

SAYS GERMANS MAKING NITROGEN FROM ATMOSPHERE

HOT SPRINGS, Va., July 13.—W. H. Bowker of Boston, addressing the National Fertilizers association here today, declared one of the beneficent effects of the European war would be to cheapen nitrogen and predicted it probably would be disclosed that the German chemists had discovered new processes for making that element, probably extracting it from the air.

One of the essential ingredients of destructive explosives is nitrogen," he said. "Chile saltpetre has been the chief chemical source. While the ports of Germany appear to be closed, she does not seem to be disturbed about it. It is evident that the Germans are getting nitrogen for their explosives and their agriculture from some other source than Chilean nitrate, probably from coal and from the air by a new process. After the war is over the world will have the benefit of their discoveries. It will be remembered that beet sugar was the outcome of the Napoleonic wars."

LANSING WORKS ON GERMAN NOTE

WASHINGTON, July 13.—Secretary Lansing said today there were no developments in the situation with Germany, that he had no word from President Wilson and that he did not know whether he would go to Cornish or await the president's return. State department officials continued to prepare memoranda, all of which is assembled at the end of each day and forwarded to the president. It is regarded as probable that nothing of a definite character concerning the American policy would be revealed before next week when President Wilson is expected in Washington.

PLAN TO INSURE AGAINST AIRSHIPS

LONDON, July 13.—The government has completed a plan for state insurance against damage by aircraft and bombardment in which it will work in connection with fire insurance offices. For private dwellings the rates will be 2 shillings per cent against aircraft and 3 shillings against aircraft and bombardment.

FIFTY MEN BUILDING DAM AT FISH LAKE

J. T. Sullivan, manager of the Rogue River Canal company, has returned from a trip to Fish lake. He traveled by auto, reaching the dam at the west end of the lake. This is the first time an auto has ever made the trip. Manager Sullivan reports that fifty men are now employed on the construction of the dam and that within the next ten days or two weeks the force will be increased to 150. The dam will be completed by the time snow flies.

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EYESIGHT SPECIALIST
MEDFORD, OREGON

EDISON TO HELP BRING UNCLE SAM'S NAVY UP TO DATE

(Continued from Page 1.)

ready we are putting guns on submarines, and Admiral Taylor is at work on the subject of protection against submarines. I believe there will be as much revolution in naval construction in the future as there has been since the Monitor. The proposed board is one of those things that must grow and work out its own development."

Secretary Daniels suggested as one of the possibilities the establishment in Washington of a large naval testing laboratory and also said that congress would be asked for a larger appropriation for investigation and experimentation.

When a large list of names of Americans prominent in various lines of science and invention was mentioned to Secretary Daniels today he refused to be drawn into any discussion of probable selections, saying he would not speculate at all, but would wait until he was ready to make known the acceptances.

Probable Members of Board
Among the names mentioned were Alexander Graham Bell, Simon Lake, Orville Wright, Professor R. A. Fessenden, John Hays Hammond, Jr., Hudson Maxim and Henry Ford.

Naval Experiment Station
ANNAPOLIS, Md., July 13.—The United States naval engineering experiment station, which Secretary Daniels in his letter to Thomas A. Edison referred to as the only station for engineering investigation now at the disposal of the department, is situated on the opposite side of the Severn river from the naval academy and forms part of that institution.

JOHN D. COWERS BEHIND BARB WIRE TRENCHES AS HE PASSES HIS 76TH BIRTHDAY

Guards in Double Force, Network of Private Telephones, Electric Light Alarm System, All to Save Old Man With One Hundred Millions a Year Income.

BY KENNETH W. PAYNE
TARRYTOWN, N. Y., July 13.—The richest man in the world has once more become a terrorized prisoner. In his citadel-like at Pocantico Hills, surrounded by twenty miles or more of barbed wire entanglements and dogged night and day by a double force of armed guards, John D. Rockefeller, Sr., is darkly pondering on the subject of dynamite in the hands of cranks, and wondering when the world-resounding shot fired at J. Pierpont Morgan will have its echo in one aimed at him.

This gloomily has been ushered in this 76th year of the oil king's life, upon which he has just been telegraphically congratulated by so many friends.

And this, the month of John D. Rockefeller's birthday, is also the fifth month since Mrs. Rockefeller's death. Strange to say, in spite of his grief still fresh for the wife he so dearly loved, in spite of the weight of his lengthening years, in spite of the ever-present dread of assassination, the master of untold millions still looks physically well and hearty.

Almost daily he plays his game of gold on the Pocantico links, under in case the sun is hot—a perambulating parasol borne by a convenient caddy. Glomped as he crossed the course today, his bearing seemed a bit more feeble, perhaps, his familiar gray suit a bit less snugly fitting, but for all that the ruddy glow was still in his cheeks, his eyes still keen and interested in the game.

At the tiny church on the edge of his vast estate I hoped to see him the other day. But his chair, and that of John D. Jr., also, remained empty throughout the service—an emptiness fraught with the fear of bombs.

The pastor in his prayer that day thanked God for "giving each of us the liberty to go about at will through these beautiful hills." When later I started to explore the environs of Pocantico, and met at every step, on every side, for miles, aggressive blue and white signs reading:

"Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted."
"John D. Rockefeller."
I wondered if the pastor's phrase had



The magnificent music room in John D.'s mansion at Pocantico hills, where the oil king spends many of his lonely widower's hours. He has taken a great fancy to music of late and frequently invites close friends to recitals given on the organ shown in this picture. These recitals are given in the afternoon, following Rockefeller's frugal lunch which consists often only of crackers and milk.

been sarcastic. Then came the thought of the aged oil king, afraid in spite of all his millions, to take to the open road as we could, not daring, even if surrounded with guards, to make his projected journey to Cleveland!

By an ironic coincidence, lying right in the shade of the hills of the vast estate of the richest man in the world is a little estate consecrated to some of the world's poorest people. It is the Westchester county almshouse. The unfortunate paupers who stood by the dingy tin fountain in the yard as I passed there today have far greater liberty than has John D. himself in this vast 7000-acre park of his across the road!

It is said that Rockefeller's system of signals is working again. At any hour of the night he has but to press a button by his bed, and colored lights flash up all over the estate.

For each lamp there is a guard who just respond by a signal which is registered in the oil king's chamber. There are thirty telephones in the house and forty scattered about the grounds. Wherever Rockefeller roams he can be warned instantly by phone of danger.

There are about 500 employees at Pocantico Hills, and to all these servants there are now only six residents, Rockefeller, John D. Jr., his wife and children and Mrs. Rockefeller's sister.

On his vast estate, to which he is continually adding, Rockefeller has a model chicken farm, and raises great quantities of farm produce, which is distributed to hospitals and charities. But the beauties of the wonderful rolling hills, gardens and forests are completely shut away from the public by the famous high fence topped with triple strands of

John D. Today at 76

barbed wire. At all gates—which are double, and doubly reinforced with barbed wire—is a guard and a telephone.

As to the fortune of the man who is thus again so preciously safeguarded, it is now estimated at well over a billion dollars!

It is known that John D. owns 25 per cent of each of the Standard Oil group of companies, that he owns large amounts of their bonds, and has great sums invested in gas, electric light companies, and in municipal bonds. He has a special liking for the latter, and was said not so long

ROAD ADVISORY BOARD IS DUE TO ARRIVE THURSDAY

Word received from State Highway Engineer Cantline states that the state highway advisory board will be in Medford Thursday. The board consists of S. Benson, the Portland road enthusiast and philanthropist, Leslie Butler of Hood River and J. H. Albert the Salem banker. After viewing local roads and the Siskiyou highway, the party will go to the California line and thence to Crater Lake and Klamath Falls and Bend.

Mr. Benson has outlined a plan to put state road work on a different basis. His plan involves the creation of a non-political state highway commission and the bonding of the state for several million dollars, provision being made that each county will receive its proportional share of the funds.

The aim is to take state road construction out of politics as far as possible and put it on an equitable and business basis.

The members of the highway commission are to be elected by vote of the people at the same time the bonds are voted on.

They are to serve without salary.

ago to have put \$25,000,000 into bonds of the city of New York alone. At the time the Ohio tax officials put an assessment figure of \$311,046,337 on his property he did not question it. He owns at least \$5,000,000 of personal property in New York City. It is safe to say that today John D. Rockefeller's annual income is nearer \$100,000,000 than it is to \$50,000,000.

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