

### Finding Fortunes Afar

**C**ULTIVATED plants and domesticated animals often attain the climax of their careers in lands remote from their native homes.

We are all familiar with the tale of the small-town boy who makes good in a distant big city, or of the unpromising immigrant who attains fame and fortune in a new country. Tales are equally familiar, of immigrant plants and animals that have won their way, though commonly we pay less attention to them.

Take the great staple crops of the United States: wheat, corn, cotton, tobacco, alfalfa, soybeans. Not one of them is native within our boundaries. Corn, cotton, and tobacco, to be sure, originated in the Western Hemisphere, and were under cultivation by the Indians when white men first settled here. But all three came from the tropical regions below the Rio Grande.

Wheat and the other small grains are all of Old-World nativity. Wheat's original home seems to have been somewhere in the Black Sea region, probably the Caucasus. Barley may have come from the same general neighborhood, possibly from the Iranian plateau; for it first appears under cultivation in Mesopotamia and Egypt. Rye is a plant of the Eurasian steppes. Rice is a swamp grass of southeastern Asia.

From Asia also came alfalfa and soybeans, the first from the dry interior, the second from the plains of China. They are quite recent immigrants into this country, but they certainly have made good in a big way. Asiatic also are all of our citrus fruits, as well as peaches, pears, almonds and "English" walnuts.

America has supplied plant emigrants to the Old World, that have scored big-

ger successes there than they have at home. Thus, the principal centers of cultivation of both Para rubber (from the Amazon basin) and quinine (from the Andes) are now in the East Indies, while the highest specialization in the "Irish" potato (from Peru and Chile) has been reached in Germany.

Africa and South America have inter-

changed two leading beverage crops. Coffee originated in Ethiopia, but the principal coffee-growing regions of the world now extend from southern Brazil to Salvador and Costa Rica. Cocoa, on the other hand, is native to tropical America, but is now a climax crop of West Africa.

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### PSYCHOLOGY

## Postponed Draft Favored For Psychological Reasons

**P**OSTPONEMENT of compulsory military service until after Jan. 1 might have appealed to some Congressmen for reasons other than that it meant "passing the buck" to another Congress. The amendment providing for a delay of the draft until next year might have overcome the opposition of some persons.

The reasons are psychological. Probably many politicians regard the work of the laboratory psychologist who runs rats through mazes as of strictly academic interest. But the laboratory rat, with his simple, unregimented brain, is able to teach scientists a great deal about how minds work. This information applies to the very practical situations of politics.

A rat, running down an alley toward food, it has been found, will run faster as he approaches the reward. A light harness put on the animal has made it possible actually to measure the increase in the attractiveness of that piece of cheese as the rat comes closer to it.

But when an unpleasant event awaits at the end of the run, the rat's behavior is quite different. Now he slows and hesitates as he gets nearer or he may turn and bolt.

If he is set down in a runway and knows that punishment awaits at both ends, he may run back and forth and finally, at the middle of the runway hesitate and vacillate until he is close to mental breakdown.

Translated into what faced the lengthily debating Congressmen this means that some may have feared unpreparedness yet dreaded equally the other alternative under discussion—the compulsory military service plan.

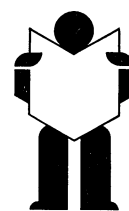
Postponement would serve to make the draft more acceptable. Some would vote for a draft after Jan. 1, just as many a man will purchase an expensive article on ninety days credit who would refuse to consider paying cash down for it.

Passage of the bill would probably have been expedited by some compromise that would have appeal for both viewpoints, such as a provision for immediate registration, but delay in calling for service.

If the registration were given a more agreeable name—call it, say, an informative survey or enumeration—even more obstacles might be ironed out. And if this enumeration were also made the occasion for individuals to register their opinions and preferences regarding war, defense, and type of service desired, even some of the sternest opponents might rush to be counted in.

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