

has been protected for many years and is well stocked with hard woods, pine and hemlock. There is enough merchantable timber to permit economic forestry operations at once. The educational phases of the work on the forest will be progressively developed, as the details of administration of the property are perfected.

The director of the forest, Mr. N. D. Canterbury, graduated from the Yale School of Forestry in 1922. He has been associated with various enterprises, both in business and in public service.

THE CHILEAN NITRATE OF SODA NITROGEN RESEARCH AWARD

ABOUT two years ago the Chilean Nitrate of Soda Educational Bureau of New York made available an annual appropriation of \$5,000 to be distributed in the form of one or more prizes for outstanding research in this country and Canada on nitrogen in its relation to soil processes and plant growth. The above sum has been placed in the hands of the American Society of Agronomy, the award being administered by a special committee of the society.

The first awards were made in 1928. The committee held then that it was advisable to select older investigators whose previous work in advancing knowledge of nitrogen in relation to plant growth has been beyond question. Professor J. G. Lipman, director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Professor T. L. Lyon, chief of the soil department, Cornell University, Professor E. B. Fred, division of agricultural bacteriology, University of Wisconsin, and Professor F. T. Shutt, dominion chemist, Ottawa, Canada, were those selected. In connection with the announcement of the selections for 1928 the committee suggested that subsequently it would be appropriate to consider and perhaps even give preference to those younger investigators who have made recent contributions to the subject.

The second award, announced at the 1929 meeting of the society, was divided among three investigators, namely, Professor C. A. Mooers, director of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station; Professor P. L. Gainey, soil bacteriologist of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, and Professor S. A. Waksman, microbiologist of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

In order to make clear the nature of the investiga-

tions that will be considered for the award in 1930 the committee feels that it is desirable to publish a brief statement at this time.

Investigations will be considered which deal with the physical, chemical or microbiological transformation of both organic and inorganic nitrogen in the soil, the absorption and utilization of nitrogen by plants and nitrogen fertilizer in any of its aspects. The committee will give particular attention to those contributions which have been published within the past year or two. Investigations of longer standing will also be considered provided the authors are still actively engaged in the work.

Investigations dealing with any phase of nitrogen in relation to soils and crops may be called to the attention of the committee either by an author himself or by any one else. The award, which may be made either to one or more investigators, will be recommended to the society, according to the judgment of the committee.

The committee takes this opportunity to solicit nominations of candidates for the 1930 award. The nominations should be made in writing and may be addressed to any member of the committee. Although it may be difficult to select the "most" outstanding contribution to such a complex subject as nitrogen in its relation to soils and plants, the committee hopes that it will at least be able to select one or more investigators who have made a notable contribution to the scientific understanding of the rôle of nitrogen in soils and plants. It is expected that the award will be used in such a way as to lead to still higher scientific activity.

The award is open to investigators irrespective of their connection with the American Society of Agronomy. The investigation may have been made at a university, state experiment station, government institution or privately.

R. W. THATCHER,
C. B. WILLIAMS,
W. P. KELLEY,
R. I. THROCKMORTON,
R. BRADFIELD,
S. A. WAKSMAN, *Chairman*

*Chilean Nitrate of Soda Nitrogen
Research Award Committee*

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A BRONZE memorial plaque, picturing Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, was unveiled at Fort Myers, Florida, on February 11, in celebration of Mr. Edison's eighty-third birthday. The plaque was erected in the

city park by a committee of civic workers and will be illuminated perpetually.

Dr. W. M. DAVIS, emeritus professor of geology at Harvard University, celebrated his eightieth birthday