

GENERAL SCIENCE

Federal Budget Includes More Money for Science

But Part of Increase Is Only Matter of Bookkeeping Due to Transfer of Emergency Funds to Regular List

FUNDS for scientific research by the Federal Government will be increased by about \$5,000,000 during the fiscal year starting next July if the allotments in President Roosevelt's budget are followed by Congress in making appropriations.

Part of this increase in funds represents only a paper increase due to the transfer of items from the emergency budget to Uncle Sam's regular accounts. Part of it represents new funds under recent special legislation.

The Department of Agriculture receives most of the \$5,000,000 increase, with an estimated \$3,500,000 more to devote to research than was available last year. New agencies will absorb the lion's share of this. First there is the Soil Conservation Service, provided for by new legislation last April. This will get \$2,250,000 of the available research funds.

Special Research Fund

Then there is a special research fund provided for by the Bankhead-Jones Act of June 29, 1935, under which \$400,000 will be administered. Funds made available through the operation of this Act have already enabled the launching of nearly forty research projects on fundamental problems in biology, chemistry, meteorology and economics that have more or less direct bearing on agriculture.

The Beltsville, Md., research center will use about \$50,000.

The Forest Service will receive an estimated extra \$300,000. However, this amount is less than the emergency funds now available for research purposes but which will probably be withdrawn or curtailed next year. The \$100,000 allotted for forest products investigations is mainly for the Forest Products Laboratory. This amount, unless augmented by other funds, will not be sufficient to maintain the Laboratory in its present running order. Other increases will enable some of the regional stations to maintain or even slightly enlarge their regular staffs, but these increases are based upon specific projects and must be used in those definite ways.

The Bureau of Chemistry and Soils has another large slice of the new funds—about \$150,000. Of this, a part is to provide for a new program of research provided for by Congress on discovering industrial uses for farm products, but the major part is to be used toward the completion of the national soil survey.

The Public Health Service will get about \$1,350,000 more for research than their funds for the present year. This represents the funds provided for by the Social Security legislation.

The Coast and Geodetic Survey will receive about \$240,000 more next year, but this again will probably have to replace emergency funds.

Bureau of Standards

The National Bureau of Standards, one of the chief scientific bureaus of the Government, will receive \$52,000 more under the proposed budget than the present year's appropriations. None of this will be available for scientific research, however. The Bureau must do a certain amount of routine testing of materials, instruments, and so on, and the new funds will provide for an increase in this work and for some necessary improvements in the plant.

The total amount for scientific research and the administration of scientific bureaus and offices comes to about \$42,000,000 in the budget for the fiscal year 1936-37. This is a great deal more

than has been spent for this purpose in recent years. But it represents only about six-tenths of one per cent. of the total budget.

The proportional amount spent for scientific work is always only a fractional part of the total expenditures. In 1932, a "boom" year for scientific work, about eight-tenths of one per cent. of the total budget went for this purpose.

Compared with these figures, \$1,727,850,866 is provided in the new budget for national defense and veterans' pensions and benefits. This is more than 25 per cent. of the total.

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CHEMISTRY

Research Funds to Find Uses for Farm Products

INCREASED funds for research to find industrial uses for farm products are called for by the Department of Agriculture budget now before Congress. Reorganized set-ups in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils are expected to bring the efforts of Government scientists to bear on this problem with greater efficiency.

One grouping of projects brings together the work of the present Color Laboratory at Arlington, Va., researches now in progress at Ames, Iowa, and certain work hitherto under the Agricultural Chemical appropriation, under the general head of industrial utilization of farm products and by-products. In this new grouping are included research on tanning and tanning materials, aimed, among other things, to find suitable substitutes for tanning extracts formerly obtained from the now blight-exterminated chestnut trees. The appropriation for this purpose has been increased from \$10,400 to \$15,400.

The laboratory at Ames is scheduled to receive a substantial increase in its appropriation—from a current \$27,641 to an asked \$47,641. This substantial increase is needed to expand the work of the laboratory, which is devoted mainly to finding economic uses for farm wastes—turning into dollars things which the farmer has hitherto had to throw away or burn. Uses of wastes and semi-wastes like straw and cornstalks for paper pulp is one line of work being carried on there.

Research on production of direct-consumption cane sugar in the continental United States and on standardization of quality of sugar-cane syrup is booked to receive a \$10,000 increase. Means for preventing farm fires is also

● RADIO

January 28, 4:30 p. m., E.S.T.

MIDWINTER HEALTH — Dr. R. R. Spencer, Senior Surgeon, U. S. Public Health Service.

February 4, 4:30 p. m., E.S.T.

A FUTURE FOR AMERICA'S BIRDS AND BEASTS — Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.