

direct the movement was expressed. President Cooley was authorized to appoint a committee, should he believe it necessary, to cooperate with some authoritative instrumentality such as the American Construction Council or the Associated General Contractors of America.

A "buyers' strike" is inevitable if the present trend of higher prices continues, it was asserted in the statement of the contractors, signed by Managing Director Richard C. Marshall.

The committee on procedure decided that the American Engineering Council would aid in any way within its power and means in bringing about uniform safety legislation. The committee declined to take a stand on the ship subsidy bill, which, it was held, did not come within the scope of the federation's activities.

A communication from W. S. Moody stating that immigration restrictions have so handicapped production that the nation's commercial growth was being hampered was considered by the committee. Suggesting that machinery be used to relieve the shortage of unskilled labor, Mr. Moody said:

I offer for your consideration the proposition that the council make a thorough survey of industry and select several kinds of work now done manually where great numbers of men could be replaced if power driven devices did the work.

Having selected sufficient fields of such work to release say 500,000 or more hands, I would then have the council recommend to all industry that they associate for this purpose and contribute the necessary money to enable various suitable engineering organizations to undertake the development of the necessary devices for performing this work.

The developmental work should be undertaken by the engineering organization in the same intensive way that similar big production problems were taken up during the war, although, of course, with greater regard for reasonable economy.

The committee voted to submit the question of undertaking an intensive study of labor-saving devices, as outlined by Mr. Moody, to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

#### APPOINTMENTS IN THE U. S. BUREAU OF MINES

CONTINUED growth of the Bureau of Mines, especially in the supervision of leasing opera-

tions on public lands, has resulted in the creation of a leasing branch within the bureau, the appointment of another assistant director and several changes of personnel within the organization.

General operations under the leasing act of February 25, 1920, development of lands in the naval reserves and the supervision of operations on Indian lands, have combined to make the federal government an outstanding factor in the production of minerals. Wells drilled on public lands, including the naval reserves, now produce approximately 3,000,000 barrels of oil monthly, or at a daily rate of 100,000 barrels. This production is outside of that from Indian lands. Coal leases and prospecting permits have been issued in fourteen western states, in which the federal government is supervising the operation of eighty-nine mines.

A. W. Ambrose, assistant director, who is specially qualified in petroleum matters, has been placed in charge of the newly created leasing branch. He also will act as a consulting engineer to all branches of the bureau on matters relating to petroleum and natural gas.

D. A. Lyon, chief metallurgist and supervisor of stations, has been appointed assistant director in charge of the research branch, which includes the functions and scope of the former investigations branch after the elimination of leasing matters. For the present, no appointment will be made to the position of supervisor of stations and Mr. Lyon will perform the duties of supervisor in addition to those of head of the research branch.

T. T. Read, having asked to be relieved from his position as chief of the information service and assigned to investigative work, has been appointed a supervising mining engineer. During the absence of F. J. Bailey, assistant to the director, on a visit to the mine safety cars and stations, Mr. Read will serve as the acting head of the operations branch of the bureau and will later be assigned to appropriate field duties.

C. E. Julihn has been recalled from service as chief mining engineer of the War Minerals Relief Commission and made chief of the information service. Francis Winslow, now connected with the division of war minerals

supply, has been assigned to serve with the War Minerals Relief Commission as its chief engineer. J. W. Furness, who has been working with the war minerals supply division of the Bureau of Mines, has been given a permanent appointment in that division.

These changes and appointments are effective as of March 1, 1923.

#### GRANTS FROM THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND

THE following awards were made at the meeting of the trustees of the Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund on February 24:

No. 241. To Dr. E. Wiedemann, Physikalisches Institut, Universität, Erlangen, Germany, \$100 for researches on physical properties of colloidal substances.

No. 242. To Dr. B. Lipschütz, Paltauf's Pathological Institute, Vienna, Austria, \$150 for studies of the experimental tar cancer of the mouse.

No. 243. To Mr. A. H. Palmer, U. S. Weather Bureau, San Francisco, California, for maps and photographs.

No. 244. To Dr. E. F. Adolph, Zoological Laboratory, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa., \$250 for electrical equipment.

No. 245. To Dr. Frank A. Hartman, Physiology Laboratory, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, \$200 for studies of adrenal function.

No. 246. To Professor James B. Conant, department of chemistry, Harvard University, Cambridge 38, Mass., \$150 for a study of a new method of comparing the reactivities of a series of organic chlorides.

No. 247. To Professor C. T. Brues, Bussey Institution, Harvard University, Forest Hills, Boston, Mass., \$100 for a study of certain phytophagous races of insects.

No. 248. To Professor G. H. Parker, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., \$200 for the study of nerve respiration.

The Elizabeth Thompson Science Fund is administered by G. H. Parker, president; E. B. Wilson, secretary; Charles S. Rackemann, treasurer, and G. P. Baxter and W. B. Cannon, members of the board of trustees. The trustees meet three times a year toward the end of February, of May and of November. Applications should be in the hands of the secretary well in advance of the date of the meeting.

#### GIFT TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY

SIR ALFRED YARROW, an engineer and ship-builder of Glasgow, has given £100,000 to the Royal Society for reasons and under the conditions stated in the following letter, addressed to the president:

I would ask you to be so kind as to bring before the council, at an early opportunity, the following proposals:

I have, for many years, held the view that the prosperity of this country has been greatly hampered in the past for the want of better promotion to scientific investigation and its application to practical affairs.

I am convinced that the future prosperity of this country will be largely dependent upon the encouragement of original scientific research. The birth of new industries, and the development of existing ones, are due largely to the growth of science, thus securing employment and the welfare of the whole community being advanced.

It is doubtful whether even yet it has been realized how completely this country would have been at the mercy of our antagonists in the late war, had it not been for the research work done by our scientific men before the war and during its course.

I desire to mark my sense of the value of research to the community by offering, as a gift to the Royal Society, £100,000 to be used as capital or income for the purposes of the society, as the council may think fit, because I recognize conditions alter so materially from time to time that, in order to secure the greatest possible benefit from such a fund, it must be administered with unfettered discretion by the best people from time to time available.

Care must, of course, be taken that a gift from the fund shall in no case lessen any government grant.

In accordance with your practice you would, I assume, appoint a committee to administer the fund, and would also frame rules for the guidance of the committee, while reserving the right to alter such rules from time to time; and I would suggest that they be considered by the council every tenth year so as to meet modern needs.

I should prefer that the money be used to aid scientific workers by adequate payment, and by the supply of apparatus or other facilities, rather than to erect costly buildings, because large sums of money are sometimes spent on buildings without adequate endowment, and the investigators are embarrassed by financial anxieties.

Although I thus give a general expression of my wishes, I do not intend, by so doing, to create