

GENERAL SCIENCE

Rugg, Author, Charges Attempt To Censor Schools

Fears That Succession of Crises Is Rolling Up Deep Cycle of Social Hysteria in America

A FEW "Merchants of Conflict" are blamed by Dr. Harold Rugg, Teachers College educator, with an attempt to censor the schools by having the Rugg social science textbooks and other publications banned. Located in strategic places, they employ systematically the facilities of national organizations and publicity channels, he says.

Dr. Rugg brings this counter-charge in a new book, *That Men May Understand*. (Reviewed, SNL, this issue)

The success of the "censors of the schools" Dr. Rugg attributes to the emotional state of the American people produced by a succession of crises—the depression, bewildering political conditions, the European War, the fall of France, and the total threat of totalitarianism.

"Out of the coincidence of these factors contributing to social unrest is rolling up the deepest cycle of social hysteria America has experienced for two generations," Dr. Rugg said.

Citing actual newspaper clippings, Dr. Rugg called 1940 a year of book-banning and book-burning, when bonfires were literally made of his social science textbooks. It was also a year of dramatic town meetings in which hysterical charges were made against Dr Rugg and his books, usually beginning, he said, with the same phrase: "I haven't read the books, but—"

At these meetings, the central note of the American way has, however, always been sounded by the chairmen: "All shall be heard." Dr. Rugg, himself, has al-

ways been asked to speak at those meetings which he has attended, and there have always, he said, been teachers and students who rose in his defense.

Dr. Rugg denies that he is a Communist, that he is a Socialist or that he has ever been affiliated with them directly or indirectly in any way whatever. The accusation that he says the American way is wrong or a failure is false, he declares.

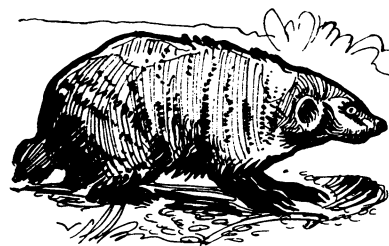
What he has been trying to do is "to blaze a clear path toward understanding for young people—understanding of the tremendous agelong changes and of the rapid changes in industrial society during our own times. We dare not, I insist, keep children in ignorance of these changes and of their hidden significance."

Dr. Rugg has his own charges to bring against his critics.

"The real animus of the merchants of conflict is that we do not teach in our books their personal brand of the American system of private enterprise. Their personal brand, I say. To them—to judge from their statements—the American system means competition without any regulation or control . . . old-fashioned laissez faire . . . 'every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost.' They want this system taught, and they would control the school and censor its books to see that it is taught."

Science News Letter, April 12, 1941

Brazil has three airplane factories, and a fourth being built.



"Don't Tread on Me!"

"DOORMAT" is one of the nicknames tossed at the badger. It has all the deceptive seeming appropriateness of a nickname, for the animal is squat, and broad, and very shaggy.

But let no one presume upon appearances, and try to use the badger for what he seems to be. He is such a doormat as might appropriately bear the motto displayed on the famous Colonial battleflag: "Don't tread on me!" Against a world that makes fun of his short legs, his waddling frame, his uncouth hairiness, the badger remains permanently mobilized. He is the most dour citizen of the forest.

In pioneer days badger-baiting was considered a rare sport. To be sure, it was esteemed so mainly by the more loutish section of the male population, which gets more fun out of seeing others fight than it gets out of indulging in strenuous contests of its own.

A good, solid, heavy male badger was

Let us do it

When you want a book on science, save yourself the trouble of shopping. Let us get it for you. We will gladly obtain any American book or magazine in print and pay postage in the United States. Just send your check or money order to cover retail price (\$5 if price is unknown, change to be returned to you). When publications are free, send 10c for handling. Address:

Book Department

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER
2101 Constitution Ave. Washington, D. C.

SCIENCE NEWS LETTER SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

To Science News Letter, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

Start 1 year, \$5
 Renew my subscription to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for 2 years, \$7

Name _____

Street Address _____

City and State _____

(No extra postage to anywhere in the world)

