

ENTOMOLOGY

# Corn Conqueror in First Round of Chinch-Bug Fight

## Trench Warfare in Addition to Barriers of Creosote And Pit Traps Served as Defence Against Marauders

**C**OUNT round one in favor of King Corn in his battle against Kid Chinch-Bug.

With the able seconding of farmers and scientists, the most vicious onslaught of the boring-in enemy of Uncle Sam's principal grain crop has been stopped. The fight now enters the second round, with no predictions good for much, though the odds seem to favor Corn again.

When the oats crop, the chinch-bug's first training-table, began to dry up in the early summer heat, the insects started their regular invasion of the corn-fields. Here they were met by trenches, barriers of creosote oil, and pit-traps in which they could be burned or crushed. In general, throughout the whole corn belt of the Midwest, alert farmers supplied with ammunition by State and Federal authorities kept their fields free of the crawling hordes. Practically all the chinch-bugs that tried to get into the corn were blocked out, and subsequently destroyed.

Now the crawling stage of the first brood of the bugs has ended. The survivors that did not attempt direct assault on the corn have grown their wings and flown over the barriers. They are at present feeding in reduced numbers in the corn, but not doing it appreciable harm.

### Real Threat to Come

Their real threat will come after they have bred, for their offspring are the insects that will survive the winter, lurking in stubble and in the weeds and grasses of the fencerows, to be ready to make a fresh attack next year.

This renewed threat will be met by cleaning up the fields, plowing the stubble under, and where practicable by burning the growth along the fencerows.

Principally, however, the question whether 1935 will be another bad chinch-bug year will have to depend on the winter weather. January and February may be the Midwestern farmer's best friends, as they were once Russia's

best generals, when Napoleon retreated from Moscow. But if the winter months turn out to be too mild, the chinch-bug war will have to be renewed next summer.

Chinch-bugs have spread over territory far to the north of their usual range, due to a succession of hot, dry summers in the past few years. In Iowa, for example, they normally occur in troublesome numbers only in the extreme southwestern corner of the state and to some extent across the southern tier of counties. At present they are rated as "bad" well up into central Iowa, as far north as Des Moines, and reported "present" clear up into the northeastern section, though not reaching to the extreme northeastern corner of the state.

The areas hardest hit by the pest are

Missouri, southern Iowa, Illinois, and northwestern and northeastern Indiana.

Nearly a million dollars has been spent by the United States Government in battling the enemy, and the results have been very satisfactory. During the time when the insects were migrating from the small grain to the corn and the pest fighters were working frantically to provide barriers against this migration, the United States Government distributed about seven million gallons of creosote oil to the states for this purpose.

The next generation of the insects will begin their attack during the present season.

*Science News Letter, July 21, 1934*

PHYSIOLOGY

## Radio Currents Add To Knowledge of the Brain

**T**HE same kind of electrical impulses that carry music and speech to your radio promises to aid in discovering the unknown functions of the deeper regions of the brain.

Dr. Clarence W. Brown of the University of California psychology department uses high frequency radio currents in blocking out those parts of the brain which are not accessible to study by



### BABY LOCOMOTIVE

*This diminutive locomotive, running on a single rubber tire, was developed in Germany for the economical shunting of freight cars. One "engineer" can operate the device without difficulty, and when the car is in place, the device can be detached and then will travel under its own power across ordinary paving to another part of the railroad station. The small wheel in front enables it to cross the rails. An ordinary commercial fuel mixture operates the shunting device.*