
COAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

A recent announcement through the *News Service* of the Carnegie Institute of Technology that will interest many of our readers, states that:

"Gifts totalling \$425,000 to extend over a five-year period for the establishment and maintenance of a coal research laboratory at the Carnegie Institute of Technology were announced yesterday by Dr. Thomas S. Baker, president of the institution.

"The Buhl Foundation, of Pittsburgh, is the largest single donor to the project, contributing \$50,000 at the outset for the equipment of the laboratory, and \$25,000 a year for five years for a program of pure research. The gift of the Buhl Foundation is made with the stipulation that certain additional amounts shall be secured from other sources. This condition has now been met through the co-operation of six great American concerns who are the other contributors to the project that has been outlined by Dr. Baker. The firms co-operating are the United States Steel Corporation, the General Electric Company, the Koppers Company, the New York Edison Company, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company. These six corporations will contribute a total of \$50,000 a year for five years for the maintenance of the laboratory.

"The laboratory, according to Dr. Baker, will be a part of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, and will undertake fundamental research in coal and the products which may be obtained from it. The Carnegie Institute of Technology will organize graduate courses for the training of students in fuel technology in connection with the research laboratory, with the research staff giving instruction.

"Mr. Myron C. Taylor, chairman of the Finance Committee of the U. S. Steel Corporation, has co-operated with Dr. Baker in outlining the plans for the research laboratory that will be unique in America. It was largely through the endeavors of Mr. Taylor that the financial aid of the industrial concerns was secured.

"Mr. Charles F. Lewis, director of the Buhl Foundation, in commenting on the laboratory that the organization which he heads has made possible, said:

"It is gratifying to the Buhl Foundation that to its grant have been joined sufficient additional funds to assure establishment at the Carnegie Institute of Technology of a modern laboratory for prosecution of a vigorous program of pure research in coal. Two international conferences under President Baker's direction have prepared the way for this program and give assurance that it will

have the cordial and sympathetic interest of outstanding men of science throughout the world. The probability that the laboratory may make important contributions to basic scientific knowledge is strengthened by this relationship.

"The Institute's research program is, moreover, of distinct economic importance to the Pittsburgh district. The development in Pittsburgh of knowledge of coal, linked with additional provisions for training here expert technicians, may confidently be expected to have important consequences not only for this basic industry and for those employed in it, but for the people generally."

"Dr. Baker has long been interested in the study of coal and the use of its products. He was the organizer of the First and Second International Conferences on Bituminous Coal that attracted famous scientists from abroad, and drew the attention of the world to Pittsburgh. A third conference will be held in Pittsburgh at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in November, 1931.

"Dr. Baker in speaking of the research laboratory for which he has worked for several years, said:

"Pittsburgh is the appropriate place in which to study coal. Its industrial greatness is based largely on the rich supply of fuel in this district. Its future is somewhat endangered by the unsatisfactory condition of the coal industry. It would be too much to say that science can cure all the ills of this phase of our business life, but research offers the best opportunity for solving many of its baffling problems. We are in the center of the greatest coal field and the greatest coal market in the world. It is important that the people of this district should have near at hand the best scientific resources that can be secured in the world to aid them in dealing with what is most vital to the welfare and progress of our community.

"Coal touches almost every phase of modern life. As far as we can see it will always be the chief source of power, and cheap power is an essential to human welfare in our present civilization. It is the source of many of the necessities of life.

"There is no laboratory at present in the United States that is doing the work that we have outlined. There are many uses and by-products of coal still to be developed. Finally, there is the question of the smokeless city which can never be answered until a serviceable smokeless fuel has been discovered."