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DIRECTORS NAMED FOR RESEARCH LABORATORIES

A radio conversation between H. T. Herrick, Assistant Chief, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, O. E. May, D. E. J. Lynch, P. A. Wells, and T. L. Swenson, Directors of the new regional research laboratories, and Wallace Kadderly of the Radio Service, broadcast Friday, December 16, 1938, in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Program, by 99 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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KADDERLY:

Yesterday we told you that the four regional research laboratories of the Department of Agriculture are to be located at Peoria, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana; in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area; and the San Francisco Bay area of California. And the Secretary of Agriculture discussed the objectives of these laboratories---pointing out that the work they will do is one part of a broad attack on farm problems. This morning the Secretary named the directors for these laboratories. They are here in the studio now. With them is H. T. Herrick, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils who is in charge of the chemical and chemical engineering activities for all four of the laboratories. Dr. Henry G. Knight, Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils has been charged with the administration of the entire laboratory program. He is out of town today otherwise he would have been here with us too. Mr. Herrick is representing him.

Now Mr. Herrick, the Secretary told us yesterday that these laboratories will search for new and wider industrial outlets for agricultural commodities.

HERRICK:

That's right Mr. Kadderly.

KADDERLY:

He also said that this is not a new venture for the scientists of your Bureau. Shouldn't we emphasize that point?

HERRICK:

Yes, we should. We've been conducting investigations in that field for many years.

KADDERLY:

The scientists of your Bureau already have a number of outstanding accomplishments to their credit. And now that you have sufficient funds to attack the problem on a nation-wide basis, I know our listeners will be glad to have a statement from you indicating what this new program offers to the producers of farm crops.

(over)

HERRICK:

All of us are enthusiastic over the opportunity to attack this problem in a larger way. I believe we can get results. But there is one thought that I would like to leave with you listeners. Research through the test tube is slow. That fact ought to be understood so that people will not be expecting immediate results. These new laboratories are going out to explore and investigate, and they may or may not meet with immediate success. It ought to be pointed out also that this new undertaking will not solve the surplus problem or any other farm problem over night. Chemistry doesn't work as fast as that. Therefore, we ask for patience. It may be sometime before this research program finds methods that will enable industry to turn more of its dollars into the farmer's pocket.

KADDERLY:

In other words, you see great opportunities, and you believe results will come from these opportunities, but not immediately.

HERRICK:

That's about it.

KADDERLY:

As time goes on we'll be hearing and reading a good deal about these laboratories and about the men who are directing this important farm research program. So Mr. Herrick, won't you please make the Farm and Home folks acquainted with these four men who will be in immediate charge of the four laboratories.

HERRICK:

That will be a pleasure, but before I call on these men I want to tell you people that all of them have been in the Department of Agriculture for a number of years. They are all good chemists, good cooperators, and all have the energy and ability that will be required to push the work they are to direct to a successful conclusion. Each man already has some outstanding accomplishment to his credit. Each is familiar with the problems in his region due to the fact that he was selected last summer to conduct the survey, authorized by Congress, to ascertain the amount of scientific research being carried on in Federal, State, and private laboratories on the industrial utilization of agricultural commodities.

Seated across the table from me is O. E. May who will direct the investigations at the Northern Laboratory at Peoria, Illinois. Dr. May.

MAY:

Thank you, Mr. Herrick, and hello Farm and Home listeners, especially you folks in the North Central States where I am to make my new home. As director of the soybean laboratory at Urbana, Illinois, I had the good fortune of meeting many of you during the last three years. These acquaintances, particularly in the agricultural and scientific fields, will help me a great deal in my new work.

The Peoria Laboratory will serve the 12 States in the Northern Region. We will start with studies on corn, wheat, and agricultural wastes, such as straws, stalks, and so on. But it will be quite a while, probably a year or more, before the laboratory can be built and equipped, and before we can actually begin investigations.

HERRICK:

Next is D.F.J. Lynch. He will direct the program of the Southern Laboratory at New Orleans. Mr. Lynch.

LYNCH:

Thank you, Mr. Herrick. I'm anxious to get the research work started in the Southern laboratory because I feel that we have an opportunity to accomplish worthwhile results with the vast supplies of raw material produced on the farms in the 9 States that make up the Southern region. We have a big job ahead, but judging from the whole-hearted assistance given us during the survey of the Southern region we believe we can count on you people of the South for assistance and cooperation after the laboratory is established. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

Research at the Southern laboratory will begin with studies on cotton, sweetpotatoes, and peanuts. But as Dr. May said, it will be sometime before actual investigations can be started.

HERRICK:

Now for the Eastern Laboratory. It will be located in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area, and will be under the direction of P. A. Wells. Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Wells.

WELLS:

How do you do. "The survey that we made last summer showed that there are more research organizations in the Eastern Region than in any of the other three, but not many of them work on farm problems. These new laboratories will devote their entire time to work on agricultural commodities.

The Eastern Laboratory will study tobacco, apples, Irish potatoes, milk products, and vegetables. These commodities are of tremendous importance to the people in the 16 States that make up the Eastern region, and I want to assure the people in these States that we will do everything we can in the Philadelphia laboratory to help you find new and wider industrial outlets for the products of your farms.

HERRICK:

The director of the Western Laboratory is T. L. Swenson, and I take pleasure in introducing him to the people of the region he will serve.

SWENSON:

Hello, home folks. I say home folks because I'm glad to return to the section where I spent some of the happiest years of my life. I have lived in the West and I am proud to have a part in a program designed to help the farmers of this section. The Western Laboratory is to be located in the San Francisco Bay area. It will serve 11 Western States, and with

your assistance and cooperation I believe we can make it a profitable research organization. To begin with the Western Laboratory will study wheat, potatoes, alfalfa, vegetables, and fruits other than apples.

KADDERLY:

All right. Now we have the laboratories placed, and have been told what crops will be studied in each one. We have met the men who will direct the investigations---Dr. May for the Northern Laboratory, Mr. Lynch for the Southern, Mr. Wells for the Eastern, and Dr. Swenson for the Western. Mr. Herrick, where do we go from here?

HERRICK:

We go to work. We know now where the work is to be done, and the method of attack.

But before investigations can be started we must have buildings, equipment, and a staff of approximately 200 scientists for each of the laboratories.

KADDERLY:

Well, gentlemen, I'm sure the listeners agree that you have a big job ahead. We wish you well as you embark on this new task.

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