FIELD OFFICE FOR THE SHELTERBELT PROJECT

WITH establishment of a central field office at Lincoln, Nebraska, planned for an early date, the Forest Service is making plans for beginning field work on the great shelterbelt of trees to be planted for 1,000 miles across the Plains States, which will be carried out by Fred Morrell, administrative director. In addition to the general headquarters at Lincoln, it is expected that state divisional offices will be established in the capital cities of each of the states traversed by the belt—North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Oklahoma and Texas.

Active work will be started as soon as the necessary organization is completed. Land leases, seed collection and nursery arrangements to supply planting stock on a large scale will be initiated as soon as possible. The pressing need for emergency relief employment is being taken into consideration. Qualified men are being assigned to the project from the Forest Service rolls and are being hired from other sources to speed up the organization of the field work.

Dr. Raphael Zon, director of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, has charge of technical phases of the work, including the determination of suitable species to plant in the various soil types, nursery selection and practise, planting practise, etc. The Bureau of Chemistry and Soils will assist in the study and classification of soils within the region, and the Bureau of Plant Industry will cooperate actively in technical service and in the use of its established nurseries and other facilities.

Many inquiries for information in regard to the shelterbelt plans are being received from the region and from adjoining states to the east and west. Criticisms to the effect that thousands of trees planted in the region of the proposed shelterbelt in the past have failed to survive have been received. It is pointed out, however, that other thousands of plantings are still surviving, although the plantings were largely haphazard, in many cases of species not especially suited to the region, and seldom given proper care. The Forest Service is undertaking the shelterbelt planting with the benefit of many years of intensive investigation of methods and cultural practises adapted to the dry land areas. Only trees will be used which have already been tested and have shown their adaptability for use in the region, both in point of survival of climatic conditions and in their protective value.

Approximately two million acres in all will be covered in the forest strips, which will be placed about a mile apart, and the lands will be acquired through lease or purchase, by cooperative agreements with the owners, or by donation. The lands will be classified according to soil and other conditions. In the purchase of land the dominant objective will be to determine valuations with equity both to the landowner and the United States.

THE ELM DISEASE EXHIBIT AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

THE "brown streaks in the wood" which people have been asked repeatedly to look for in trees suspected of being afflicted with the Dutch elm disease are clearly illustrated in a new exhibit installed this week in the Museum Building at the New York Botanical Garden. The specimens of wood have been taken from a tree near the grounds which the garden authorities cut and burned, with the owner's permission, as soon as its diseased condition was discovered. Also displayed are some of the beetles which carry the fungus disease from tree to tree, by transporting the spores on their bodies.

Part of a limb, with a bark removed, shows the breeding tunnels and feeding galleries of the beetles, while other limbs show how the beetles escape by boring a hole through the bark. In a part of the exhibit contributed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, beetles are shown feeding in the crotch of an elm twig —one important means by which the fungus enters the wood. Successive stages in the life of the beetle and of the fungus, as well as different types of dark streaks in the wood caused by the fungus, are likewise shown.

In notes appended to the exhibit, it is pointed out that other diseases possess similar symptoms of yellowing, wilting and dropping of leaves and of dark streaks appearing in the wood. It is therefore necessary for a laboratory to make cultures from the infected wood or from the beetles believed to be carrying the disease, to identify the fungus. But once the Dutch elm disease is discovered, immediate action toward cutting and burning the tree is essential, especially at this season when the beetles are emerging and flying to the other trees. Otherwise, the disease will be widely spread among the elm trees of the east. The New York Botanical Garden is cooperating with federal, state and local authorities in its study and eradication.

AWARD OF THE CHANDLER MEDAL

FOR his work in agricultural chemistry, Dr. Jacob Goodale Lipman, dean of the College of Agriculture at Rutgers University and director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, has been awarded the Chandler Medal of Columbia University for 1934. The medal will be conferred formally in November. The announcement of the medal committee, of which Professor A. W. Hixson is chairman, reads: