

of the chemical industry. The fine chemical group seemed to have had a fairly quiet year. A very strenuous one awaited them. It was to the public, as represented by the House of Commons, that they must now appeal. The Safeguarding of Industries Act expired next year, and it seemed obvious that the government would require to know what progress had been made in the manufacture of fine chemicals and what effect the act had had. The council was expecting to receive a full report from the group in the autumn and would then review the whole situation.

Dr. E. F. Armstrong said that there was difficulty in finding suitable chemists with a broad outlook to initiate new problems. If the association could bring pressure to bear on the universities so to alter their course of training as to produce the better-class chemists they wanted, it would be much to the benefit of the industry. He thought that they all realized as much as he did the rocks ahead, because of German competition. It would be true to say that the penetration of the German into matters chemical was even wider, more rapid, and more serious to-day than it was in 1914. The fight was going to be an arduous one.

Mr. N. H. Graesser said that he had recently returned from Germany. He had been amazed to see what developments had occurred in the last year or two. Apparently there was now no home competition there at all. Everything was coordinated. They had their fine chemical convention, and that consisted of firms working to a common policy. But in the dye industry itself he understood that there was only one group. They had bought up all the smaller firms who used to be independent, or had obtained control over them, and they were working as a national industry, with no competition in their own country and with a national effort for all outside business. He was told that in this process of coordination they had recently made tremendous further steps. One of the directors of a large concern told him that since January they had stopped 4,000 men, simply in the transfer of processes to larger scale and power plants. Every plant that was not absolutely up-to-date was simply left, and on any plant that could be revised they were spending money freely. The one feature that seemed to be causing them any trouble was liquid capital and the competitive nature of the market. The reports on labor were uniformly good.

#### FEDERAL FUNDS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE

ACCORDING to information received from the Missouri College of Agriculture, one of the most important and far-reaching laws in the interests of agriculture prepared by the dean of the college, Dr. F. B. Mumford, was approved by President Coolidge on

February 24, 1925. This law provides for increased appropriations to the colleges of agriculture of the several states for scientific research in the interest of agriculture. The bill provides for an initial appropriation of \$20,000 for the first year and \$10,000 additional each year thereafter until the total appropriation shall have reached \$50,000 annually. The provisions of the bill limiting the use of these funds are indicated by the following quotation from the bill:

The funds appropriated pursuant to this act shall be applied only to paying the necessary expenses of conducting investigations or making experiments bearing indirectly on the production, manufacture, preparation, use, distribution and marketing of agricultural products and including such scientific researches as have for their purpose the establishment and maintenance of a permanent agricultural industry; and such economic and sociological investigations as have for their purpose the development and improvement of the rural home and rural life; and for printing and disseminating the results of such researches.

The administrative features of this bill are similar to those of the Hatch and Adams Acts providing funds for agricultural experiment stations, but the uses for which these funds may be expended are broader and place emphasis upon certain phases of agricultural research in agricultural economics, home economics and rural sociology. This increased emphasis upon the business side of farming is a recognition of the importance of world economic conditions in the development of agriculture. The prosperity of the farmer is not alone dependent upon efficient production methods, but is determined by economical methods of distribution and marketing. Investigations in distribution and marketing of farm products will therefore be undertaken by all the stations benefiting from this act. The bill also recognizes that the solution of the rural problem involves rural conditions. It therefore provides for investigations of the rural home and rural living.

This endowment for agricultural research, added to amounts already available, will represent a major endowment of approximately \$250,000,000 and an annual income of more than \$10,000,000 for the state experiment stations.

#### RAMSAY MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIPS

THE Ramsay Memorial Fellowship trustees have made the following awards of new fellowships for the session 1925-26:

A British fellowship of £300, tenable for two years, to Mr. G. A. Elliott, B.Sc., for work at University College, London.

A British fellowship of £300, tenable for one year, to Mr. H. R. Ing, M.A., D.Phil., for work in the University of Manchester.