in the difference between two closely related reptiles, the alligator and crocodile.

You can tell the American alligator from the American crocodile principally by the nose. The alligator has a broad head bluntly rounded at the nose; the crocodile nose narrows to a point having a notched, cut-in outline.

There is a difference, too, in the teeth, although you may not care to investigate this too carefully. What corresponds to the canine teeth on the lower jaw of the alligator are hidden when the jaw is closed, fitting into a pit in the bone of the upper jaw. Corresponding teeth of the crocodile fit into a notch on the outside of the upper jaw.

There is, however, a great difference in disposition. The alligator is sluggish, and even when enraged is inclined to stand in one position, thrashing his tail. The crocodile is active, vicious, and will pursue and attack.

Science News Letter, December 3, 1949

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Wild Bulls Are Pacified By New Drug Injection

➤ A NEW drug, berbeerine, which calms down excited animals long enough for the veterinarian to operate on them, was reported in the journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Kicking, lunging, rearing animals are quickly pacified by an injection of berbeerine, the full name of which is dimethylberbeerine hydrochloride. Veterinarians in Argentina who have used the drug in surgical operations, have found that its action greatly reduces danger to both doctor and beast.

The drug acts as both a pacifier and pain-killer. Its effect lasts for about 20 to 30 minutes.

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