

deposits of radioactive mineral substances, and all deposits of such substances, are hereby withdrawn from sale and all other forms of disposal under the public-land laws, including the mining laws, and reserved for use of the United States.

(2) So far as not in conflict with existing law, all lands in the United States, its territories or possessions, heretofore acquired by the United States which contain deposits of radioactive mineral substances owned by the United States are hereby reserved from sale, and all leases, licenses, or other authorizations of whatever kind hereafter granted to occupy or use such lands, shall reserve to the United States the right at any and all times to enter upon such lands, and mine and remove such mineral substances; and all such lands hereafter acquired by the United States shall become subject to provisions of this paragraph under their acquisition; Provided, that no reservation under this paragraph shall interfere with the use of the lands established or indicated by any Act of Congress.

THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS STANDARDS

Word has been received by Herbert J. Wollner, secretary-in-charge of the New York Office of the United Nations Standards Committee, from the national standardizing bodies of China and France that they will attend the forthcoming meetings of the United Nations Standards Coordinating Committee to be held in New York during the week of October 8.

Invitations to attend the meeting have also been sent to the Standards Association of Australia, the Associaçao Brasileira de Normas Tecnicas, the Canadian Standards Association, the British Standards Institution, the New Zealand Standards Institute, the South African Standards Institution and the American Standards Association. It is anticipated that representatives from practically all these countries will be in attendance.

The program of the meeting will include (1) discussion of whether the time is now ripe for setting up a permanent international standards organization; (2) a study of ways in which coordination of the standards of different countries can streamline international trade. This will be the first international meeting to be held since the United Nations Standards Coordinating Committee opened its doors a year ago to encourage cooperation between the allied belligerent countries in standardization matters as an aid to production of war supplies and equipment and also to pave the way for postwar trade.

Unhindered international trade establishes and cements friendly relations between people. One of the barriers to its fullest development arises from the differing manufacturing practices which exist in the importing and the exporting countries of the

world. International questions have already arisen regarding moisture content of wool knitting yarns, radio interference, methods of testing textiles, standardization of food containers in the international shipment of relief supplies, etc.

A full program of the detailed discussions to be undertaken at the meeting will be announced at an early date. In a general way, however, it can be said that the meeting will concern itself with the immediate problem of establishing the closest practical relations between the national standardizing bodies of the countries of the world; with the providing a forum through which these bodies can harmonize their activities internationally, and finally the meeting will deal with the major problem of integrating national standards and harmonizing them for the benefit of the total economy of the world.

It is anticipated that each of the national delegations will be prepared to present its national point of view in the form of a program. It will be the endeavor of the committee to weld these into one single international program.

PLACEMENT OF VETERANS BY THE NATIONAL ROSTER OF SCIENTIFIC AND SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL

The National Roster has established a cooperative arrangement with both the Army and the Navy to assist professionally qualified personnel being discharged from the armed forces to obtain suitable positions in civilian life. A supply of post-card forms has been made available at the separation centers, hospitals and other discharge points of both the Army and the Navy. Every serviceman who is professionally qualified and who is passing through one of the discharge points for separation is given one of these cards if he indicates he wants assistance in locating employment. It is suggested to him that he complete and mail the card, which is already addressed and requires no postage.

When the National Roster receives one of these cards, a check is made to determine if the applicant is already registered with the National Roster. If he is not registered, appropriate documents are sent him for completion. From his Roster registration documents there is prepared a summary of his training and experience, emphasizing particularly the work he is best qualified to do.

The National Roster now has on hand a large volume of orders for technical personnel from industrial establishments, colleges and universities and non-profit research laboratories throughout the country. Additional orders of this kind are being received daily.

The summaries of the training and experience of the applicants are checked against these orders and a copy of the summary for each applicant sent, if pos-

sible, to three or four employers having vacancies on their staffs for which the applicant appears qualified. Every effort is made to refer the summary to more than one employer in order to increase the chances of the applicant's securing a position. If the employer, after examination of the summaries referred to him, is interested in any of the applicants, he proceeds to get in touch with them directly. All negotiations from that point on, such as personal interview, salary, etc., are carried on between the employer and the applicant. The Roster only asks that a report be furnished of the outcome of the negotiations.

These procedures based upon experience to date are said to be working quite satisfactorily. An increasing number of cards is now being received as the rate of demobilization advances. As more and more employers learn of the Roster, the number of job orders being received is also increasing. It is hoped that this service will be of real value in assisting former servicemen to become reestablished in civilian life.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

DR. MARSTON T. BOGERT, president of the International Union of Chemistry, has transmitted to *SCIENCE* the following communications:

From Professor Dr. E. Briner, president of the Federation of Swiss Chemical Societies, School of Chemistry, Geneva, August 12, 1945.

Permit me first of all to express to you the great satisfaction I have experienced from receiving your letter of July 18th, for it is a manifestation of the resumption of the activities of the International Union of Chemistry. It reached me after some delay for it was transmitted to me at a mountain resort where I was taking a little rest after a strenuous year, because of the large number of our students. Our country has become, in effect, a land of refuge for a crowd of students who have fled the Nazi terror reigning in Germany and in the countries occupied by the Germans.

As to the International Union of Chemistry, I have been particularly happy to be of some assistance to it during these difficult years, in obtaining a liaison between the great International Chemistry Commissions. I remain naturally at its disposal whenever I can be of service to it in one way or another.

For some weeks we have had the pleasure of receiving numbers of American soldiers who have come to pass a short leave in Switzerland. We believe that they will be very happy in visiting the many beautiful places in our country. Further, for the winter semester, courses are being organized especially for American military students. They will come to spend a few months in the Swiss universities and this will prevent them from losing some of their contacts with science. At the Geneva School of Chemistry, which is the building housing the

lecture halls and the laboratories of chemistry for our Faculty of Sciences, we are preparing to reserve for them the best accommodations possible.

(Signed) E. BRINER

From Professor Dr. Octave Dony-Henault, vice-president, International Union of Chemistry, 50, Rue de L'Ermitage, Brussels, Belgium. August 6, 1945.

As to Belgium, this is our present situation. As I stated to you in another letter some ten months ago we have lost, unfortunately, two of the deans of Belgian chemistry, Frederic Swartz and Leon Crismer, who both perished as a result of sickness. Frederic Swartz¹ was the president of the National Belgian Committee of Chemistry, of which our colleague, Professor Jean Timmermans, is still the secretary. The latter has just returned from England where he was throughout the war and we have just elected him a corresponding member of the Royal Academy of Belgium.

At a quite recent session we had occasion to discuss among the chemists the question which you have presented to us and I have communicated your letter to Messieurs Timmerman, Bruylants and Wuyts. It was agreed to take up the question at a special reunion of the National Committee, in order to replace the members who have disappeared and to decide how we will be able to resume our activities. Another chemist of the University of Louvain, Professor Mund, has likewise been elected to the academy and the result will be that it will be very easy for us at our monthly meetings to get together in the Class of Sciences. In any event, Mr. Timmermans, as secretary, will not fail to get in touch with you.

(Signed) OCTAVE DONY-HENAUULT

Professor P. Boysen Jensen, of the University of Copenhagen, under date of September 3, wrote to Dr. Richard H. Goodwin, of Connecticut College, as follows:

Your letter was the first one to reach me from the U.S.A. and England after so many years. . . . Yes, it has been five hard years, but we are still alive, my daughter and I. Maybe you remember the Garderkaserner that is situated east of the Botanisk Have (the University Botanical Garden); it was occupied by the Germans, so the plant physiology laboratory and Professor Boysen Jensen's house were in the fire line. Especially April was filled with anxiety. We did not know if our country and Copenhagen would be burned, as so many other countries and cities. We are happy that it is over now.

If you worked in the laboratory to-day you would find it in about the same state as when you left it in 1938. We have got some more apparatus and we have continued our scientific work as well as possible.

During the war we have heard almost nothing about the plant physiological activities in the U.S.A. and

¹ Brother-in-law of the late Dr. Leo Hendrik Baekeland.