

farm produce—principally on the farm itself. It was a "live-at-home" program. Some of the uses were for non-food purposes, but conditions were still such that Prof. Carver's chemical ability could find plenty of profitable exercise in showing Negroes how to make better use of food.

Demonstrations at fairs and widely distributed pamphlets told of 44 ways to prepare meat, 31 ways to cook sweet potatoes, 115 ways to serve tomatoes, 105 ways to make peanuts palatable, 43 ways to save the wild plum crop. Prof. Carver has by no means confined his researches to home-manufactured products of Southern origin. He has turned his hand to industrial outlets in a wide scope, all the way from peanut-shell wall-paper to cotton-reinforced asphalt paving blocks.

Chemurgy in The West

Chemurgy, the chemical-industrial utilization of farm products, is no new thing under Utah's sun, Dr. John A. Widtsoe, an important officer in the Latter Day Saints' Church, told the meeting. The first migrants who settled the intermountain country, in the days of Brigham Young, made from farm products the various articles used in a civilized country, and oil, paper, and sugar mills and the like were under way before the railroad entered the Great Basin.

Dr. Widtsoe outlined five lines along which chemical-industrial enterprise might be of particular benefit in the West; factory conversion of farm products like sugar beets and vegetables raised for canning; discovery of new uses for old and standard crops; introduction of crops as yet not raised under irrigation; scientific utilization of farm wastes; profitable disposal of surplus crops.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1937

An archaeologist has discovered sites of the kilns where China's rare and famous Yueh pottery ware was made in the tenth century A. D.

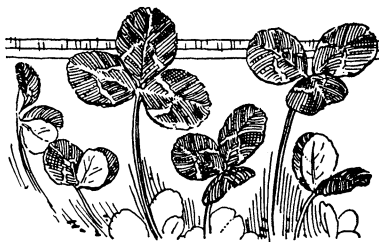
Clothes moths probably do more damage in a year than any of the agricultural pests, says one entomologist.

RADIO

June 8, 4:15 p. m., E.S.T.
SCIENCE DIGS A MINE—Charles F. Jackson of the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

June 15, 4:15 p. m., E.S.T.
FISHING IN ALASKA—Frank T. Bell, Commissioner of Fisheries.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.



The Coming of Clover

CLOVER is so completely and integrally a part of American agriculture that it is nearly impossible for us to imagine a time when it was not. Yet the first colonists did not cultivate clover, and it was only a little while before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War that clover cultivation really began to be generally adopted.

Just when red and white clover first appeared in America is, and probably always will be, a rather uncertain date. A U. S. Department of Agriculture historian has found reference to its presence on Long Island as early as 1679. But these earliest records seem to be of chance-sown plants naturalized and run wild, rather than of deliberately cultivated clover.

One definitely named and located clover cultivator is offered for record by one of his own descendants. Mrs. Mary Vaux Walcott, a notable botanical artist of Washington, D. C., states that an ancestor of hers, one James Vaux, planted clover on "Fatlands," his farm on the Schuylkill river opposite Valley Forge, well before the Revolutionary War began.

As James Vaux pioneered in the bringing of one valuable legume from Europe, so his descendant took the lead in the introduction of another valuable plant of the same family, alfalfa, from the West. Mrs. Walcott claims the honor of having been the first farmer to grow alfalfa in the state of Pennsylvania.

It seems more than a little odd, at first glance, that English and other European settlers in the new land should have been so remiss about bringing in what we have come to regard as an absolutely essential element in sound crop rotation.

On second thought, however, it may not be so strange after all. The farmers in the northern and middle states were

at first pretty much on a subsistence basis, like the later pioneers of the Ohio valley and the West generally. They raised crops mainly for their own consumption, and produced little for export. It was easier to work virgin soil until it would yield no more, and then move on to other rich free land awaiting the clearing ax and the breaking plow.

In the South, where the big plantation system and the institution of chattel slavery made good profits in cash crops for export, like tobacco and indigo, and later cotton, the same practice of working land to exhaustion and then abandoning it was even more intensively and destructively followed.

It was only when the menace of spent and eroding lands began to worry folk near the seaboard that the soil-building clovers began to get proper attention. And it is perhaps significant that the most earnest early efforts toward a more scientific agriculture were put forth in the neighborhood of Philadelphia, first great center of American science.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1937

GENERAL SCIENCE

Eiffel Tower Is Lighted To Honor Paris Exposition

See Front Cover

AS in Chicago during the Century of Progress Exposition, modern illuminating art is playing its part in Paris, adding to the city's customary gayety in honor of the occasion of the Exposition Internationale. The festive illumination of the famous Eiffel Tower is shown on the front cover.

At the Paris exposition which will be held from now until November, prominence will be given to art industries. The first group of exhibits contains an initial section on scientific discoveries.

Science News Letter, June 5, 1937

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by HAVELOCK ELLIS

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