

CONSERVATION

# Seven-Point Plan Offered For Mineral Conservation

**V**OLUNTARY cooperation between private enterprise and government conservational activities will solve the problem of America's dwindling supplies of indispensable minerals, in the opinion of Dr. C. K. Leith, professor of geology at the University of Wisconsin and member of President Roosevelt's National Resources Board.

In a recent communication to the American Association for the Advancement of Science he expressed his belief that "private industry has successfully developed the minerals of the United States to an extent never before approximated in the world," and his opinion "that the record of the mineral industry in the United States warrants the presumption that it should continue to develop so far as possible under private initiative."

"However," he continued, "we also believe that our mineral heritage is vested

with a public interest in those specific conditions which are distinctly detrimental both to the public and to the industries themselves to remedy. Rugged individualism, with all its merits, seems ill-adapted to realize, unaided, the present political and economic requirements of conservation."

To realize these requirements, Dr. Leith offered a seven-point program:

(1) Continuance of technological and scientific improvements already under way.

(2) The balancing of supply and demand in our so-called surplus industries at a price level which will permit of proper conservational practice; this to be accomplished by voluntary cooperative efforts of the industry under government supervision, through legislation which will exempt them from the anti-trust law; the exemptions from the anti-trust law in the interest of conservation

to be specifically defined and public supervision to be provided to make sure that the wastes on the basis of which exemption is claimed do exist and will be eliminated.

(3) The legalization of some method of coordinating the highly chaotic efforts of the individual states under their police powers, and support any collective efforts the states may attempt. Much of the authority necessary for production control now exists only in the police powers of the states. Since the Supreme Court decision, Washington is now struggling with the problem of finding authority for any national control. On the outcome of this major issue of federal versus state rights will depend largely the success of any effective program of conservation.

(4) Federal control of interstate shipments of minerals shipped in excess of quotas set by the state police powers.

(5) Possible abolition of ad valorem taxes in favor of taxes of one kind or another on current production.

(6) The use of tariffs for the surplus group which will protect any domestic economy built up in the interest of conservation, which may result in some further sacrifice of our already dwindling export trade because of the necessary maintenance of domestic prices above the world level.

(7) For the deficient group of minerals derived in part or in whole from foreign sources, to desist from a tariff program which merely hastens the exhaustion of our limited high-grade supplies, and to substitute direct expenditure by the government on the problem of finding additional supplies.

*Science News Letter, August 17, 1935*



**STEAM'S ANSWER TO DIESEL**

*Compact, powerful, economical, quick to raise steam, this boiler promises a revolution in naval engineering.*

FISHERIES

## Echo-Sounding Device Locates Schools of Fish

**E**CHO-sounding apparatus, now widely used on ships to make continuous records of bottom depth, can also be turned to good account in the fisheries industry, in locating large schools of commercial fish.

Oscar Sund, well-known Norwegian fisheries scientist, reports (*Nature*, June 8) on four instances when the apparatus on the research vessel Johan Hjort disclosed the presence of large numbers of codfish, spawning in midwater. The records demonstrated clearly the hitherto unsuspected fact that when codfish lay their eggs they pay no attention to the bottom, but maintain a position at a uniform depth beneath the surface.