POST WAR-CASUALTY

How can a person be a war casualty, 50 years after the war ended? Yet that is the experience of Private Harry Chait of Detroit. He was born more than 50 years after the Civil War terminated and he reported to the hospital at Camp Davis, N.C., a casualty of the Civil War. Private Chait's organization recently camped on an old Civil War battleground and while there, he and his comrades rigged up a makeshift fireplace out of old Civil War shells and when the fire blazed sufficiently, one of the shells exploded. A fragment struck Private Chait and sent him to the hospital. Thus he has the distinction of becoming a casualty in a war that was fought more than a quarter of a century ago.

CALL FOR ALL CHEMISTS

One of the early effects of the first World War was to deprive the United States of its supply of camphor. Camphor was then distilled from the so-called camphor laurel tree which grows in Japan, Formosa and central China. It was a challenge to the research chemists of this nation and they set to work with vigor. They showed how camphor could be obtained from pinene, a substance extracted from turpentine and today the price of camphor is about 15% of the price which prevailed in 1920. In even greater degree, the problems of today call for the marshaling of every chemical resource of our country to meet our needs in those items which are essential, not only to our war effort, but to our normal needs, and of which we are deprived as a result of conflict. A vast amount of work has already been done to increase our supply of plastics; pectin, that strange substance used in making jelly has been found to be a marvelous antiseptic and much progress has been made in its manufacture; the use of cotton in the manufacture of bags and sacks to replace jute is well under way; a new type of fire hose which can be made without the use of rubber is already a commercial reality; asparagus, almond shells, rice hulls, corn stalks and other waste products can now be converted into compressed building material; new drying oils to replace linseed and Chinawood oil are a reality. These are but a few of the items which are receiving attention and when the war is at an end, we shall find ourselves living in a new kind of world.

ARTISTIC TREASURES AND BOMBS

War is no respecter of art or culture. Since the days when the barbarians sacked the city of Rome and despoiled the Eternal City of priceless art treasures, every war of consequence has been attended by a similar destruction. The World War was no exception when beautiful cathedrals and exquisite paintings and sculpture were ruined or damaged beyond repair. Precautionary measures are now being taken to protect cultural collections which have been the object of veneration of millions of Americans and which are a part of the collections of the Library of Congress, the Archives and the art galleries of the nation's capitol. The priceless Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Gutenberg Bible, the papers of the Presidents and a host of other documents are being crated and sent to undisclosed places for storage and safekeeping until the present conflict ends. The National Gallery of Art which houses the greatest collection of art in America has been suitably equipped with shelters to protect its many treasures.
INDUSTRIAL CASUALTIES

Small business enterprises may become the real industrial casualties of war. Of the 3,000,000 small businesses in the U.S., about 168,000 are devoted to manufacturing. About 10,000 of these are now producing war and defense articles. Another 45,000 could be used in the war effort. They are struggling to keep alive because they can secure but limited amounts of materials with which to operate their plants. In September 1941, the President expressed a deep interest in the problem and suggested a Contract Distribution Division in the defense set-up whereby small enterprises might secure a fair share of defense work. Only 5300 of the 168,000 factories in the US employ over 250 men. Only 32,000 of the 168,000 have an annual production of goods which exceeds $250,000 in value. The small enterpriser therefore faces bankruptcy unless he can be brought into the war production program. Dun and Bradstreet report that at the end of the first year of the defense effort, bankruptcies of small business enterprises increased 50% over 1939. The importance of the problem lies in the fact that small business pay taxes, provides a vast amount of employment and constitutes the real backbone of our American system.

GUAYULE

Guayule is a wild, bushy shrub which is native to Mexico. It contains a sap of the latex variety which produces rubber. As a source of rubber it offered two difficulties. The rubber content of Guayule was small. It contained a kind of resin which had to be removed to make it useful. Many year ago, some enterprising persons from the Netherlands became interested in Guayule and established the Inter-continental Rubber Co. in California for the cultivation of guayule as a source of rubber. This company by careful cultivation increased the rubber content of this shrub and also devised a process for the de-resination of the rubber so that it is comparable with rubber produced from the para rubber tree. Recently, Congress authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire the property, plants, processes and devices of this corporation and to plant not to exceed 75,000 acres to guayule and to establish nurseries for the propagation of guayule and factories for processing the guayule rubber. It is a long-range program and will require years to produce rubber in quantity but it represents a start in making the US self-sufficient in rubber production.