

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENT STATION,
BUREAU OF MINES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

TRANSMITTING

COPY OF COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SUBMITTING A SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION, REQUIRED BY THE BUREAU OF MINES FOR THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENT STATION, FISCAL YEAR 1920.

JANUARY 28, 1919.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 27, 1919.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress copy of a communication from the Secretary of the Interior of the 27th instant, submitting a supplemental estimate of appropriation, in the sum of \$200,000, required by the Bureau of Mines for the American University Experiment Station, fiscal year 1920.

The necessity for the appropriation and the reasons for the submission of the estimate at this time are fully set forth in the memorandum accompanying the estimate.

Respectfully,

CARTER GLASS, *Secretary.*

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 27, 1919.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am transmitting herewith a supplemental estimate for an appropriation of \$200,000 for the American University Experiment Station, Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, together with accompanying statement explaining the necessity for the appropriation, and have

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to request that the same be forwarded to Congress for favorable consideration.

Cordially, yours,

FRANKLIN K. LANE,
Secretary.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
BUREAU OF MINES,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,
Washington, January 25, 1919.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am transmitting herewith for your consideration and approval a supplemental estimate for an appropriation of \$200,000, which will be required by the Bureau of Mines for the American University Experiment Station during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920.

The necessity for this appropriation is explained in the memorandum accompanying the estimate.

Cordially, yours,

CHARLES L. PARSONS,
Acting Director.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

The Bureau of Mines has long needed a central experiment station in Washington at which the work of its various experiment stations could be coordinated and in which special studies having to do with "mining, metallurgy, and mineral technology," with which the Bureau is charged by Congress, could be developed and research undertaken to advance these important industries.

A central laboratory for the bureau might well be established at the American University where land is available and where several hundreds of thousands of dollars have already been spent by the Government in erecting buildings, securing equipment, installing machinery and machine shops, forges, technological and chemical apparatus, and other material of the utmost value to the bureau's work. This equipment was gathered together and the buildings constructed in connection with the gas investigations which were instituted and carried nearly to completion by the Bureau of Mines when they were transferred, at the request of the Secretary of War, under the Overman Act, to the Chemical Warfare Service of the War Department, in order that all matters having to do with chemical warfare might be correlated under the command of Gen. Sibert.

Under the Overman Act of May 20, 1918, the buildings and laboratories of the institution will revert to the bureau within a period of six months after the war or at such time as the President may deem wise before the expiration of that time. Unless some such disposition is made of this material as is proposed above, it will have to be scrapped as must unfortunately be the case with many of the Government's investments. All of this material, however, could be utilized in peace times to the advantage of the country in carrying on work that will conserve the Government's investment and make available the wonderful resources gathered together by the Government at the American University for the development of our chemical and mineral industries.

Many millions of dollars have been spent by the Government for construction which will of necessity have to be abandoned on account of inability to use it for peace purposes. The investment at the American University could become a shining example of ability to turn a war expenditure into a constructive center for research, both scientific and practical, of a technologic nature, with special reference to our mineral and chemical industries, which the organic act of the Bureau of Mines definitely makes the function of this bureau.

A central laboratory established at the American University by the Bureau of Mines would serve as a nucleus to which the Army and Navy and other governmental agencies might refer problems of a technologic nature having to do with the production of finished products from the raw material, thus supplementing the work of the Bureau of Standards, which has to do with research and investigation on the standardization of physical and chemical characteristics of finished material. For example, studies of new explosives; the study of nitrogen fixation from the air; the production of nitrates and ammonium compounds; the production of special alloy steels which opens a wonderful, new field and in which the country must keep abreast of other countries; the utilization and development of raw materials, such as oils, natural gas, etc.; the examination and improvement of special fuels for our industries and for the Navy; and many similar problems might be undertaken.

In connection with the gas-mask work which has been conducted at the university, a big field is open to the country which must be carefully cultivated and developed in the production of industrial masks for preserving the health and lives of our sailors on shipboard and our laborers in industrial plants. The opportunity for the development of these industrial masks is great, and the benefit that will result to the country therefrom is immeasurable.

With the establishment of such a research center and institution for technological investigations a plan could be developed whereby some of the best and carefully selected graduates from our universities might annually be assigned to the laboratory as fellowships at a nominal compensation. This would furnish the Government research laboratories with a limited number of our promising young men, who would carry from this organization to the institutions of the country a spirit of research directed toward the practical application of science which would prove of lasting good to the country.

The war has developed the fact that our country should be self-sustaining in all of its essential raw material. The acceptance of this plan on behalf of the Government would give greater force and effect to a declaration of mineral and chemical independence.

If the appropriation requested can be made, the heavy war expenditure will be converted into a center of constructive effort which will eventually more than repay the Government for the heavy investment already made, together with the additional investment called for in this resolution. It will also give the Bureau of Mines a central experiment station in Washington which will enable it at all times to keep in touch with the industries of the country and which will enable Congress to keep in touch with the work of the bureau and see that the expenditures authorized in the annual appropriations now given to the bureau are spent to the best advantage by the development of the country's mineral industries.

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Estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, by the Department of the Interior.

BUREAU OF MINES.

American University Experiment Station—

For lease of the grounds, including buildings, of the American University, in the District of Columbia (known as the American University Experiment Station), as headquarters for experimental work of the Bureau of Mines authorized by the acts of May 16, 1910, and Feb. 25, 1913, and as one of the experiment stations authorized by the act of Mar. 3, 1915; for the removal of the laboratories of the Bureau of Mines in the Interior Department Building and their installation at the American University Experiment Station; for the purchase of equipment and supplies; for the maintenance and repair of equipment, buildings, and grounds; for maintenance, operation, and repair of motor-propelled passenger-carrying vehicles; and for every other necessary expense incident to the establishment and operation of said experiment station, including personal services in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses, \$200,000. The Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy are hereby authorized and directed to turn over to the Secretary of the Interior for the use of the Bureau of Mines all of the machinery, equipment, appliances, apparatus, supplies, buildings, and other property of the United States of America at the American University Experiment Station. A board consisting of 3 members, 1 to be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, 1 by the Secretary of the Interior, and 1 by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, shall confer with the owner of the American University property with a view to purchasing same and shall report to Congress its recommendations at the beginning of the next regular session thereof (acts Mar. 3, 1915, vol. 38, p. 959, sec. 1; May 16, 1910, vol. 36, p. 369, secs. 1-6; Feb. 25, 1913, vol. 37, p. 681, sec. 1, submitted)..... \$200,000

Employees.	Rate.	Estimated, 1920.
Salaries in Washington:		
Superintendent.....per annum.....	\$4,000.00	1
Chemical engineer.....do.....	4,500.00	1
Metallurgist.....do.....	4,500.00	1
Mineral technologist.....do.....	4,000.00	1
Do.....do.....	2,800.00	1
Chemist.....do.....	3,000.00	1
Assistant chemist.....do.....	2,200.00	1
Do.....do.....	1,800.00	1
Junior chemist.....do.....	1,500.00	2
Assistant metallurgist.....do.....	2,400.00	1
Metallurgical assistant.....do.....	1,800.00	1
Do.....do.....	1,500.00	1
Senior clerk.....do.....	1,800.00	1
Junior clerk.....do.....	1,400.00	1
Do.....do.....	1,200.00	2
Wages in Washington:		
Mechanic.....do.....	1,800.00	1
Electrician.....do.....	1,800.00	1
Glass blower.....do.....	1,500.00	1
Skilled laborer.....do.....	1,200.00	1
Laborers, charwomen, etc.....do.....	2,600.00
Total.....		\$50,000
OTHER OBJECTS OF EXPENDITURE.		
Travel and per diem in lieu of subsistence of \$2.50, \$3, \$3.50, and \$4, pursuant to sec. 13 of the sundry civil act approved Aug. 1, 1914 (38 Stat., 680).....		5,000
Removal of laboratories to American University Station.....		10,000
Their installation at the American University Station.....		10,000
New equipment (in addition to laboratory equipment to be moved there and equipment already there).....		30,000
Supplies (chemicals, etc.).....		10,000
Fuel, light, and heat.....		15,000
Repairs, etc.....		5,000
Maintenance and operation and repairs of motor vehicles.....		5,000
Rent and miscellaneous expenses.....		60,000
Total.....		200,000