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ments have been made in 32 states. There are more than 2,000 species and types of the castor plant, but through inter-pollination five new types have been developed.

They have been found com-mercially valuable for oil, insecticides, rope and bagging, fertil-izer and finally for paper and rayon. Chemurgists see a poten-tial need for 1,500,000 acres of castor plants. The plant is im-portant as a weapon against in-sects and pests.

Fats and Oils
Chemurgy has introduced other drying oils which might also be-come important crops in time such as perilla and chia. They are both essential to paint and varnish products. Experimental plantings of perilla have been made in nearly every state, and large scale plantings have been made in South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Even more extensive plantings are contemplated for 1939.

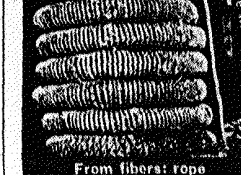
At the same time, chemurgy is pushing the domestic production of fats and oils. While the United States produces a large ton-nage of vegetable oils, \$30,000,000 worth of edible oils and fats and \$85,000,000 worth of non-edible oils and fats are imported an-nually. In addition, about \$60,000,000 worth of oil seeds are im-portant.

Chemurgy is also pushing ex-perimentation with several fiber crops such as hemp, jute, ramie, and long staple cotton. It is text-ile flax for new uses in the tex-tile industry, for oils and other uses. Such fine wrapping pa-pers as cigaret papers have re-cently been made from flax straw.

Versatile Ramie
Ramie is said to be the most durable, strongest and lightest vegetable extant. It is 8½ times stronger than cotton, six times stronger than silk, and four times stronger than flax or hemp. It is less crushable than linen. It produces a superior paper. It may be dyed in all colors and used for tablecloths, napkins, plushes, upholstery, curtains, carpets, dress and knit goods.

Until recently, there was no process for removing the gum from the fiber. This has now been accomplished with the re-sult that ramie may take an im-portant new place in the textile industry. If it does, chemurgy will have moved another step ahead.

Not so important but likely to prove practicable on countless farms are such specialized crops as pyrethrum whose flowers are used for insecticides; licorice, belladonna, tragacanth and gen-tian for use in crude drugs; arti-chokes, dahlias, chicory and other root crops from which lev-



From fibers: rope



From ramie: curtains, carpets, clothes, upholstery

ulose sugar is produced. Finally, the chemurgists point out, there should be increased farm income through utilization of by-products and waste. Pa-per has already been manufac-tured from wheat and straw, for specific example. Alcohol can be made readily from sorghum, su-

gar and starch mill wastes. The possibilities are endless so far as chemurgy is concerned. That is why four great regional laboratories were provided in the 1938 Farm Act. They will be devoted exclusively to the find-ing of new uses for surplus farm products. The laboratories of

the colleges and universities and those of private industry will be tackling the problem as well. Thus it is not too much to ex-pect a new era for the farmer; an era of prosperity flowing from a test tube. Chemurgy, as a matter of fact, believes it is here now.

'Other Groups' May Take a Hand In B & L Fight

SAN FRANCISCO, April 26 (AP)—Guy R. Crump, attorney for the state building and loan com-missioner, said in superior court yesterday he "understood" that other groups planned to attempt to intervene in the Pacific States Savings and Loan Company hearing.

Crump spoke in opposition to the petition of 2,500 certificate holders of the company who de-clare to intervene on the side of Robert A. Odell, ousted president of the \$50,000,000 company.

The hearing before Superior Judge James C. Conlan on Odell's show-cause suit against Ralph W. Evans, building and loan commissioner, to regain control of the company taken from him by Evans last March 4, now is in its fifth week.

Crump, who labelled the com-mittee of certificate holders who seek to intervene in the suit as "engineered" by Odell, told Judge Conlan he understood that suc-cess of the committee's petition would lead to petitions by other groups, one of whom would re-present certificate holders who favored Evans' seizure of the firm.

The attorney, in a morning-long argument, claimed it was not necessary for the certificate holders to be represented in the trial because their interests were being amply cared for by the building and loan commissioner. Crump challenged the court's right to admit the petitioners on the grounds that the certi-ficate holders' rights were not "directly" affected by the out-come of the Odell hearing.

The anti-killer looks like a spider, but has too many legs to be classified as one. It lives on ants, which it catches with its pin-cers.

JORDAN JR. HIGH ACTIVITIES

By IRVING SCHNYERT

David Starr Jordan Junior High School had a fine assembly Friday. The band displayed fine new uniforms, basketball cham-pionship pennants were awarded and the Parent-Teacher Asso-ciation and Mrs. Louis Stern were given a vote of thanks and a rousing cheer by the students.

The 812 science class will visit Mt. Hamilton next Saturday.

Baseball started last week and the first interclass game oc-curred on Monday.

The high school swimming pool is open to Jordan girls Thursday they will have their first swim free of charge.

The student baseball team de-feated the faculty in a rousing game last Thursday noon. The score was 2 to 0.

The Astronomy and Geology Club went on a field trip to the Golden Gate Exposition Sat-urday. Twenty-six young people took the school bus early Sat-urday morning; the same 26 ar-rived home in the evening hav-ing waited until the lights went on at the fair.

The Jordan band and orches-tra will go to the fair Friday to take part in the band and or-chestra tournament. They per-form so well that they should win some laurels for Jordan.

A model airplane contest will

take place on the Jordan grounds Friday, April 28. Prizes will be offered for different types of airplanes. The registra-tion fee is 10 cents. There will be exhibition flights of stick-model and gas-model planes.

The Jordan dance band played at the community center Friday and Saturday nights during the intermission of the play, "Stage Door."

A series of quizzes is being given over the radio to advertise the Jordan carnival.

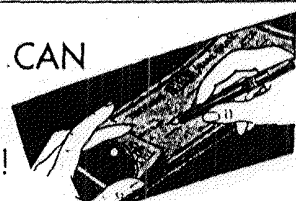
"Man Against the River," a movie showing flood destruction and control, was shown Monday. Wednesday, another movie will be shown entitled, "What the River Does for Man."

S. M. County Changes Accounting System

The San Mateo county salary roll for 1939-40, filed with the county board of supervisors yes-terday by Controller Thomas J. Kane, calls for budget requests of \$598,463. During the past year the amount appropriated was \$542,713.

The increase sought is \$55,750. Only four departments in the county showed decreases in their salary roll requests.

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