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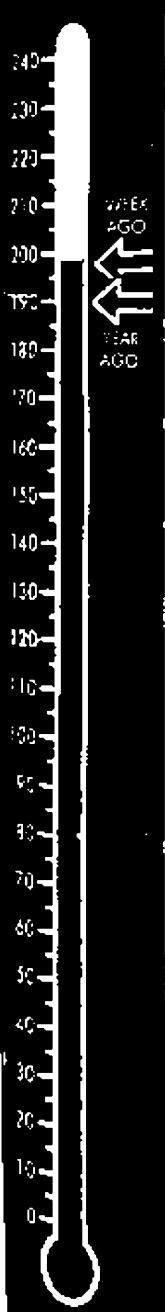
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BUSINESS WEEK

NOV. 13, 1948





A. E. Staley: From his new plant, better tastes for food (page



SURVEYING the field: Dr. Leonard Greenburg, New York State Dept. of Labor, and Dr. May R. Mayers, chairman, Occupational Cancer Committee, join up with . . .

Industry Against Cancer

New group, representing industry and medical and government authorities, maps fight on country's No. 2 killer. First step: a survey that will help determine industrial danger spots.

Science and industry are joining forces to take on a powerful antagonist: occupational cancer. The size of the job can be gaged by the fact that cancer now rates as the second biggest killer in this country.

This week, the growing hazards of occupational cancer were the theme of a paper by cancer authority Dr. W. C. Hueper, of the National Cancer Institute. The occasion was a meeting of the American Public Health Assn. in Boston. Dr. Hueper's point: The more modern industry develops, the more vital is a study of potential industrial danger spots.

• Starter—Just such a study is the goal of New York State's brand-new Occupational Cancer Committee, an unofficial agency. Members have been working on a two-year program. They have a special fund from National Cancer Institute of the U. S. Public Health Service of $32,694 a year to go on. Ohio and New Jersey are getting similar starts.

Industry has representatives on the committee: Dr. G. H. Gehrmann, for Manufacturing Chemists Assn.; and Dr. Arthur D. Hoag, for American Petroleum Institute. Other members include representatives from the U. S. Public Health Service, from New York State Depts. of Labor and Health, as well as from the medical and scientific centers. Chairman of the new group is Dr. May R. Mayers, chief, Medical Unit, Div. of Industrial Hygiene, N. Y. State Dept. of Health.

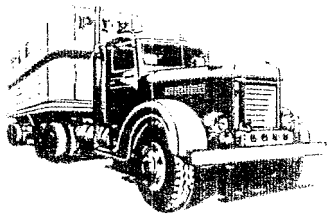
The committee knows very well that its job will be tough. For one thing, nobody really knows how big the problem is. As Dr. John R. Heller, Jr., director of the National Cancer Institute, reported last week to the American Cancer Society, there are no figures to show how many people are dying today from environmental or industrial cancer. No one knows, even, how many people are exposed to it, or where the precise danger lies.

• Program—But with this nebulous start, the committee has lined up its immediate plans:

(1) A pilot study at the Roswell Park Memorial Hospital, Buffalo. This, the first large-scale survey of its kind, will cover 5,000 male cancer patients; 1,000 male non-cancer patients will serve as a control.

(2) The distribution of a leaflet on "Occupational Cancer" to hospitals,

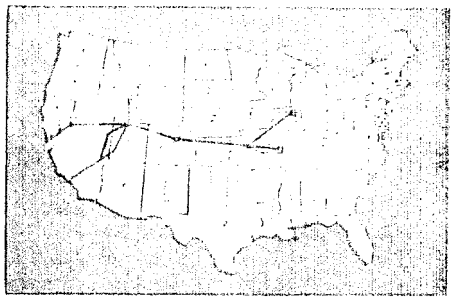
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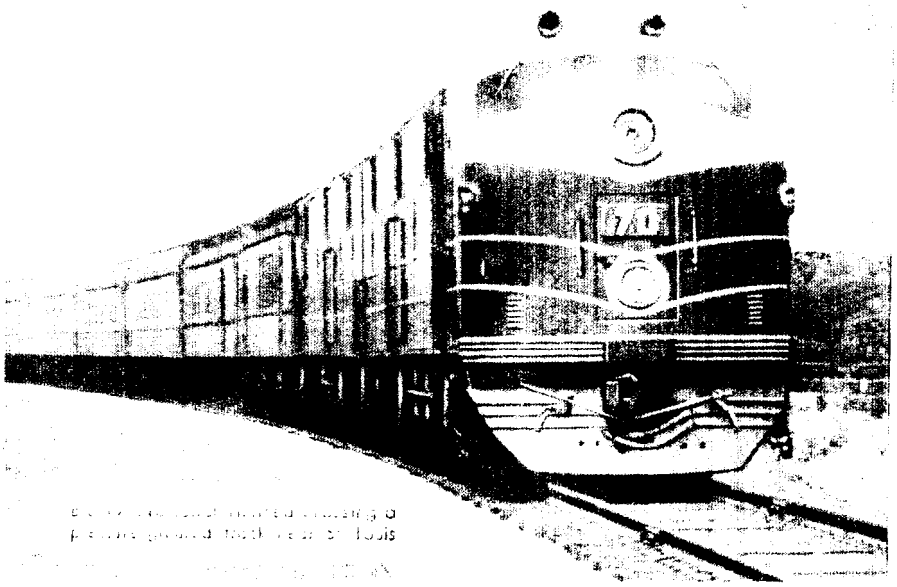
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PORTLAND CEMENT

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TRAIN PASSENGERS are enjoying new standards of comfort because of portland cement "grout," a mixture of portland cement, sand and water, which, when pumped into soft spots and water pockets under tracks, hardens and stabilizes the roadbed. More than 45 major railroads are now pressure grouting with portland cement to obtain a smoother riding track and to reduce maintenance and operating costs.

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who are interested [illegible]

The pilot survey is out to [illegible] what chemicals or other occupational factors may be considered [illegible] possible causes of cancer. Dr. [illegible] ports that industrial chemicals [illegible] general, be used with perfect [illegible] adequate control measures are instituted. But in order to get the [illegible] measures, you first have to know [illegible] chemicals offer the threat.

Specially trained personnel will take detailed occupational histories of [illegible] cancer patients who enter the Roswell Park Memorial Hospital. The interviewer will try to pin down just what the patient's occupational exposure was, what chemical substances he came in contact with, what other environmental factors were present in the workroom. Since cancer will usually develop only after a great many years of exposure—and even many years after exposure



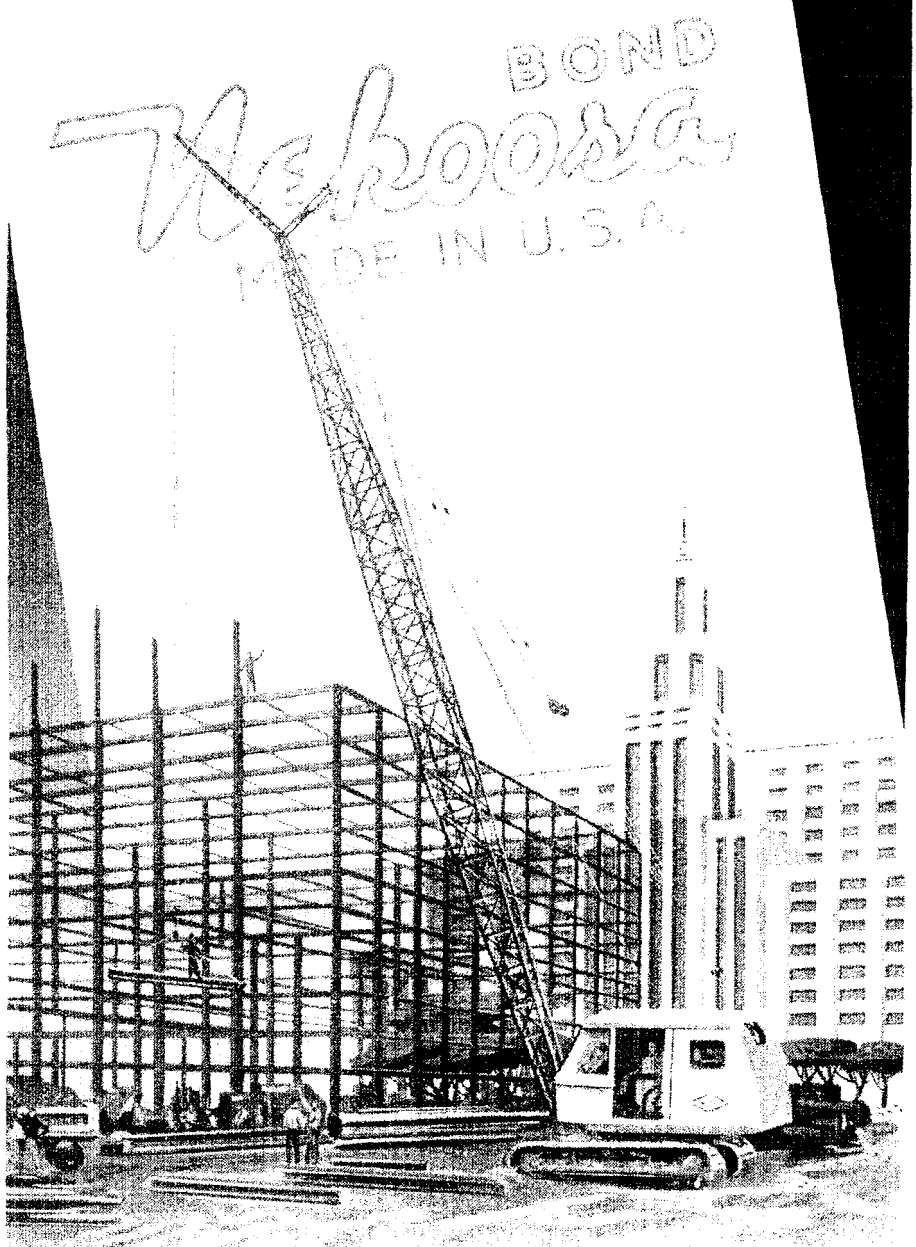
CANCER [illegible] Dr. [illegible] Hueper [illegible] how to [illegible] the [illegible] of occupational cancer

the [illegible] facing the [illegible] all the [illegible] back to his first [illegible]

"Sleuthing—[illegible] turns up at any point, a [illegible] called in. [illegible] positive proofs that a [illegible] have been [illegible] the data [illegible] cards. These will be used [illegible] over-all [illegible] out by the Division of [illegible] of the U. S. [illegible] for the duration [illegible]

The committee [illegible]

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analysis of materials, radiation measurements, chemical analysis of air contaminants—dusts, gases, fumes, and the like. That way, it is hoped that occupational factors that are not now suspected of causing cancer may be brought to light.

• **Investigation Points**—Dr. Hueper's paper broke down the known and suspected cancer causing agents into:

Physical Agents: These include ultraviolet rays, X-rays, and other radioactive substances.

Chemical Agents: Inorganic chemicals, such as arsenicals, chromates, nickel carbonyl, asbestos; organic chemicals such as aromatic compounds and amines, benzol, and the undefined compounds responsible for the cancer-causing action of tar, pitch, asphalt, soot, carbon black, paraffin oil, creosote, and various crude and processed mineral oils, shale oils, and some products derived from them.

With this list of suspects, the medical authorities are particularly interested in industries using these materials. As Dr. Heller put it: "As far as we know, the most dangerous areas are in the field of radioactive substances; the areas of hydrocarbon research and development, such as the high temperature distillation and fractionation of petroleum; and the wide field of organic chemistry which is developing new synthetic chemicals."



Neutron Counter

This tiny neutron counter is expected to ease one of the toughest jobs of the atomic researcher. It was recently developed by Dr. Kuan-Han Sun, Chinese-born physicist at the Westinghouse Research Laboratories. Neutrons are difficult to detect because they carry no electrical charge. But neutrons will split uranium atoms. So the detector includes a film of uranium-235. A photo-sensitive plate responds to the radiation from the atomic fission by emitting electrons which are multiplied, collected, and counted.

...ation can relax for ECA loans; each country in which these ECA-backed investments are to be made must first give its approval.

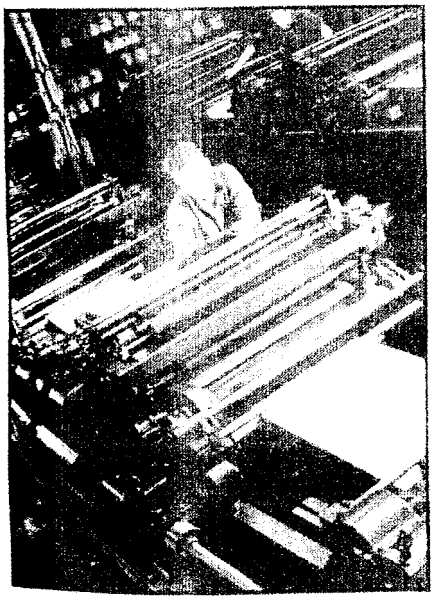
Western European nations don't think that most of the proposed investments would give them as much for their dollars as a straight loan. They might buy the guarantee idea if it were offered in addition to a given country's total allocation of dollars.

Reports From Abroad

Allied military authorities in Germany have approved several small investments by U.S. publishers to be covered by ECA's guarantee fund. MacFadden Publications International Corp. and ... Publications, Inc., were guaranteed conversion of earnings in German currency up to $87,000 for the coming year.

This is what the Germans get: 10,000 assorted comic books a month, plus copies of True Confessions, Startling Detective, True Police Cases and ... Story. Moreover MacFadden intends to publish a German edition of True Story.

Occupation-Generals Clay and Robertson approved. They did so because fines could find nothing ... Nazi or ... sidiable from a sense ... of ...



Forge-Proof Licenses

This printing press at Todd Co., Inc., Rochester, N. Y., is turning out export license forms designed to foil the cleverest forger. It is part of Commerce Dept.'s drive against export racketeers (BW—Jul.17'48,p108). The Todd process makes export licenses as safe as banknotes. A surface pattern of dots, arranged in a complex mathematical formula, is printed on each form. The formula was destroyed for secrecy after the printing plates were made.

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