

THE CRUDE RUBBER SURVEY

THE Crude Rubber Survey authorized by the last Congress and undertaken by the Department of Commerce is now under way in every region where preliminary investigations were originally planned. Announcements have previously been made regarding the departure of individual parties to the British and Dutch possessions in the Middle East, to Brazil, and to other parts of Latin America; and the sailing of the investigating party for the Philippine Islands on September 11, marked the completion of the necessary preliminary work of the investigation.

Dr. H. N. Whitford, of the Yale University School of Forestry, who has had experience in conducting investigations of a similar character in Latin America, the Philippine Islands and the Far East, is chief of the Crude Rubber Section of the Rubber Division, from which the survey is being directed. Dr. Whitford is being assisted in the work by J. J. Blandin, who was for several years and until recently, general manager of the Sumatra Plantations of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

The field survey is being conducted by four parties of investigators, operating in the four major rubber growing regions; namely, the Amazon region, the Middle East, the Caribbean region, and the Philippine Islands. In all, there are over fifteen political units now being covered by the investigators, all of which territories are known to be potential fields for the cultivation of the *Hevea brasiliensis*, commonly known as the Para rubber tree.

The personnel of the expeditions now investigating rubber conditions in the various regions are as follows:

Dr. William L. Schurz, United States commercial attaché to Brazil, has charge of the Amazon party, assisted by Mr. O. D. Hargis, a rubber plantation expert of considerable experience in the Middle East, until recently manager of the Sumatra Estates of the Continental Rubber Company; Dr. C. F. Marbut, chief of the Division of Soils, Department of Agriculture; A. O. Pierro and E. R. Bjorklund, of the Department of Commerce, as secretarial assistants. Four experts from the Department of Agriculture, headed by Dr. Carl D. LaRue, a botanist experienced with the *Hevea* rubber and its cultivation in the Middle East, are cooperating with this party. The Brazilian party left Para on August 13, *en route* for Manaus, the Beni and Acre territories and Iquitos, prior to making surveys along the tributaries of the Amazon. The party is receiving the utmost cooperation from the Brazilian Government, which has placed at their disposal a river steamer and extended many other courtesies. The Peruvian, Ecuadorean and Bolivian Governments also offer practical assistance when the party enters their respective countries.

In the Middle East, Mr. David M. Figart, special agent of the Department of Commerce, who is well known in far eastern rubber circles, is making a very extensive survey of the existing plantation areas and costs. He is accompanied by J. W. VanderLaan, of the Department of Commerce, as secretarial assistant. Mr. Figart was for several years with the United States Rubber Company in charge of their Middle East Statistical Department.

The investigation in the Caribbean countries, including Mexico and the northern portions of Venezuela and Colombia, is in the hands of a party headed by Mr. John C. Treadwell, a practical crude rubber expert, and until recently Vice-President of the Continental Rubber Company of New York. He is assisted by H. H. Bennett, soil expert of the Department of Agriculture, and C. R. Hill, of the Department of Commerce, as secretarial assistant. Mr. Carlton Jackson, trade commissioner of the Department of Commerce, is making a supplementary investigation of the Maracaibo region of Venezuela. Mr. Treadwell's party is at present in the Republic of Panama, and will shortly undertake further investigations in the other Central American countries and Colombia up the Atrato River.

The personnel of the field expedition to investigate the rubber possibilities of the Philippines, includes Mr. C. F. Vance, in charge of the party; Mr. Alex H. Muzzall, recently connected with the Goodyear Plantations in Sumatra; Mr. John P. Bushnell, assistant trade commissioner of the Department of Commerce, and Mr. Mark Baldwin, soil expert of the Department of Agriculture. Mr. Vance has had previous experience in the Philippines and is thoroughly conversant with the early plantation development in the islands. The party sailed for Manila on September 11. Mr. W. M. Noble, a crude rubber expert of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., who had been expected to assist in the Philippine investigation, was unable to accompany the party, but will later be connected with the work in Washington.

In providing the personnel and in the assembling of data the department is enjoying the full cooperation of every important American rubber firm; those which at present own rubber plantations have even made their private records freely available upon request. The Rubber Association of America, Inc., and the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce have appointed advisory committees to assist whenever possible.

The Department of Commerce has selected men qualified by training and practical experience to understand and give consideration to all the various factors bearing upon the economic production of crude rubber and to push the investigation to a successful conclusion. It is believed that the data and information

gathered will be a definite and valuable contribution to the American rubber industry, and thus indirectly to the millions of Americans who use manufactured rubber products in one form or another.

After the return of the various parties to Washington, their separate findings will be assembled in the form of a complete report, which will be made available to interested firms and individuals at the earliest possible moment.

H. N. WHITFORD

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

It is proposed that the bicentenary of the death of Newton in 1727 shall be marked by the publication of a new edition of his collected works.

MAJOR HENRY J. NICHOLS, Medical Corps of the Army, has been appointed director of the laboratories of the Army Medical School, Washington, D. C. The new building at the Walter Reed Hospital Reservation will be occupied this autumn.

PROFESSOR W. J. V. OSTERHOUT, of Harvard University, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh.

DR. EDWIN PETERSON, lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Navy, has been awarded the Duncan medal of the London (England) School of Tropical Medicine.

SIR ARNOLD THEILER, director of veterinary research, South Africa, and Professor Charles Porcher, of Lyons (France), the British and French delegates to the American Veterinary Medical Association convention, recently held at Montreal, have been made honorary members of the association.

DR. ALBRECHT KOSSEL, physiologist of the University of Heidelberg, celebrated on September 16 his seventieth birthday.

DR. J. ENRIQUE ZANETTI, assistant professor of chemistry at Columbia University, and this year chairman of the division of chemistry and chemical technology of the National Research Council, has been made a member of a committee appointed by the League of Nations to investigate chemical warfare.

A TESTIMONIAL dinner was given to Dr. William A. Pusey, president-elect of the American Medical Association, at the first meeting of the year of the North Side Branch of the Chicago Medical Society on October 3. Dr. Pusey gave an illustrated lecture on "A study of the wilderness road to Kentucky—A doctor's diversion."

At the seventy-first annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, Henry V. Army, Ph.D., New York, was elected president for the en-

suing year. The Ebert prize, in memory of the late Albert E. Ebert, of Chicago, was awarded to Paul S. Pittenger, Philadelphia, for his paper on "Biological standards of local anesthetics." The following grants were made from the research fund of the association for the year 1923-24: To E. Kremers and K. H. Rang, of the University of Wisconsin, for work on decolorized tincture of iodine and on such other preparations of the National Formulary as time permits—\$250; to W. J. McGill, of the University of Michigan, for work on the electrometric titration of alkaloids—\$200. These research grants are made annually from the interest accruing from the A.Ph.A. Research Fund, which represents the profits from the sale of the National Formulary.

ELLIOTT S. ROBINSON has been appointed assistant director of the Division of Biologic Laboratories of the Massachusetts State Department of Public Health.

EARLE G. LINSLEY, professor of astronomy in Mills College, Oakland, has been appointed director of the Chabot Observatory to succeed the late Charles Burekhalter.

DR. HAL DOWNEY, professor of histology, department of animal biology, the University of Minnesota, has been appointed American editor of *Folia Haematologica*, an international journal devoted to clinical and morphological hematology. American investigators in this field are urged to send in reprints of their papers for abstracting and original manuscripts for publication.

HERBERT L. J. HALLER, associate chemist, who has been on the staff of the Bureau of Chemistry since 1919 assigned to the Color Laboratory, has resigned to accept a position with the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research.

DR. J. B. BROWN, formerly associated with Professor Alfred N. Richards in pharmacological research at the University of Pennsylvania, has joined the research staff of Swift & Co., in Chicago.

S. HENRY AYERS, formerly bacteriologist of the dairy division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C., has been appointed director of research of the Glass Container Association.

V. H. WALLINGFORD, who recently returned from a year's study and travel as a fellow of the Commission for Relief of the Belgium Educational Foundation, has accepted a position as research chemist with the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works, St. Louis, Mo.

THE tuberculosis research fellowship maintained by the Hennepin County Tuberculosis Association at the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, has been awarded to Frederick Eberson, Ph.D., formerly research bacteriolo-