

the time is fast approaching when the Union Government will have to make its choice between them.

The first is a vast system of irrigation of the Kalahari, feeding the canals out of artesian wells. This would, however, require the presence in the area of a considerable population of settlers of which there is so far no sign. The initial expense would, moreover, be prohibitive.

The second scheme consists in the building of dams across the Okarango River and one of the tributaries of the Zambesi, the Chobe River. This would retain masses of water in the M'gami lake and, while blocking its present ways of outflow, force the surplus water into the old, dried up channels passing through the Kalahari. There is little likelihood of this project being adopted, on the score of expense, which would be enormous.

There remains the third scheme, which, in default of the more ambitious ones, stands the best chance of being adopted, and is backed by Professor Schwartz and other South African scientists. It provides for the construction of a dam across the Kunene River, which, it is calculated, would restore a great part of the old scheme of nature for the irrigation of the Kalahari.

Owing to the fact that labor, machinery, and to a certain extent, materials, would have to be brought to the spot from very great distances over difficult country lacking proper means of communication, the expenditure of money and time is likely to be very considerable, but the importance of the issues at stake are believed to justify it. Not only would the reclaimed area of Kalahari open up a vast stretch of magnificent grazing land, forest, and valleys suitable for orange growing, but the process of drying up that is threatening central South Africa with eventual economic and social ruin would be arrested.

NEGRO SKIN GETS DARKER WITH AGE

Until he goes to heaven, the American negro is probably whiter when he is born than at any other time, Dr. Melville Herskovits of the department of anthropology of Columbia University has shown that the skin of the negro gets darker as he grows older and that this is not due to sunburn.

A child's toy top, the kind that is used to teach kindergarten children the principles of color mixture, is used to detect the differences in color. The tops are fitted with disks of spectrum red, yellow, black, and white which can be superimposed one on the other and leave slices of each color visible. When the top is spun the colors appear to the eyes to merge into one. By trial, the amounts of each color exposed on the color top are manipulated until the combination to match the skin is found. The amount of black in the color can thus be determined.

The skin color of New York City colored boys five and a half years old had about 64 per cent, black, that of boys ten and a half years old 70 per cent., and that of seventeen and a half year old boys 74 per cent.

When Dr. Herskovits compared the skin color of adult negroes from New York City and Howard University in Washington, he found that the amount of

black was only 66 per cent. Adult negroes from an Ohio pauper institution had 94 per cent. black pigment in their color. This admixture difference, he says, is due to the degree of white blood in negroes of these two classes.

The negro with white blood has better social and economic advantages in his class and is more likely to be found in the universities and large cities than the pure blooded black negro, Dr. Herskovits said. A geneological study of more than five hundred colored adults in Howard University and New York City revealed the fact that only 20 per cent. were of pure African descent.

"The hypothesis that the lighter negro holds a socially strategic position within the negro community has seemed very plausible to me," Dr. Herskovits said, "but it was not until I tabulated, this material that this theory was so strikingly confirmed. But the negro boys of New York City more nearly represent an unselected portion of our American negro population.

"Due to migration this class probably represents not only the northern negro but the southern negro as well, and, in addition, the West Indian negro is represented here because he has migrated to New York in the past few years.

"It is obvious that the all-negro class is very small in this country. On the basis of the results of these various experiments, I feel however, that there is probably a percentage nearer 30 than 20 who are of pure African blood."

SCIENCE DEFENSIVE CHECKS CORN FOE

Every known device is being used to head off the advance of the corn borer from its original point of invasion in Canada toward the great corn belt of the middle west. So far, man instead of his foe, the skinny little caterpillar addicted to corn stalk diet, seems to be succeeding.

According to W. R. Walton of the Bureau of Entomology, the economic damage in this country is not yet serious in spite of the heavy losses in Canada. A strict quarantine making it possible to ship anything but shelled corn from the infested areas of Maine, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio is believed to be chiefly responsible for keeping down the spread.

A strenuous campaign is being carried on by state experiment stations to educate the farmers in the best methods of combatting the pest. The borer eats up through the stem and sometimes into the ear causing the whole plant to fall over and die. Through the winter it lives in the dead stalks and cobs. Consequently burning over the fields in the fall is strongly urged. Unfortunately, the labor problem where corn tracts of great acreage are involved is so acute that this method is not always practicable.

Scientists at the Department of Agriculture and at the experiment stations throughout the infested regions are hard at work on the problem. Two wasp parasites have been introduced which lay their eggs on the borer. One causes paralysis and death at the initial sting while the young larvae of the other actually prey on the host caterpillar until it dies. These pests, artificially introduced to kill pests, Mr. Walton says, have been found in the field a year after their release, indicating their ability to survive in this climate when provided