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Miracle Man-Made Timber Speeds Britain's Housing

By a clever mating of plastics and prefabrication, Great Britain has produced "plimber", a synthetic woods that is factory-made from a variety of raw materials. This plastics composition building material is proving ideal for walls, partitions and flooring, radio cabinets and furniture of all types.

"Plimber" is helping to solve Britain's colossal housing problem. It has already gone far towards accelerating the nation's speedy, low-cost home building program. Adaptable to many kinds of construction, it is also pulling its weight in Britain's export market. Strong enough to withstand any climate, it takes a fine veneer finish for home furniture that stands comparison with top-quality natural woods.

Developed over the past three years, "plimber" is now in mass production at six plants in Britain. It consists largely of wood fibers chemically treated and bonded with synthetic resins. Other man-made adhesives were used in making aircraft during the war.

The wonders of the mongrel wood are almost unlimited. It can be sawn, cut, drilled nailed, screwed and generally treated like real timber in every way.

Wandering Date of Easter Puzzles Millions Annually

The wandering date of Easter is puzzling to almost everyone but astronomers and ecclesiastical authorities. March 22 is the earliest possible date; April 25 is the latest. This year it fell on March 28.

The early Christians were sharply divided between Jews and Gentiles. Those whose ancestral faith was Jewish wished to have the celebration of the Resurrection follow the Passover supper by three days, always, while the Gentiles wished to celebrate Easter always on Sunday. The decision was a compromise, to the effect that Easter should be the first Sunday after the beginning of the Passover. It is not stated that way, however, and Passover sometimes falls a month late, when an extra month is inserted in the Jewish lunar calendar in order to keep it in step with the seasons. That happened this year, for example, when the Passover began on Saturday, April 24.

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon to follow the beginning of spring, so it happened that Sunday, March 28 was Easter in 1948. Easter precedes the beginning of Passover, thus violating the original spirit of the regulation.

First Innerspring Mattress

Heinrich Westphal, veteran of the Franco-Prussian wars is credited with the invention of the innerspring mattress. He had been injured during the war and spent much time on a hard hospital bed. Through his discomfort, he conceived the idea for the innerspring mattress, had one made and presented it to Prince Bismarck in 1871. He lacked the funds to capitalize on his investment, however, and the patent expired. Research in this country got underway in the early 1900's, but it was the late 1920's before innersprings were produced in any quantity. Since then, perfected innerspring unit constructions, improved tailoring and other features developed by individual manufacturers have added more comfort and better appearance to innerspring mattresses.

Alexander Hamilton-Aaron Burr Duel

The famous duel between vice-president Aaron Burr and Gen. Alexander Hamilton took place on the morning of July 11, 1804, at a few minutes past seven o'clock in the morning. When a second cried the word "Present!" Burr fired immediately and Hamilton pitched forward on his face. His pistol discharged in the air. Hamilton was carried to the edge of the Hudson river and revived with spirits of hartshorn. Burr's bullet had pierced his liver and lodged in his spine. He died in New York after many hours of agonizing pain. The duel took place on the woodcut heights of Weehawken, N. J. Because west far back into the lives of both men. After the duel, Aaron Burr was as dead—politically—as Hamilton.

Radar Port for Isle of Man

Radar now guides the way for the half million British, Scottish and Irish vacationists who pour onto the Isle of Man every season. Douglas, the hilly island's port, has equipped its harbor to be the first radar-controlled anchorage in the British Isles. Next in line is Liverpool, great English port where most of Man's visitors embark on the 80-mile Irish sea voyage to the "Monte Carlo of the North." The harbor of Douglas is often fogbound, and in the height of the season 40 steamers a day are arriving and departing almost constantly, says the National Geographic society. Shore-based radar and shore-to-ship radio will help move this traffic safely.

Soccer Played as Early as 1320

First variety of football known to the United States was soccer. It was played spasmodically, and not according to established rules, as early as the 1620's. The first regulation game was in 1869 between Princeton and Rutgers. But late in the 1870's, the players proceeded to blend soccer with rugby and the result, with inspired changes, became football of the American species of today. The love of soccer continued, despite the tidal wave which swept America's own brand of football into popularity, soccer was featured for a time as a professional sport for amateurs, played in the hope not devoted to regular occupation, and was a favorite at a number of colleges.

As Washington Sees It . . . THE NATIONAL SCENE

Special to The Chronicle.

Washington, Oct. 27—All Washington is tense from the threat of war with Russia. Observers declare the situation is critical although it does not necessarily mean war. With President Truman interrupting his campaign tour in the east to call Secretary of State Marshall home from the United Nations meeting in Paris for consultation and John Foster Dulles also called home to confer with Governor Dewey, the GOP presidential candidate, it was believed here that hope of Russian understanding had been abandoned . . . that our only hope of preventing war is a show of force and stern determination to uphold our position in west-ern Europe.

Sen. Scott W. Lucas (Dem., Ill.), home from a tour of Europe, said that Gen. Lucius Clay, the American commander in chief in Germany, "believes that if we pursue vigorously and firmly our present policy there will be no shooting war. While it is true the Russians have a standing army that could overrun most of Europe in a short while, sustaining such an army in the field for any length of time would be a tremendous strain on the Russian internal economy."

Congressional Representatives of tobacco producing states, here to protest use of ECA funds in Greece for purchase of tobacco in Turkey and Greece for the American zone in Germany, were told by Administrator Paul Hoffman that ECA funds were not designed to act as a subsidy for U. S. industry or agriculture and neither could ECA tell European nations what to buy with their own currencies nor where to spend them.

The tobacco group included Senators McKellar (Dem., Tenn.), Umstead (Dem., N. C.), and representatives Spence (Dem., Ky.), Cooley (Dem., N. C.), Borden (Dem., N. C.) and Chapman (Dem., Ky.). They requested ECA to follow what they described as "intent of congress" in making sure that American tobacco is not "pushed around" in world markets. ECA recently authorized seven million dollars for purchase of Greek, Turkish and American tobaccos for shipment to Germany. The authorization was about equally divided between U. S. and Greek-Turkish leaf and was protested by Senator Cooper (Rep., Ky.). Hoffman told the group he would "be opposed to distorting the historic trade pattern of Europe in favor of American industry," and added that ECA's influence will be most effective in speeding recovery in Europe if it keeps traditional trade policy balanced.

Indications are that a rail freight rate increase of approximately 4 per cent will be soon granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Railroads, which recently granted another raise to rail workers, had filed a petition for an 8 per cent increase prior to the wage increase. Indications are that the commission likely will have the increase asked.

Veterans will be given first chance in the opening for homestead of X-618 acres of irrigable land in the Minidoka unit of the Minidoka irrigation project 20 miles northeast of Twin Falls, Idaho, according to announcement by interior secretary J. A. Krug.

J. M. Tribucno, governor of the Central bank of the Dominican Republic, is in Washington to attend the meeting of the board of governors of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development of the International Monetary Fund, told Washington audiences that his country, the Dominican Republic, has no public debt and no communists.

Communist activity of any and all kinds is prohibited by law in the Republic, and in 18 years the country has risen from financial disaster to pay off its indebtedness 22 years before maturity of its bonds.

Believe it or not, more than 3,000 federal occupational tax stamps have been issued to liquor and beer dealers in the three "dry" states of Kansas, Mississippi and Oklahoma during the past fiscal year. All three states outlaw distilled spirits. Kansas and Oklahoma permit sale of 3.2 beer. Bureau of Internal Revenue reports the sale of 167 wholesale liquor tax stamps and 3,189 retail liquor dealers stamps in the three states.

Senator Joseph R. McCarthy (Rep., Wis.) told the mortgage bankers association of America in their New York convention, that unless they made more federal insured home loans, congress might be forced to put the government in the home loan business. Senator McCarthy said the housing agencies in many parts of the country were requiring larger down payments on low cost homes than required under the 1948 housing act.

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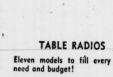

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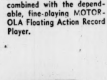

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