

AN UNUSUALLY PLACED METALLURGICAL LABORATORY.

Our metallurgical readers will be interested in the following account from the "Westporter Herald" of the Dorr Company's new laboratory and consulting offices near Westport, Conn., which Mr. Dorr has combined with a bird and small game sanctuary. This is a novel and praiseworthy example of the ruralization of industry.

About two miles from Westport, at the confluence of the Saugatuck and Aspetuck rivers in a picturesque stretch of woodland is an old mill which has been a landmark since the early days of the town. Built in pre-Revolutionary times when water power was a necessary part of business equipment, the mill was used for spinning, its operative force being brought from England. Owing to changes wrought by time and circumstances, it was transformed about seventy years ago into a grist mill and was known for miles around as Kelly's Mill to all the farmer folk who journeyed thither with their bags of grain from the season's harvest. Continuing to operate as a grist mill, it again changed ownership when considerable improvement in equipment was made and it became known as Sipperley's Mill. Two years ago the property was purchased by the Dorr Company, a large engineering and metallurgical research firm with offices in New York, Denver and London, England. The scope of the work at Westport includes analyses; extended research along various lines, and the investigation, development, testing and improvement of industrial, chemical and metallurgical processes. The mill has been entirely remodelled and refitted with an attractive library and conference room, sleeping accommodations for transient business visitors, a completely equipped analytical laboratory, and a testing plant of commercial scale tests along many lines. Surrounding the mill both up and down the two rivers is a tract of land consisting of forty-six acres, some in meadows and hillside, some in pond and waterways and the rest in natural woodland. Along the streams and in the meadows all kinds of birds native to New England are to be found in large numbers, likewise much small game. The rare wood ducks are here and the shy Heron, with thrushes and wood robins and all the little feathered songsters which seek the quiet of the undisturbed forest.

Last spring, through the untiring efforts of Mr. Herbert Fox and the generosity of Mr. Dorr, and their co-operation with the Nature Club of Westport, the services of Mr. Wilbur F. Smith, state game warden, were secured and through him the property was leased by the state for a Bird and Game Reserve and is now protected by state law from all hunting, either shooting or trapping, and is under the jurisdiction of Mr. Smith and the care of the Nature Club. Mr. Dorr has asked the Nature Club to establish feeding places and to put up bird houses. These have all been occupied this past summer, demonstrating clearly that the birds readily accept the offerings of their human friends.

The Junior Audubon Club of Westport, which numbers about four hundred members, will be glad to know that there is a bird reservation so near and the Nature Club hopes they will keep up their interest in observing and protecting the birds. A plan is being made for them all sometime to visit with their teachers this lovely natural bird retreat where may be seen so many birds which are too shy to venture away from the quiet wood, and also the five deer which have joined the wild colony at the Old Mill.

The townspeople, too, are asked to take an interest in this movement to protect the birds and game which so many times are thoughtlessly and ruthlessly destroyed and to assist the Nature Club by donations of suet, seed, nuts and grain for feeding during the cold winter months. Information regarding feeding and the making and placing of bird boxes may be obtained at the Public Library and any suggestions or advice from personal observation and experience will be gratefully received by the Nature Club, which looks for the hearty co-operation of all friends of birds and game to perpetuate this Preserve and show the appreciation which should be extended to Mr. Dorr for making it possible to have so beautiful a spot as this for a Bird and Game Reservation in our own town.

"BORE FOR POWER!" SAYS SIR CHAS. PARSONS.

In an address recently delivered in London, Eng., Hon. Sir Chas. A. Parsons, inventor of the Parsons turbine, said that "failing new and unexpected discoveries in science, such as the harnessing of the latent molecular and atomic energy in matter, the great position of England cannot be maintained for an indefinite period. At some time or other, more or less remote, the population will gradually migrate to those countries where the natural sources of energy are the most abundant."

England is using up its coal more rapidly than most other countries, and Sir Charles states that long before it reaches the point of exhaustion, it may pay England to import coal from countries where it is workable at lower cost. Ultimately water-power will be more rapidly developed, although the cost of harnessing all the water-power of the world would be about £8,000,000,000.

What shall England do to be saved from the disaster threatened by the exhaustion of its coal and the competition of other lands with plenty of cheap power? Sir Chas. Parsons' advice may be summed up in the one word: "Bore." There may be cheap power waiting, ready to be tapped, down deep in the crust of the earth, he says.

He recalled that some years ago he suggested boring a shaft 12 miles deep, or about 10 times deeper than any in existence. At that time the cost was estimated at £5,000,000, and the time that would be required at 85 years! Since then, he added, experiments have been made, showing that in limestone a depth of 15 miles is probably practicable, and in granite a depth of 30 miles might be reached.

"Little is at present known of the earth's interior," said Sir Charles. "When we consider that the estimated cost of sinking a shaft to a depth of 12 miles at present-day prices is not much more than the cost of one day of the war to Great Britain alone, the expense seems trivial compared with the possible knowledge that might be gained by an investigation into this unexplored region of the earth."

In Italy, at Lardarello, he said, bore holes have been sunk which discharge large volumes of high-pressure steam, which is used to generate about 10,000 h.p. by turbines. A similar project is on foot near Naples to supply power to the great works in that district.

Without promising that a 12-mile bore hole in England would yield ready-made steam-power, Sir Chas. Parsons urged that "the whole subject merits the most careful consideration."