

Washington Digest

Synthetic Rubber Industry Achieved Within One Year

Speedy Adoption of Rubber Manufacturing Program Shaves 24 Years From Time Required to Launch New Industry.

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By the time this is written or shortly thereafter, announcement will be made of the creation of what may become one of the world's greatest industries—synthetic rubber manufacturing. By that time probably ten plants will be assured of operation—the three biggest will make synthetic rubber out of alcohol, which means a market for the farmer's grain.

If the program marches according to schedule, the United States will have achieved within one year what usually takes a quarter of a century to accomplish—the building of a new industry.

This is the message that William Jeffers, president of the Union Pacific railway, now rubber administrator in Washington, gave me.

Mr. Jeffers presides at a desk in one of the offices of the War Production board and appears to be one man taken out of the American business world who believes that you can get things done even within the government.

He looks like what he is. A railroad man who came up from the bottom, still carries a union card and usually mentions it. He is stocky—bull-necked, slow spoken, a prophet of the practical, skeptical of the theoretical, who talks about his "two-fisted" organization of successful "business men" who "know their stuff."

I asked him first if he found much difference between working for the government and running a railroad. "Yes," he answered. Then he smiled and took his time before he went on.

"This is a democracy—I suppose the delays are necessary. But I haven't had much trouble." He looked up. "I make my own decisions. I got that Ford plant overnight." (He engineered the negotiations for the Ford tire manufacturing plant in Detroit for shipment to Russia.)

Using What We Have

"I have a top-notch organization of two-hundred businessmen who know their stuff. We are going to do what we are supposed to do on schedule. On our own schedule. We have the information we want and in a few weeks we'll know just how many plants we are going to have, what their capacity will be and the order in which they will start producing."

"My first job," Jeffers went on as he lifted his 220 pounds and walked around the desk, "is keeping the country on rubber with what we've got. That means reclamation and conservation. Then it's to produce the synthetic rubber we need to keep going for the duration. Meanwhile I watch that stock pile of pure rubber we have, like a hawk."

"Here are the ABC's," he said, motioning me to a chair beside a table on which was standing what looked like an open sample case. It contained a number of bottles and a few other objects properly labeled. He pointed to the first bottle. "This is full of shreds," he said. "It is part of a whole tire, casing and all, cut up." He pointed to the next bottle. "This," he said, "is the same stuff after it has been soaked in oil and acid and the pieces of casing floated out. You can see the pieces of metal in it still." He showed me a screen with pieces of metal on it. "Here is the filter which strains out the metal—a lot of metal gets into a tire." There were a lot of pieces sticking to the bottom of the filter.

"These next bottles," he went on, "show the way the stuff looks after each successive process of refining. And here is the reclaimed rubber." He said as he picked up a black strip. Then he pointed to a new tire leaning against the wall. "This tire is made of reclaimed rubber." I felt it. It seemed normal. I said so. "It isn't as good as the tires you get today," he said, "but it is as good as the ones you got ten years ago."

Rubber Production

Then we came to part two—part two of his job, which is the production of synthetic rubber.

He showed me a yellowish object which felt like rubber. "This is neoprene—synthetic rubber made of carbide. It is better than rubber, but it is very expensive."

There are two bottles, the contents of which looked just alike to me—a milky substance. One was the pure latex from the rubber tree. The other was a synthetic product made from alcohol of petroleum.

"I am not a chemist," Jeffers said, "and I don't intend to be one. Those are just the ABC's."

He went back to the immediate problem before him, which is to keep America rolling until the synthetic factories start to work.

"Are you going to be able to do that?" I asked.

"It is not impossible if everybody plays the game," he said. "I know you can't regiment the American people and I am not in favor of trying to do it, but when the people understand what we are trying to do for them, I think they will cooperate. I have gotten splendid cooperation already from big business, little business and individuals. It is reassuring to learn how people react when they know what we are doing. I get all kinds of letters—and I answer all of them."

"When the people realize how important it is to help us help them save rubber, they will cooperate. In the last war we had a lot of flags and parades, went down to the train to see the fellows off with a band. There doesn't seem to be any of that in this war. It might be a good thing. But when the people realize that the most vital thing in our war effort is saving rubber, we are going to see something tangible."

At that point Mr. Jeffers dropped an aside, one of the little human remarks that are typical of him, tinged though it is with a touch of irony—"Maybe if the people didn't run around so much they could visit their neighbors and they might make friends and get better friends that way."

Rubber and Economics

"Rubber affects the social life of the people, no doubt—the whole American economy, rightly or wrongly, is built on rubber and we can't change it. Look at the farmer. We have to have food. The farmer can't go back to the horse and wagon. If he could get the horses, we couldn't build the wagons now. He has to get the crops to market—it all comes back to transportation."

"We'll keep them on rubber. Gas rationing is rough justice. It works hardships on some. Some take advantage of it—it's the man who has three gallons more than he needs and uses them to ride around the country that is the waster. But I think we'll get co-operation."

I went back to problem two; the building of the synthetic industry.

"The government will own the plants," I said, "won't that make post-war problems?" He said to me, "Yes, the government will own the plants and the product will be manufactured on what amounts to a 'management fee' basis. A lot of other things," he said, "will be made under the same conditions."

"But I'm not interested in post-war problems," Jeffers went on, "my job is to help win the war. Unless bugs develop that we can't take care of, we'll do it. And if we do, we'll accomplish in a year and a half what it usually takes 25 years to do."

Co-operation will do that—and keep the country on rubber meanwhile—and co-operation means big business, little business and the folks "who eat in the kitchen" as Mr. Jeffers puts it. "They have the balance of power," he says.

About Wasted Coal

According to the United States Office of the Bituminous Coal Consumers' Counsel bituminous or "soft" coal is the backbone of America. It supplies industry with more than one-half of the power and energy required to produce the weapons of war. Creates nearly 55 per cent of the electricity used in our nation. Heats more than 50 per cent of the homes of America. Four out of five of all the railroad locomotives of the country get their power from bituminous coal.

Twenty-five million tons of "soft" coal will be wasted by the domestic consumer this year unless more than usual care is exercised in the operation of home heating furnaces.

WHO'S NEWS This Week

By **Lemuel F. Parton**
Consolidated Features.—WNU Release.

NEW YORK—Just after he won the world heavyweight championship, Jack Sharkey was dining at Tail's restaurant in San Francisco. The waiter brought him a lobster with one claw missing. Jack wanted to know about that. The waiter explained that two lobsters had been brought together in a crate from Martinez; that they had a fight and this one lost its claw.

Psychological By-Products of North Africa Mount Daily

"Take this bum away and bring me the winner!" bellowed Jack. The quite human desire to string with a winner is manifesting itself in Latin-American countries, and perhaps elsewhere, since the U. S. A. cut loose and started swinging in North Africa. Dispatches from several countries tell of sentiment shifting to the Allies, and away from the Axis. More specifically, Argentina's distinguished hair-splitting legalist, Sr. Enrique Ruiz Guinazu, is caught off dead-center for just about the first time in his long and amiably noncommittal career. As foreign minister of Argentina, he cables to the U. S. A. his felicitations and his expression of Argentina's "solidarity" behind our North African campaign. There is the rumble of the band-wagon as well as of guns throughout the world.

During the Pan-American conference at Rio de Janeiro last January, gleaners among the senator's learned and bland evasions could not find so much as a straw in the wind. Seven months' earlier, he had been elaborately feuded at Washington, with state dinners and a big, jovial stag party by the President, and as time passed it appeared that we might not even get our bait back. Our later cultural phalanxes, moving on Argentina, seemed equally ineffective. Argentina remained our hardest nut to crack. Perhaps General Eisenhower has cracked it. Representing Argentina at the League of Nations for many years, Sr. Ruiz Guinazu was an eminent personage in the great academic tournaments which deplored but sidestepped the oncoming Axis juggernaut. He was president of the League of Nations council in 1935, and in that year voted with the opposition when it was proposed to throw a switch on Mussolini, en route to Ethiopia. He is a veteran of Argentinian statesmanship, profoundly learned in International law, and political theory, for several years ambassador to Switzerland. Cautious and cryptic, although always gracious and smiling, he is at last on record—for "the safeguarding and security of the Americas," as he cables Secretary Hull.

IT WAS nearly two years ago that Robert D. Murphy, then counselor for our embassy at Vichy, started on a little publicized tour of North Africa, inspecting our consulates, as the cautious little newspaper handouts of the time would have it.

We Have Had a Laurence of North Africa on the Job

There were subsequent trips which made it clear that Mr. Murphy's interests were not confined to consular efficiency. General Eisenhower supplies additional and final proof in leading the greatest sea and air borne invasion of all time—strategically and politically readied by Mr. Murphy's preparation. As to the bournous and all the other traditionally romantic fixings of such enterprise, it's quite the reverse so far as Mr. Murphy is concerned. He is a trim-rigged diplomat, whose genial and ready smile, as well as his name, suggests his Irish antecedents. He has been correct and dependable in diplomatic punctilio.

Much of Mr. Murphy's activity seems to have been adroitly political. He rallied Free French adherents everywhere and he made strategical use of American food and clothing supplies. The latter was, of course, denounced as appeasement of Vichy, with an insistence that the supplies would find their way into German hands. The Germans put us right on that, if we were reading their Paris newspaper *Aujourd'hui*, of February 10, 1941. They vilified Mr. Murphy as a conspirator working with the DeGaulle forces.

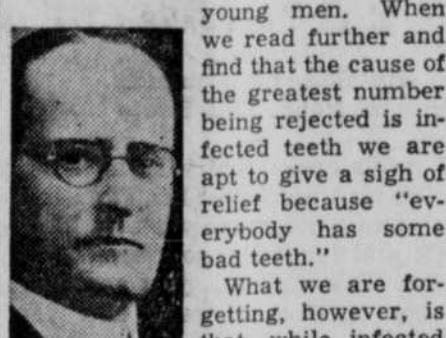
Born and reared in Milwaukee, Mr. Murphy attended Marquette academy and George Washington university. He entered the career service of the state department in 1917. Stationed at consular posts in Europe and Africa, he frequently was entrusted with strategic and scouting missions. Department insiders have long known him as a quiet, cagey, political explorer, with a camera eye and a nose for inside news. For the preparatory work Mr. Murphy has done in North Africa, he deservedly takes a bow along with General Eisenhower.

TO YOUR Good Health

by **DR. JAMES W. BARTON**
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

DENTAL INFECTION

When we read of the great percentage of recruits rejected for army service we are apt to be discouraged about the health of our young men. When we read further and find that the cause of the greatest number being rejected is infected teeth we are apt to give a sigh of relief because "everybody has some bad teeth."



Dr. Barton

What we are forgetting, however, is that, while infected teeth are common and "apparently" cause little or no harm to the body, it is known to physicians and dentists that infected teeth are the cause of a great many symptoms and even diseases and result in pain and a great loss of time from work.

In an article "Dental Infections and the Industrial Worker" in the *Journal of the American Dental Association* Dr. Ernest Goldhorn, Chicago, states: "Statistics reveal that, regardless of age, sex or economic condition, 80 per cent of the people suffer from one or both of the two classes of dental disease, tooth decay and pyorrhea (inflammation of the gums)." Dental infection has long been recognized as a predisposing cause of rheumatism, arthritis, lumbago, neuritis, particularly sciatica.

Sometimes an industrial worker will have a fall or slight injury to the joint and the pain and disability which follow is considered due entirely to the fall, whereas infection from the teeth or gums is already present in the joints or in the epds of the muscles moving the joint (fibrositis) and, of course, the injury or fall aggravates the condition.

On the other hand, a joint that has been injured is often the first spot to which infection from teeth and gums is carried by the blood.

"Dental infections may cause ulcers of the stomach and intestines, colitis, appendicitis, gall-bladder infection and even cancer." Most physicians feel that it would be safe to say that there is not an organ or tissue in the body that cannot be damaged by infection from teeth and gums.

In these days when industrial workers, all of us, in fact, should be at our best physically and mentally, and we know that nothing makes one quite so tired or "lazy" as infection, then the commonest infection known—dental infection—should not remain so common when a visit to our dentist twice a year will prevent it.

Change of Life Common to Men

Physicians are often asked why it is that men do not undergo a change similar to the menopause in women. Women undergo the menopause and in practically all cases there are some symptoms aside from the stopping of the monthly period. In some cases the nervous and emotional disturbances are so severe that care in an institution for months becomes necessary.

As a matter of fact, men pass through a similar period, but as there are few outstanding symptoms, such as with women, the "change" in men is so gradual that it is not suspected by the individual nor perhaps by his family. The average age for the beginning of the change in men is about 50 but may be years later, and may last for years just as with women.

One common symptom in men is the increase in weight, particularly, in lower abdomen and often a loss of fat and muscle also about the chest and shoulders. Instead of wide shoulders and narrow or medium hips, he becomes pear shaped in appearance.

Other symptoms noted are excessive perspiration, nervous instability, falling memory, irritability, gradual lack of interest in business, lodge, sport and other affairs in which he has always been interested.

Just as women at the menopause suffer with more aches and pains than before, so also do men, although there are not as many cases of crippling arthritis as in women. Other symptoms of the "change" in men are dizziness, headaches, rapid heart beat, increase in blood pressure, chilliness alternating with excessive perspiration, lack of confidence, lack of concentration, anxiety states, insomnia, mental and physical fatigue, disturbance with urine and bladder due to enlarged prostate gland.

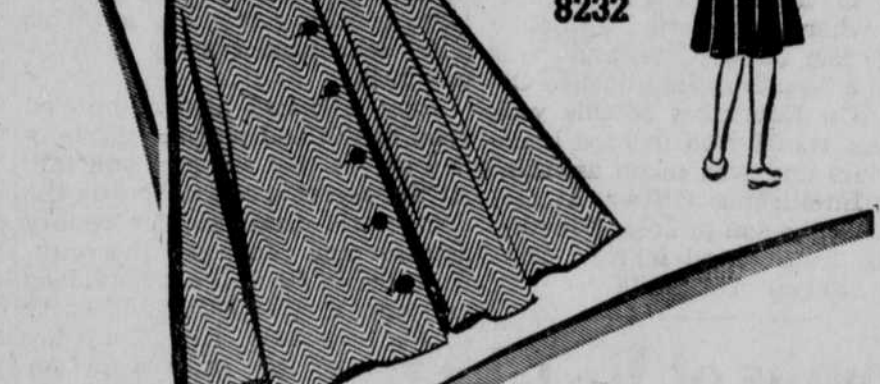
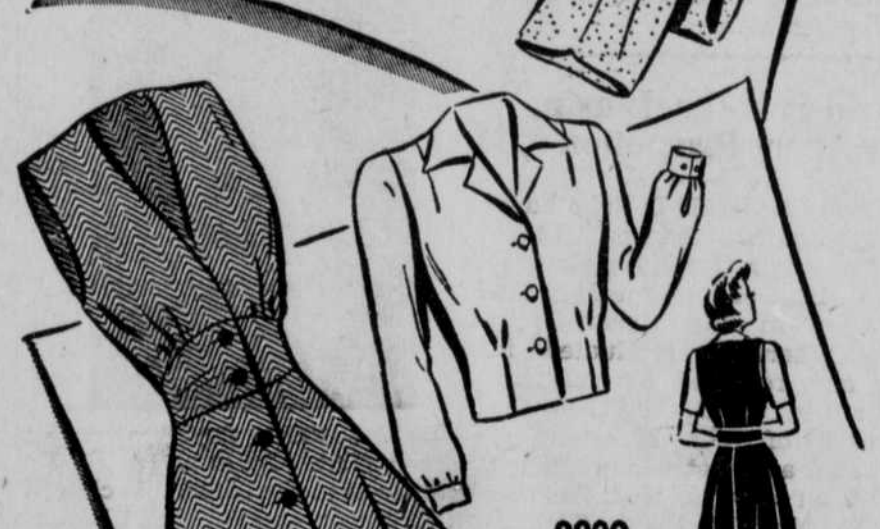
QUESTION BOX

Q.—Other than the discomfort occasioned by sinus trouble has it any serious effects?

A.—Sinus trouble with no pus formation and no complications is not a serious condition. With pus formation there is danger of infection of joints and other parts. In the dry form of catarrh from sinus trouble there is halitosis. Argyrol has been used for many years. It should be used under the supervision of a physician.

PATTERNS SEWING CIRCLE

Released by Western Newspaper Union.



Stream-Lined Pajamas

OUR government wants us to conserve materials, even in our lingerie. We've stream-lined these pajamas to save on fabric but we haven't skimped on their allure! Colorful strawberry appliques are suggested for corners of the neckline and for the pocket—so there's glamour galore in this handsome sleeping suit.

Pattern No. 8234 is in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 40. Size 14, short sleeves, requires 4½ yards 35 or 39-inch material, 3 yards bias fold.

Blouse and Jumper

CUT down in the bodice so that it shows a good portion of the contrasting blouse beneath it, this jumper has an extra measure of charm! The front buttoning makes it extra convenient and the belted waistline makes it extra flattering!

Pattern No. 8232 is in sizes 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 40. Size 14 jumper takes 2½ yards 39-inch material; 2 yards 54-inch. Contrasting blouse, short sleeves, 1¾ yards 35 or 39-inch material.

SEWING CIRCLE PATTERN DEPT. Room 1116 Chicago 211 West Wacker Dr. Enclose 20 cents in coins for each pattern desired. Pattern No. Size Name Address

Up to This Time Judge Had Not Been Suspect

A man was being tried in the local court for misappropriating a pig, and a conscientious witness, to whom the accused was said to have confided, was on the stand, being examined. "Now then, can you repeat the exact words in which the prisoner confessed to you to taking the pig?" asked the counsel. "He said, sir, that he took the pig," replied the witness. The judge tried to simplify the question: "Did the prisoner say, 'He took the pig,' or did he say, 'I took the pig?'" "Oh, no, your honor, he said that he took it. Your honor's name wasn't even mentioned."

RASHES Externally Caused RESINOL

Relieve fiery itching and allay further irritation with active, specially medicated Resinol. Needed Solitude Solitude is as needful to the imagination as society is wholesome for the character.—James Russell Lowell.

SNAPPY FACTS ABOUT RUBBER

Until restrictions were placed on gasoline consumption, tires were wearing out eight times faster than they were being replaced. We've all heard of wooden tires, but tires made of concrete have been, at least in one instance, substituted for the conventional rubber. A Parker Dam engineer had cast reinforced concrete tires on the rim of a portable welding machine. They worked. As the temperature inside a tire increases, the pressure goes up, but it is poor rubber economy to "bleed" or let the air out of the tire when it is hot. To do so means under-inflation—and rubber waste—when the casing cools. In 1911 a tire for the then popular make of car cost the motorist \$25.30 and gave about 2500 miles. A comparable tire for the present day popular makes of cars can be had (with ration certificate) for about \$15. Properly inflated it will return close to 25,000 miles of service.

In war or peace **B.F. Goodrich** FIRST IN RUBBER

SING A SONG OF KITCHEN THRIFT SINK YOUR DIMES IN WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

LOST

Lost, a cough due to a cold—thanks to the soothing action of Smith Brothers Cough Drops. Smith Bros. Cough Drops contain a special blend of medicinal ingredients, blended with prescription care. And they still cost only 5¢ a box. Yes, a nickel checks that tickle.

SMITH BROS. COUGH DROPS BLACK OR MENTHOL—5¢

"T-ZONE" WHERE CIGARETTES ARE JUDGED

The "T-ZONE"—Taste and Throat—is the proving ground for cigarettes. Only your taste and throat can decide which cigarette tastes best to you... and how it affects your throat. For your taste and throat are individual to you. Based on the experience of millions of smokers, we believe Camels will suit your "T-ZONE" to a "T." Prove it for yourself!

CAMEL

FIRST IN THE SERVICE

With men in the Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, the favorite cigarette is Camel. (Based on actual sales records in Post Exchanges and Canteens.)

CAMELS FOR ME! THEY SUIT ME TO A 'T' ALL ALONG THE LINE

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

What do they do with the ends of the pants tailors have cut off for short-legged people now that cuffs are forbidden? Don't worry, the cloth is turned over to the Red Cross and re woven.

Women in some branches of the military service are taking special courses in jiu-jitsu.

The death penalty can be pronounced on Belgians who slaughter animals without German permission.

We may get some of those wooden nickels we used to hear so much about after all. Senator Wagner has introduced a bill allowing the treasury to make coins under ten cents out of "any kind of material."

—Buy War Bonds—