

THE WORKS PROGRAM

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-- Works Progress Administration --

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## WPA PUBLISHES SUMMARY AND INDEX OF RESEARCH

Results of some 2,000 research projects carried on as part of the federal work relief program are summarized briefly in a digest and index released today by Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator. The volume contains a concise statement of the outstanding findings and conclusions of each research project and an alphabetical subject index to the contents which touch upon nearly every field of scientific investigation.

Commenting on this publication, Corrington Gill, Assistant WPA Administrator, said, "This Index will make a vast amount of research material available for the first time to universities, scientific organizations and industrial research departments and will enable them to take advantage of work already done. A great deal of overlapping and duplication in scientific investigation will be eliminated.

"Incidentally, these research projects, although they constitute less than 3 per cent of the program, are tremendously important," Mr. Gill continued. "The results, as summarized in this Index of Research Projects, speak for themselves -- they have provided more adequate knowledge of such problems as disease,

inadequate housing, traffic accidents, soil erosion and countless others. Important discoveries in medicine, industrial technology and many other fields have been made by the project workers. Even more important, these projects were designed to give jobs to unemployed persons with professional or technical training. This employment has not only used their skill and training in productive scientific work, but they have received further training and a background in other fields as well. Our labor turnover on this type of project is considerably higher than the general average simply because the training and experience received by the workers frequently results in a steady job with a municipal research bureau, a university department or some similar organization."

The summaries included in the digest are arranged according to the subject matter of the research, the broad fields being natural resources, science and technology, history, economics, governmental research, social research and education.

In connection with these reports, Mr. Gill pointed out that the function of the WPA is to supply qualified relief labor to assist sponsors in their research activities and to make certain that the investigations are undertaken on a sound scientific basis. "In considering the desirability of all projects of this sort," he said, "we consult a Federal department, a research foundation or an outstanding specialist in the particular type of research involved. Their advice as to practicability of the project and the proper methods of conducting it are essential. On the other hand, reports on the results of scientific investigations are prepared and issued by project sponsors. The WPA insists that the results be made available for public use, but any conclusions and interpretations are the sponsors' responsibility. The best index of the quality of these reports, it seems to me, is the

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large numbers of them which have been accepted and published by the standard technical and scientific journals."

A limited edition of this Index has been prepared for distribution to a few of the larger public and university libraries, where it will be available for reference, and for Government departments, industrial concerns and research foundations actively engaged in scientific investigation.

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