

CHEMISTRY

# Hemp Needs New Uses

War-born American industry is looking for industries, other than cordage, to use its products. Rug warp, fire hose, canvas, toweling, tropical clothing suggested.

► AMERICA'S war-born hemp industry will require new uses for its products if some 42 processing mills built by the government are to continue in operation. These plants were constructed, and domestic hemp-growing encouraged, to meet a shortage of rope and cordage due to the Japanese control of Manila hemp from the Philippines and elsewhere in the Far East.

"Clothing and textiles from hemp offer one means of nourishing a 'war baby'

into a young industry important in national defense," declares *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*. It states also that government retention of these hemp processing plants and expansion of the domestic hemp industry are being urged by some in the interest of national preparedness.

"To utilize these plants at anything near capacity, new industries for hemp, other than cordage, will be needed," the publication says. "Commercial development of hemp for clothing and textiles in this country has attractive possibilities, since hemp is both the longest and the most highly absorbent natural fiber known."

Among other uses for hemp suggested are use in rug warp, fire hose, canvas, toweling, tropical clothing, by-product paper, and home insulation.

Since the Far Eastern supply of cordage was cut off by the war, American farmers, in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota particularly, were urged to increase their acreage of hemp. They did so, jumping a prewar average of 14,000 acres up to 165,000 acres. With the liberation of the Philippines the mills are being closed.

Hemp is a tall plant, related to the mulberry tree. It produces the strongest known vegetable fiber. It was used in both World Wars to supplement stocks of the hard fibers, jute, sisal, and Manila.

Although hemp is the strongest fiber known, its qualities as a soft spinning thread make it more suitable for textile, rug, and specialty uses, the article states, than for rope and cordage where the cheaper hard materials are predominant.

*Science News Letter, September 8, 1945*

CHEMISTRY

## Wax Emulsion Makes Clothing Water-Resistant

► EVERYBODY will be able to have water-resistant clothing, as soon as a new war-born emulsion, used in large quantities in the armed services, becomes available in civilian markets. Expert treatment of the clothing will be unnecessary; the emulsion is applied sim-

ply by adding it to the rinse water in the family wash.

The emulsion can be applied to many types of fabrics as well as to clothing, such as awnings, tenting, window shades and drapes. It makes the material not only water-resistant but less liable to wrinkle and to spot. Pressed garments will keep their shape longer.

This milky-looking wax emulsion, a petroleum product of the Socony-Vacuum Company, is non-toxic and non-inflammable. It is made up of tiny particles of paraffin wax suspended in a solution of an aluminum salt and water. It is superior to former wax emulsions in which soap is used to emulsify the wax, it is claimed, because such solutions deposit both a soap film and the wax on the cloth.

In laundering, the wax emulsion can be used in conjunction with starch, and it can be used also with mothproofing and mildew-proofing processes if desired. However used, the wax is invisible on the clothing, does not make the material stiff, and does not fill the spaces between fibers. Clothing that has been treated retains its porous qualities, and summer clothing, therefore, remains ventilated and cool.

*Science News Letter, September 8, 1945*

WILDLIFE

## Restrictions on Shooting Pigeons as Source of Meat

► GETTING free meat by shooting pigeons of the ownerless flocks that infest most cities, an idea that has suggested itself to more than one red-point-lacking citizen lately, is not as simple as it seems at first thought, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service warns. In most municipalities there are rather sharp restrictions on the use of firearms within

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