

ENGINEERING

# Mapping of Nation Speeded By Public Works Allotment

**M**ORE THAN \$5,000,000 of the federal public works money will be spent in mapping and surveying of the country and its waterways with resulting benefits to reviving industry, agriculture, shipping, and mining now and in the future. While this money will speed the eventual completion of the country's mapping, much of it will be used for wages and will be spent locally in communities widely scattered over the United States.

The allotment of \$2,600,000 public

works money to the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the Department of Commerce will enable the Department to proceed with scientific work of surveying the nation's coast lines and the making of triangulations and elevation measurements in the interior of the country.

With regard to mariner's charts, the situation in respect to intracoastal waters of the Atlantic coast is particularly bad. Secretary Roper has pointed out that most of the surveys of these waters were made 30 to 50 years or more ago. Since

that time both the forces of nature and the works of man have made radical changes in many sections.

New charts based on new surveys will become of increasing importance with the expected increase in commerce and transportation.

The money will also prevent the suspension of the Survey's earthquake studies in California.

No action has been taken as yet on Secretary Roper's request for public works funds for testing work at the National Bureau of Standards in connection with the recovery program.

The U. S. Geological Survey in the Department of Interior is another scientific agency of the Government which has secured relief for severe curtailments in funds through new allotments from the public works funds. In addition to the \$1,200,000 which was recently allotted to this survey for construction and repair work, another allotment of \$2,500,000 has just been announced.

Most of this sum will be used for topographical survey work, which will employ the service of a great many engineers and technical employees. But it is understood that it will not relieve the situation for the scientists of the Survey. A small part of the allotment, \$100,000, is to be used for investigation of underground water resources, and this work will employ some geologists and chemists. No public works funds have as yet been assigned for the geological work of the Survey. Secretary Ickes had previously decided, however, not to dismiss the geologists slated to go because of lack of funds for salaries. Instead he instituted a system of staggered furloughs so that the Survey can have the benefit of their expert advice at least during part of the time.

*Science News Letter, August 12, 1933*

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## Weed Cultivated To Make Lawns

**T**HE CANNY old counsel, "If ye can't lick 'em, j'ine 'em," has been applied to good effect in St. Louis. A number of excellent lawns have been developed in that city, in which no grass is used at all, but instead the common weed yarrow or milfoil. This may have been suggested by the Old-World practice of growing "scented lawns" of the chamomile, a plant somewhat related to yarrow and resembling it in its growth habits.

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