

between United States Route 9W and the cliffs. A condition of the offer was that all the property south of Palisade Avenue be held perpetually for park purposes and that all the property north of Palisade Avenue, east of a line 100 feet to the west of the proposed parkway, be maintained in the same manner.

As to the property west of the line, the letter made it conditional that any buildings erected on it should never exceed a certain height, and that it should not be used for commercial purposes "prior to July 1, 1945, if ever."

The restriction on buildings provided that none be erected to a height that "would make it visible from the proposed Henry Hudson Bridge across the Harlem Ship Canal and the proposed parkway extending northerly therefrom along the [Hudson] river, or from an elevation on the easterly side of the Hudson River of seventy feet above mean low-water mark."

This is the second offer made by Mr. Rockefeller. In his first offer he urged an agreement between New York and New Jersey to govern the administration of Palisades Interstate Park. At present the park is administered by separate groups of commissioners from the two states.

Two hundred guests were present at the luncheon, at which messages were received from Governor Herbert H. Lehman, of New York, and Governor Harold G. Hoffman, of New Jersey.

In reference to this gift, but referring to the highlands a little further north, *The Times* writes editorially:

Anthony Trollope in his "North America" objected to putting to military uses "the prettiest spot on the Hudson"—"one of the prettiest spots which Nature, with all her vagaries, ever formed." He wondered whether the "lads," as he called the West Point students, appreciated that they were studying amid "the sweetest river, rock and mountain scenery that the imagination can conceive." One accepts this tribute of a British visitor to the beauty of this impressive landscape, but is proud that it is a possession of the entire nation. Henry James carried it into the geography of the ideal, to be remembered, as he wrote, not as "the sternest of all seats of discipline," but as "some great Corot composition of young, vague, wandering figures in splendidly classic shades."

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BASIC RESEARCH BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ACCORDING to the terms of a bill which has passed both House and Senate in slightly differing forms and which is now in conference, the Secretary of Agriculture "is authorized and directed to conduct research into the laws and principles underlying basic problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects," and also to carry on investigations looking to improvements in handling and marketing, as well as "research relating to the conservation, development of land and water resources for agricultural purposes."

According to a statement by Science Service, the research thus contemplated is to supplement, not to replace, other researches now going on under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture; but both activities are to be coordinated so far as practicable, and "shall be conducted by such agencies of the Department of Agriculture as the Secretary may designate or establish."

The initial funds for this work will amount to \$1,000,000. This sum will be increased by an additional \$1,000,000 each year until the total reaches \$5,000,000, and thereafter the special research fund will be maintained at the latter sum each year. Forty per cent. of the total amount in any one year is to be expended under the direct supervision of the Secretary of Agriculture, in any places and for any research purposes he may approve within the frame of the act. The remaining sixty per cent. will be prorated among state agricultural experiment stations according to the size of their respective rural populations. Funds thus allocated must be matched dollar for dollar by the states receiving them.

The establishment of new laboratories is within the authorizations of the act, since it is provided that funds may be used for the erection of buildings and the purchase or rental of land needed for the purpose. These laboratories might be set up in the major agricultural regions of the United States, in places designated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

DR. RICHARD CHACE TOLMAN, professor of mathematical physics at the California Institute of Technology, was elected at the Los Angeles meeting president of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He succeeds Dr. Bailey Willis, emeritus professor of geology at Stanford University.

At the semi-annual meeting at Cincinnati of the

American Society of Mechanical Engineers the Holley Medal for 1934 was awarded on June 20 to Dr. Irving Langmuir, associate director of the General Electric Research Laboratory, for his "contributions to science and engineering, especially in the development of the gas-filled incandescent lamp, of the thoriated filament for thermionic emission, of atomic-hydrogen welding, of phase-control operation of the Thyatron tube, and