

# BARONESS BEGS U. S. CITIZENSHIP

Former Miss de Haven, Wife of  
Baron von Alten, Seeks  
Special Act.

## CASTS OFF HER CHILDREN

Will Recognize Them Only When They  
Quit Germany—In Danger of Be-  
coming Destitute—\$15,000  
a Year Involved.

New York.—Congress, through the passage of a special act, will shortly be asked to restore to citizenship the Baroness Augusta Louise de Haven-Alten, the former Miss de Haven of New York, who in 1883 married the Baron Eberhard von Alten, a German officer. Caught in Budapest when the revolution broke out in February of last year, the baroness, who is now known as Mrs. Louise de Haven, was forced to flee to Vienna as a German refugee, and after many vicissitudes reached Switzerland practically destitute. On money borrowed from a professor in Geneva, a childhood friend, she reached New York several weeks ago.

The question of the restoration of Mrs. de Haven to citizenship was taken up by the house committee on immigration and naturalization and she recently appeared before the committee and told her life story. Under German law her personal property has passed into the custody of her husband and her interests in a trust fund created by her grandmother, who was the widow of Admiral Abraham Bigelow, U. S. N., was seized by the enemy alien property custodian. Her attorney, Walter Bruce Howe of Washington, told the committee that Mrs. de Haven was "inevitably and rapidly approaching destitution."

When very young Mrs. de Haven went with her father to live in Switzerland and was brought up near Geneva. On her nineteenth birthday she married Baron von Alten and went to live in Germany. She had two daughters, who are now married and living in that country.

"My married life was not happy," Mrs. de Haven told the committee. In 1910 she entered into a formal separation agreement with her husband. In 1911, she said, she left Germany and has never seen her husband since.

**Her Funds Here Seized.**  
Two years later she again brought suit. This time she charged her husband with misconduct. The war suspended all proceedings, for the law would not allow litigation against an officer on active duty.

Mrs. de Haven's interest in the trust

fund of her grandmother, Mrs. Louise Bigelow, was \$15,000 a year, and this amount was paid by the Northern Trust company of Chicago until the alien property custodian took charge of the funds.

"About February, 1919, riots and revolution broke out in Budapest," Mrs. de Haven told the committee. "On the day of the outbreak an immense mob was resisted by the police near the hotel where I was. After the conflict some 30 dead and many wounded lay in the street near my hotel. The dead were brought into the corridor of the hotel and then the mob came in and seized everything in the dining room that could be eaten or drunk. The disturbance lasted all night."

"In this situation I decided to accept a German passport. I did not go myself to the German authorities to ask for it, but I sent a friend who obtained it for me. Arrangements were made for a train to take the German refugees back to Germany."

**Borrowed From Dressmaker.**  
"The train took 24 hours to reach a point on the outskirts of Vienna. The

Germans went on toward Germany. I got off in the railroad yard. All I had with me was two small handbags. I had nothing to eat or drink on the train."

Because they sided with Germany in the war Mrs. de Haven said she broke off relations with her children. She added in her declaration that she would recognize them only when they came to this country and became citizens.

"It is certain," she continued, "that unless relief by special act of congress in restoring me to citizenship is speedily afforded I shall be penniless and in dire want before I can regain my citizenship through the operation of the suit for divorce. Of the borrowed money, \$4,000, I brought with me to this country, only about \$3,000 is now left."

Representative Isaac Siegel questioned Mrs. de Haven regarding her use of a passport as a German subject when traveling out of Austria. The use of a German passport, she said, was against all her instincts, but there was no other way for her to get out of Budapest. She used such a passport, she said, on the advice of Colonel Yates.

"My only wish is to become an American, to live over here, and, if possible, to have money to live on. I am not well enough to go to work. That is all I wish. I do not care whether I get my German money or not. All I wish is to become an American, a good American."

## HELD FIVE YEARS IN GERMANY



Robert P. Williams of Watertown, N. Y., with his family arriving in New York from Europe, after a lapse of six years, more than five being spent in an enforced stay at Wiesbaden, Germany. Mr. Williams and his family were touring Europe when the war began, and though armed with proper credentials he was not permitted to leave Wiesbaden, the German commander suspecting Mr. Williams of being a spy. During the war they were forced to subsist on German government rations, and it was not until last month that they received permission to start for the United States. Mr. Williams is the son of former Supreme Court Justice Pardon C. Williams.

# PLANT LIFE IS RULED BY LIGHT

U. S. Experts, After Experiments,  
Advance Principle That Is  
Revolutionary.

## TEMPERATURE IS NEGLIGIBLE

Flowering and Fruiting Period of Practically Any Plant Can Be Controlled by Lengthening Day by Artificial Light.

Washington, D. C.—Government agricultural experts have discovered that plant life seems to depend on light, rather than temperature, for nourishment and may be controlled by regulating the hours of light and darkness. The principle is revolutionary; but it rests on actual experiments; in which it was demonstrated that plants subjected to alternate periods of light and darkness in carefully determined proportions could be brought to maturity at any time of the year.

"Greenhouse experiments," says an announcement by the department of agriculture, "prove that the flowering and fruiting period of practically any plant can be made to take place at any time of year by darkening the greenhouse in the morning and evening, if

the day is too long, or by lengthening the day by artificial light if the day is too short.

**Flowers That Bloom in Spring.**  
"Spring flowers and spring crops happen to be spring flowers and spring crops because the days at the season of their flowering and fruiting have the proper number of hours of daylight."

The discovery may be of the highest importance in the future planning of cropping systems for different regions.

Eventually it may be found, according to W. W. Garner and H. A. Allard, scientists in the bureau of plant industry, who conducted exhaustive experiments, that the animal organism also is capable of responding to the stimulus of certain day lengths. They believe that the migration of birds may be an illustration, on the ground that direct response to such a stimulus would be more in line with modern biological teachings than theories which assume that birds "go south" as a matter of instinct.

Experiments were conducted with a large variety of plants. It was shown conclusively that too little "sleep," or, in other words too many hours of daylight, would prevent many plants from even reaching the flowering and fruiting stage.

It was found also that plants would not reproduce except when exposed to a favorable length of day, although too much daylight for flowering and fruiting might stimulate profuse vegetative growth. A length of day favorable both to reproduction and growth results in the "ever-bearing" type of fruits.

By employing dark chambers the scientists shortened or lengthened the life cycle of plants and forced some of them to complete two cycles in one season. Violets, which naturally bloom only during the comparatively short days of spring, when covered with light-proof boxes for a time were made to bloom again during the summer. Biloxi soy beans exposed to the light for only five hours a day flowered nearly three months earlier than plants left in the light all day, but attained only about one-eighth of the height.

**Temperature's Effect Slight.**  
Temperature appeared to exert no influence in the tests. A striking illustration of the relative unimportance of temperature was given in the fact

that plants kept in the dark for a part of the day underwent in midsummer the changes that in nature come in the fall and that, heretofore, have been attributed to lower temperatures. This was true even when the dark houses registered a higher temperature than the outside atmosphere.

"The length of the day," the department's announcement said, "is proved to be the most potent factor in determining the relative proportions between the vegetative and fruiting parts of many crop plants. Indeed, fruiting may be completely suppressed by a day too long or too short. This new principle undoubtedly explains the erratic behavior which has been observed with many crops when they are shifted to different latitudes."

## WOMAN'S STOMACH JUNK PILE

Operating Surgeons Find 1,200 Pieces of Metal Inside of Insane Patient.

Baltimore.—An inmate of the Springfield State Hospital for Insane, at Baltimore, swallowed 1,200 metallic articles and is still alive, according to Dr. J. Clement Clark, superintendent.

When the woman refused to eat, following her admission to the hospital, a hard mass was felt in her stomach. She was operated upon at a hospital and surgeons found 1,200 pins, 45 safety pins, 138 hairpins, 36 pieces of wire, 6 buttons, an iron hook, a nail, a paper clamp and a garter buckle.

## Peeeping Frogs Sing in Nepaug Swamps

Winstead, Conn.—Peeeping frogs were heard in the cowslip swamps at the base of Yellow Mountain in Nepaug.

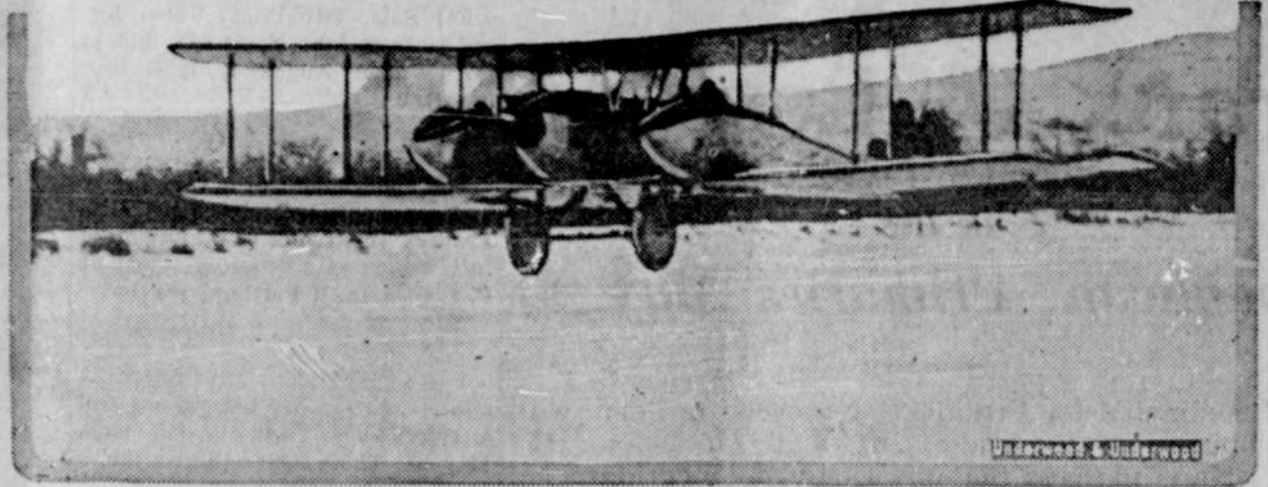
"Two more hard freezes and they'll be out for good," said Deacon Riley Munsted of Nepaug.

John Scanlon of New Hartford, rural mail carrier, while traversing his route over Lake Wonsunkmonk hills this winter scattered grain for a flock of partridges, with the result that the game birds now await his arrival and follow his rig for a considerable distance.

One of the partridges tagged Scanlon a distance of a half mile, he said.

Each day nearly 250,000 people use the Charing Cross Station of the London underground railway.

## CARRIES WEIGHT ALMOST EQUAL TO ITS OWN



View of the Thomas Morse mail plane which recently accomplished a feat long the dream of aviation pioneers, when with a useful weight almost equal to its own, it gracefully left the snow and slush at Ithaca, N. Y. The craft is a biplane evolved and produced by the Thomas Morse Aircraft corporation. Its weight empty is 2,890 pounds. Its weight loaded is 5,500 pounds. Thus its useful load is 2,610 pounds, or only 280 pounds less than the weight of the craft. Many planes carry less than half their weight.

# Owes Big Debt to Chemistry

Much of Industrial Wealth Can Be Traced to Effort of Some Scientist.

## MOST FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE

Has to Do With Food We Eat, Water We Drink, Clothing We Wear, and in Varying Degree With Every Article in Commerce.

By W. LEE LEWIS.  
(Head of the Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University and the Discoverer of "Lewisite," the Most Deadly Gas Ever Produced by Man.)

"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

Beneath a simple grave in Northumberland, Pa., lies the dust of a humble English clergyman. He was driven from his native land by religious intolerance, and sought and found in America intellectual freedom. This man, Priestly, never earned over £30 a year, yet he discovered oxygen and laid the foundation of modern chemistry.

The great steel industries of our country, the vast rubber business, the tremendous packing interests would deem it a rare privilege were this man living, to contribute to his comfort, and give him the scientific tools that would gladden his heart, and to acknowledge their immensurable debt to him. But for the man, Priestly, they can only lay a wreath on his last resting place.

Much of the great industrial wealth of this country can be traced to the effort of some obscure chemist, some zealous devotee to pure science, who thought little of self and who never shared in the fruits of his researches.

## Fundamental Science.

From the standpoint of material resources chemistry is the most fundamental science. It has to do with the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the clothing we wear and, in varying degree, with every article that enters into commerce. Chemistry is the science of the composition of matter, and matter is that upon which energy, human and otherwise, is expended. The science embraces the star dust of outermost space, the swirling volcanoes of sun gases, and the bacteria that nibble our food.

Consider the value of a single discovery in abstract chemistry. Kirchhoff, over a hundred years ago, discovered that starch could be converted into sugar by dilute acids. The United States alone is richer by \$40,000,000 a year because of that discovery. Perkin discovered mauve in the coal tar dyes. Its value was

indexed by an immediate investment of \$750,000,000.

The mercerizing of cotton has added to the delight and wealth of the world. Recent improvements in the incandescent lamp have meant a saving of \$30,000,000 a year in the cost of lighting. You may reach for a match as you read this. If so, remember it's chemical history, and pause to consider its place in modern civilization.

## Foundation of Many Industries.

Chemistry is the soul of the packing industry where by-products such as digestive ferments, soap, glycerine, fertilizers, etc., have become as important as main products. Chemistry is the foundation of the rubber industry, giving cheaper and better processes of purifying, vulcanizing, and recovering. Steel is not a native product but is a chemically modified product. It is stated that the Bessemer steel process adds \$20,000,000 to the world's wealth annually. Chemistry has given us the Davy lamp, the mine gas indicator, the gas mask and the standardized explosive. Chemistry has given us most of our pharmaceuticals, and chemo-therapy is just in its infancy. Ehrlich made over 900 arsenical compounds before he struck upon those particular combinations known as "salsarsolan" and "neosalvarsan." Chemistry has given us photography, moving-picture films, illuminating gas, fire extinguishers, artificial gasoline, metallurgical processes, water-softening and purifying agents, synthetic fertilizers, insecticides, paints, explosives, glass, paper, the gas mantle, the storage battery, the arc light and has stabilized many an industry by working up into useful products every trace of raw material.

Chemistry has standardized food products and multiplied the sources of supply. It has attacked and partially solved the population problem of sewerage and waste disposal, and water supply.

**Salvaging Big Problem.**  
There are 33,800 tons of nitrogen pressing down upon every acre of the earth's surface, and yet our fields are starving for fixed nitrogen, and in

times of war our present source of supply of nitrate for explosives is, to say the least, precarious.

Chemistry is today solving the problem of fixed nitrogen.

To further elaborate chemistry's contribution to human life would be to write a technical history of industrial development. The other great contributing factors have been the organizing ability of business men and the technical skill of the engineers.

To improve American chemistry, to apply it more and more as an efficiency measure in American industry, is better national protection than protective tariffs, battleships or coast defenses. The highest chemical efficiency will make us invincible in commerce and in war.

As population increases and conservation becomes a matter of vital importance, it follows that chemistry must assume a more and more significant place in the well-being of mankind. Chemistry belongs peculiarly to the age of intensive utilization of a country's resources. The cream-skimming period has passed; this is the age of by-products.

**Still Much to Be Done.**

There is a danger that great industrial organizations who owe their very existence to the science of chemistry, in the fullness of their present prosperity may forget their debt to the past and their obligation to the future. There is still much to be done in the improvement of old processes and the discovery of new. To handicap the chemical laboratories of our educational institutions, whence comes the stream of technically trained men, and the unselfish contributions of pure science, is effectual to kill the erstwhile goose that laid the golden egg.

The universities cannot carry the burden without the aid of enlightened industrialism. They cannot raise the price of their product to meet the ever-increasing cost of laboratories, scientific equipment, high-grade instruction and pure research. No thinking man can fail to recognize that the ranks of the teaching profession, present and prospective, are becoming seriously depleted through the inability of our educational institutions to bear unaided the problem of ever-increasing costs.

It is short-sighted policy for big business to attract from the universities our best chemists, to pick before they are ripe our young men in course of training, or by a lack of sympathetic support to jeopardize the future output of scientific research.

**Professor Knows Friends Are Honest, but Isn't Taking Any Chances.**

Westfield, Mass.—Twenty quarts of bottled-in-bond whiskey, owned by Prof. Lewis B. Allyn, the noted pure food expert, has been kept in his safe since Jan. 10.

"I know my friends are honest," he says, "but I am taking no chances." The whiskey is required from time to time in the professor's research and experimental work, and he laid

in a liberal supply before constitutional prohibition went into effect.

Prof. Allyn is working overtime trying to keep pace with the demand for analysis of home-made beverages.

One small bottle of home-made wine, which the owner assured him possessed a real kick, proved to be 28 per cent alcohol, or from two to three times the alcoholic content of wines formerly offered for sale. Ethyl alcohol may have been added to the concoction, Prof. Allyn thinks. At any rate, it is the most remarkable of the hundreds of "harmless home-made drinks" he has yet analyzed.

**Workers Are Not Wasting High Wages, Records in Pittsburgh District Show.**

Pittsburgh.—Highly paid steel workers and coal miners in Pittsburgh and Allegheny county are not spending all their money but are using a considerable part of it to buy homes, according to John D. Graham, recorder of deeds, whose report for 1919 has just been made public.

During the year the number of deeds and mortgages filed was 60,437, as compared with 31,395 in 1915. For the first quarter of this year the number was 16,385, as compared with 7,980 in the first quarter of 1915.

The majority of the properties are small houses.

**Aged Man Writes Cards.**

Elizabeth, Ky.—Charles Friend of Glendale, who is eighty years old and never would be taken to be over seventy, was in town the other day. He still writes visiting cards for the young people and so steady his hand and so perfect his eyes that they almost look like they were engraved. Whenever he takes a notion that he wants to go to Hodgenville he walks there and back, a distance of ten miles each way.

## MODERN CLIFF DWELLERS IN FRANCE



Unfortunate persons of France whose houses have been destroyed through the ravages of war have hit upon a novel idea evolved by man centuries ago. Cliff dwellings neatly arranged on the side of mountains are serving many in these trying days. This photograph shows one of the many cliff dwellings seen at Dieppe, France.