GERMAN SCIENTISTS REVEAL NEW POWER

Unlimited Light and Energy Released by Atoms.

SAVANTS ARE MYSTIFIED

Process of Disintegration of Minute Particles Said to Turn Loose Tremendous Electrical Force.

BY CYRIL BROWN.
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BERLIN, Jan. 1.—(Special Wireless.)—Whether one of the greatest practical discoveries and inventions has been made in Germany is the question that is beginning to attract serious attention among sceptical scientists, technologists and industrial experts.

The object of this interest is the claim of a well known Berlin civil engineer, Willy von Unruh, that he has discovered a "new source of energy" and that he has succeeded in "liberating light and power in unlimited quantities through the disintegration of atoms." Professor E. A. Krause is collaborating with Herr von Unruh in his researches.

Both men are still at work perfecting the alleged invention for the disintegration of atoms and harnessing the resultant energy. Certain basic patent claims have been filed by a patent engineer, Dr. Mintz of Berlin.

As the inventor and his collaborator are professional men of high standing, there seems to be no valid ground for the belief of sceptics that the reported revolutionary invention is a scientific hoax or fraud.

Demonstration Amazes Experts.

A small group of experts and scientists who recently witnessed a practical demonstration of a working model of the Unruh invention were amazed and greatly impressed. The apparatus they saw was a medium sized square box with no detectable electric current supply, but yet it generated sufficient current to keep five 1000-candle power electric lights burning for hours.

The visitors were not permitted to satisfy their curiosity as to the details of the apparatus, however. Herr Unruh later said:

"I have demonstrated my apparatus, which was completely transparent, before various scientists and experts who proved to their own satisfaction that the machine was not fed by internal storage batteries or an outside supply of energy during an eight-hour test."

According to both Herr Unruh and Professor Krause, the reason for their secretiveness about the details of their invention is due to the fact that it is still only in the successful experimental stage. Improvements are being worked out and the mystery will continue to be closely guarded until full patent claims have been filed covering all phases and details of the invention, as well as the potentialities of the atomic generator.

Mould Germs Are Destroyed.

No questions are asked, however, about two other recent remarkable discoveries. Professor Duisberg of the Bayer Aniline works recently told a gathering of friends and fellow scientists that his company had succeeded in making a product which would destroy the harmful mould-germs in seeds and at the same time increase their sprouting vitality.

He also announced that the Bayer works would shortly place upon the market a newly discovered product which makes woolens absolutely and permanently mothproof.

A discovery of great importance for the automobile industry is also claimed in another end-of-the-year invention announcement. Count von Soden, an engineer and director of the gear factory of the Zeppelin works at Friedrichshafen, has invented an automatic gear shifting system for automobiles, which it is claimed can be worked by a slight pressure of the foot on a pedal and functions noiselessly, smoothly and swiftly.

The titled inventor believes his device is destined to replace the present noisy, jerky, hand and foot operated gear shift.

Anti-French Feeling Intensified.

The anti-French feeling in German scientific circles has been brought to a head by the recent award of the Nobel prize to Dr. Bordet of the Pasteur institute, instead of to his German rival, Professor Albert von Wassermann, for his discovery of the Wassermann "reaction" test for a social disease.

The Germans claim that the French have sought to rob Von Wassermann of credit by renaming his test the "Bordet reaction." The French assert that Von Wassermann's discovery was based on merely one special case of the albumen reactions discovered by Dr. Bordet.

This caused the German claimant to make known before the last meeting of the Berlin academy of medicine the crowning result of his six years' work. He announced his discovery of the exact nature and scientific explanation of the reaction named after him which, though a practical success in 90 per cent of the cases on which it has been employed, has heretofore been a complete mystery, baffling its original discoverer as well as the medical scientists using it.

HARDING IS REAL LEADER

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senators who are supposed to compose "the senatorial oligarchy" deplore the decision which they fear Harding is going to make. They would like to see the decision go a different way. They would like to advise Harding against it. But none of them is sufficiently sure of his footing to do so.

Decision Is Unique.

This particular decision, to be sure, is unique and not typical. To tell it as if it were typical would give a false view of Harding. On ordinary subjects the republican senators will always have easy access to the new president's mind. The particular instance is a cabinet matter, and has other aspects that make it intimate and personal.

But while not typical, the incident will serve to illustrate what is unquestionably the fact as it exists today, namely, that Harding is the leader and that the republican senators know he is the leader. Harding is confident in his leadership, and the senators are deferential in the role of advisers.

The truth is that Harding, with all his genuine courtesy, with his almost tender consideration for others, and with his very marked personal unselfishness, nevertheless has a decided mind of his own, and in essential matters always follows it. Harding might, without serious inaccuracy, be called an unusually determined man.

Toward the end of the campaign, when leader after leader showed signs of the nervous strain, and when not a few of them more or less "blew up," Harding himself, except in a few sentences in one or two of his rear platform speeches on the closing day, never showed any sign of emotional disturbances. During all the suppressed commotion that accompanied the subterranean scandal, and in the final explosion attending it, Harding was the least disturbed of all the campaign managers. He had the air of taking the position that there are some things a gentleman ignores, and assuming that a falsehood cannot in the end do harm to its victim.

Harding's relation to the country, and the relation of our country to the rest of the world, contain possibilities that are almost literally beyond an ordinary imagination. Any adequate observer, looking at Harding with the intentness that his position invites, is likely to find justification for confident hopefulness that Harding has it in him to rise to the greatest of these possibilities and live up to the opportunities.

Initiative Not Great.

I say "has it in him" to do so. The only doubt implied is whether the potentialities that are within him will flow out as abundantly as they might from a man of less static temperament. Harding is not a person of great initiative. There are two types of executive. One keeps the outgoing telephone wires busy. The other occupies himself more exclusively with the incoming calls. One is active in starting things and putting them through. The other attends conscientiously to what is laid before him for decision and action. Harding is of the latter type.

Being the sort of man who functions best in deciding among the things that are laid before him, it follows that much importance is attached to the channels through which things will come up to Harding, in the persons who will have access to him. This is one reason why the choice of his cabinet is important.

Cabinet Choice Painful.

Right now, I suspect, Harding is involved in the probably painful business of choosing between a cabinet made up of old political friends and associates, and one made up of men of high character and proved ability, regardless of whether or not they are sympathetic and comfortable to his personality. He sees that he can pick men who superficially will seem to promise the ease and comfort of an old shoe, or he can pick men who at first may press upon him painfully, but in the end will carry him further, last him longer, and give him a distinguished administration. In that choice Harding's destiny lies.

This is the judgment of the same men who believe that Harding has in him latently the possibility of rising to any heights that may be adequately demanded of him. The men who express this belief and hope frequently add:

"If he will surround himself with the right men, if in choosing his cabinet, Harding has the good fortune to see the alternative in a clear light, he can be depended on infallibly to choose the higher one."

OREGON THRIFTY STATE

State Superintendent of Schools Returns From Conclave.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 1.—(Special.)—J. A. Churchill, state superintendent of schools, returned last night from San Francisco where he attended a thrift conference of all state superintendents west of the Rocky mountains. Reports at the conference showed that the thrift campaign had produced results and that one bank in the city of San Francisco held deposits of school children aggregating $750,000.

Oregon, although not at the head of the list with relation to thrift work, has the distinction of being first among all the states with regard to per capita sales of war savings securities.

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possibility. He has proved to be the surprise of the list, and for several days telegrams in his behalf have been flooding the governor, and have come from many parts of the state, both eastern and western Oregon. He has the support, among others, of E. J. Adams of Eugene, former member of the commission. Pollman also has very strong support.

Two new names placed before the governor in telegrams today were F. D. McCully of Joseph and Mark Mayer of Mosier.

McNary Backs Bonus Bill.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 1.—(Special.)—Allan Carson, adjutant of Capitol post No. 9, American Legion, last night received a telegram from Senator McNary pledging continued support of the soldiers' bonus bill. Senator McNary's telegram was in reply to messages sent to Washington by local ex-service men urging Oregon's delegation in congress to stand by the bonus bill.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

RESERVE BANKS CUT DOWN WAR PAPER

1500 Millions Decline to 1141 Millions, Says Report.

GOLD LITTLE CHANGED

Increases in Capitalization of Members Responsible for Jump From 87.4 to 99.8 Millions.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1. — Holdings by federal reserve banks of paper secured by government war obligations declined from nearly 1500 millions at the opening of the year to 1141 millions on December 31, said the annual review issued tonight by the federal reserve board. At the end of the year, out of a total of 2719.1 millions of discounted bills, about 42 per cent was composed of paper secured by United States war obligations, against 67 per cent of a total of 2231.2 millions held on the first Friday of the year.

The gold reserve, according to the review, shows little change at the end of the year, as compared with the condition 12 months earlier. Although considerable gold was exported to South America and to the orient early in the year, it is explained, gold shipments from England in anticipation of the maturity of the Anglo-French bonds on October 15 were responsible in a measure for a subsequent recovery, so that on December 30 the amount was only 3.3 millions below the total shown on January 2.

Banks Increase Capital.

Increases in capitalization of existing member banks and accessions of new members were responsible in part for an increase in the paid-up capital of the federal reserve banks during the year from 87.4 to 99.8 millions. This corresponded to an increase of over 411.0 millions in capital and surplus of member banks.

Changes in the condition of the federal reserve banks during 1920, according to the review, reflect to a large extent the changes in the credit policy originated about the last of 1919.

"Preferential rates on paper secured by liberty bonds and victory notes," the review continued, "were abrogated by some reserve banks and raised by others to a level more nearly approximating the rate level for ordinary commercial paper. In the case of paper secured by treasury certificates the rates adopted were in most cases identical with the higher coupon rates fixed by the government, thus holding out no inducement to the member banks to carry these securities among their own investments and use them as collateral for loans at the federal reserve banks, but rather providing a stimulus to place them in the hands of ultimate investors. The results are seen in the gradual decrease of the amounts of war paper held during the year by the reserve banks.

High Rate Slows Borrowing.

"Early in the year the federal reserve banks raised their discount rates on commercial paper, but the influence of the higher rates is seen in retarding the progress of borrowings rather than in restricting them. In fact, total federal reserve bank holdings of discounted bills on December 30 of 2719.1 millions is 487.9 millions larger than at the beginning of the year.

"Holdings of bills purchased in open market show an almost uninterrupted decline for the period under review. From a total of 574.6 millions at the beginning of the year, a decline of 255.7 millions on December 30 is shown, the decrease of 318.9 millions being due largely to the increased demand for this class of bills by savings banks, trust companies, also corporate and individual investors. No appreciable changes are shown in the amounts and classes of United States bonds held.

"Net deposits of the reserve banks show a general downward tendency for the year, the December 30 total of 1604.2 millions being 246.9 millions below the corresponding total at the beginning of the year, decreases in reserve and net deposits reflecting reductions in demand deposits of member banks, especially during the latter part of the year.

Expansion Almost Uninterrupted.

"Federal reserve net circulation, after the usual contraction at the beginning of the year, when a return flow of notes issued during the holiday season occurs, shows an almost uninterrupted expansion from the minimum amount of 2844 millions on January 23 to a maximum of $3404.9 millions on December 23. The total of 3344.7 millions on December 30 marks a reduction of 60.2 millions for the week, but an expansion of 345.7 millions from the beginning of January, note expansion rather than growth of deposits accompanying the increase in the borrowings of member banks. Federal reserve bank notes circulation shows a practically steady decline from 259. millions on January 2 to 177 millions on May 14, but since that date an increase to 217 millions on December 30 is noted.

"During the early part of the year the federal reserve banks lost gold, largely through export to South America and to the orient, and on March 26 total gold holdings were 1935 millions, marking a reduction of 128 millions from January 2. Since that time, partly as a result of gold shipments from England in anticipation of the maturity of the Anglo-French bonds on October 15, there has been an increase in gold reserves, the total of 2059.2 millions on December 30 being only 3.3 millions below the total shown on January 2."

Educator Dies on Train.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Dr. Henry A. Bumstead, professor of physics at Yale university, who had been on leave serving as chairman of the National Research council, died on a train last night, coming here from Chicago. He was 50 years of age.

Every large city has one newspaper which, by universal consent, is the Want-Ad medium of the community. In Portland it's The Oregonian.