

SYNTHETIC QUININE PUT UNDER INQUIRY

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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**Alien Property Custodian Acts
on German Patents for Pro-
duction of Atabrine**

ARNOLD AWAITS SEIZURE

**Crowley Is Looking Into Needs
Since Loss of Source in
Netherlands Indies**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, March 26—Leo Crowley, Alien Property Custodian, said today that he would investigate, in conjunction with the Justice Department and the Public Health Service, the Winthrop Chemical Company's monopoly of German patents for the production of the only synthetic substitute for quinine—atabrine.

Thurman Arnold, assistant at-

torney general in charge of the anti-trust division of the Justice Department, said that the division itself was unable to take action about the monopoly, but that he had turned over information with regard to it to the foreign funds control committee.

"I can handle German patents under the Sherman Act if there is any pool in them, but not a single patent, as in this case," said Mr. Arnold. "If other agencies do not seize them I cannot do anything."

German property which has been administered by the foreign funds control committee is now to be taken over by the Office of the Alien Property Custodian. Mr. Crowley explained that he was taking steps to establish an office and build up a staff but had not had time to do more than take a quick glance at the German properties which will come under his custodianship.

"As for the atabrine patent," Mr. Crowley said, "we will study the matter in conjunction with the Justice Department and check with the Public Health Service to see how great is the demand for it. Whatever action we find necessary will be taken."

The United States has obtained nearly all its quinine in the past

from the Netherlands Indies. This will now be unavailable. On hand, either on the shelves of the trade or in government stockpiles, is something like a year and a half's supply. High-yielding cinchona trees are now being cultivated in Latin America with the help of the United States but the product will not be available in quantity for some years to come. A little quinine is being manufactured here from the wild cinchona trees of Latin America.

Atabrine, an effective synthetic substitute for quinine, is manufactured only by the Winthrop Chemical Company of Delaware, a subsidiary of Sterling Products, Inc.

By a consent decree last Fall Sterling Products was forced to break restrictive patent contracts with the German dye trust, the I. G. Farbenindustrie, which owned half of Winthrop's capital stock through General Aniline and Film. General Aniline and Film has now been taken over by the Alien Property Custodian.

It was stated at the annual meeting of Sterling Products in Wilmington two days ago that the Winthrop Chemical Company would increase its facilities for the production of atabrine by 8,000 per

cent above pre-war capacity. It will now be for Mr. Crowley to decide whether this meets the prospective needs of the nation.