

1912, I wish to state that to the best of my knowledge and belief no "christening" of the machine has yet taken place; if it has, I am morally certain that the inventor was not invited to the ceremony. As the title "The Coast and Geodetic Survey Tide Predicting Machine" used by Mr. Fischer is not only lengthy but includes the Ferrell Machine used by the office for many years, the title under which I described it is logical in that it differentiates the Harris Machine from its predecessor, at the same time serving as a mark of honor to its inventor.

I wrote three letters to the Coast Survey Office protesting against the injustice done Dr. Harris in Mr. Fischer's article in *Engineering News* of July 20, 1911, and calling attention to the misstatements contained therein, requesting that the office publish suitable corrective notes. My letters were unanswered and I, therefore, laid the facts before the public in my article.

SAMUEL TIERNEY, JR.

QUOTATIONS

DR. WILEY AND THE BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY

ON the 9th of April, 1883, I took the oath of office and entered upon the discharge of my duties as chief of the Bureau of Chemistry, in the Department of Agriculture. For the past twenty-nine years I have endeavored to discharge these duties according to the dictates of my conscience, the knowledge at my command and the obligations of my oath. In retiring from this position after so many years of service it seems fitting that I should state briefly the causes which have led me to this step. Without going into detail respecting these causes, I desire to say that the fundamental one is that I believe I can find opportunity for better and more effective service to the work which is nearest my heart, namely, the pure food and drug propaganda, as a private citizen than I could any longer do in my late position.

In this action I do not intend in any way to reflect upon the position which has been taken by my superior officers in regard to the same problems. I accord to them the same

right to act in accordance with their convictions which I claim for myself.

After a quarter of a century of constant discussion and effort, the bill regulating interstate and foreign commerce in foods and drugs was enacted into law. Almost from the very beginning of the enforcement of this act I discovered that my point of view in regard to it was fundamentally different from that of any of my superiors in office. For nearly six years there has been a growing feeling in my mind that these differences were irreconcilable, and I have been conscious of an official environment which has been essentially inhospitable.

I saw the fundamental principles of the food and drugs act, as they appeared to me, one by one paralyzed and discredited. It was the plain provision of the act and was fully understood at the time of the enactment, as stated in the law itself, that the Bureau of Chemistry was to examine all samples of suspected foods and drugs to determine whether they were adulterated or misbranded, and that if this examination disclosed such facts the matter was to be referred to the courts for decision.

Interest after interest, engaged in what the Bureau of Chemistry found to be the manufacture of misbranded or adulterated foods and drugs, made an appeal to escape appearing in court to defend their practices. Various methods were employed to secure this, many of which were successful. One by one I found that the activities pertaining to the Bureau of Chemistry were restricted and various forms of manipulated food products were withdrawn from its consideration and referred either to other bodies not contemplated by law or directly relieved from further control.

A few of the instances of this kind are well known. Among these may be mentioned the manufacture of so-called whiskey from alcohol, colors and flavors; the addition to food products of benzoic acid and its salts; of sulphurous acid and its salts; of sulphate of copper; of saccharin and of alum; the manufacture of so-called wines from pomace, chemicals and colors; the floating of oysters often in polluted waters for the purpose of making

them look fatter and larger than really they are for the purpose of sale; the selling of moldy, fermented, decomposed and misbranded grains; the offering to the people of glucose under the name of "corn syrup," thus taking a name which rightfully belongs to another product made directly from Indian corn silks.

The official toleration and validation of such practises have restricted the activities of the Bureau of Chemistry to a very narrow field. As a result of these restrictions, I have been instructed to refrain from stating in any public way my own opinion regarding the effect of these substances upon health, and this restriction has conflicted with my academic freedom of speech on matters relating directly to the public welfare.

These restrictions culminated in the summer of 1911 with false charges of misconduct made against me by colleagues in the Department of Agriculture, which, had it not been for the prompt interference on the part of the President of the United States, to whom I am profoundly grateful, would have led to my forcible separation from the public service. After the President of the United States and a committee of Congress, as a result of investigation, had completely exonerated me from any wrongdoing in this matter, I naturally expected that those who had made these false charges against me would no longer be continued in a position which would make a repetition of such action possible. The outcome, however, has not sustained my expectations in this matter. I was still left to come into daily contact with the men who secretly plotted my destruction.

I am now convinced that the freedom which belongs to every private American citizen can be used by me more fruitfully in rallying public opinion to the support of the cause of pure food and drugs than I could with the limited activity left to me in the position which I have just vacated. I propose to devote the remainder of my life, with such ability as I may have at my command and with such opportunities as may arise, to the promotion of the principles of civic righteousness and industrial integrity, which underlie

the food and drugs act, in the hope that it may be administered in the interest of the people at large, instead of that of a comparatively few mere manufacturers and dealers.

This hope is heightened by my belief that a great majority of manufacturers and dealers in foods and drugs are heartily in sympathy with the views I have held and that these views are indorsed by an overwhelming majority of the press and the citizens of the country. In severing my official relations with the Secretary of Agriculture I take this opportunity of thanking him for the personal kindness and regard which he has shown me during his long connection with the department. I can not leave the Bureau of Chemistry without expressing to my assistants of all grades my appreciation of their loyalty and devotion to me.—Statement by Dr. H. W. Wiley.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

- A Descriptive Catalogue of the Higher Groups, Genera, Species and Subspecies of Birds known to occur in North America, from the Arctic Lands to the Isthmus of Panama, the West Indies and other Islands of the Caribbean Sea, and the Galapagos Archipelago.* By ROBERT RIDGWAY, Curator of the Division of Birds. Part V. [Containing] Family Pteroptochidæ—The Tapacolas. Family Formicariidæ—The Antbirds. Family Furnariidæ—The Ovenbirds. Family Dendrocolaptidæ—The Woodhewers. Family Trochilidæ—The Humming Birds. Family Micropodidæ—The Swifts. Family Trogonidæ—The Trogons. Washington: Government Printing Office. 1911. Bulletin of the United States National Museum. No. 50. Part V. "Issued November 29, 1911." 8vo. Pp. xxiii + 859; pls. xxxiii.
- Part V. of Ridgway's monumental work on the birds of north and middle America completes the first two thirds of this great undertaking, Part I. of which appeared in October, 1901. As Part IV. was issued in 1907, a longer interval than usual has elapsed between the appearance of Parts IV. and V., due in