

are yellowish and quite small, scarcely larger than timothy seeds.

The third species is Lewis's Wild Flax (*Linum lewisii*) first discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in Montana, for they had left North Dakota before it bloomed. It is perennial, producing slender stems 2 feet high and bearing numerous blue flowers similar to those of common flax. The seeds of this plant are of fair size, but thin and

dark colored. It has attracted considerable attention because it is a hardy perennial of good height, but attempts to cross it with common flax have met with little success. The wild flaxes resemble the field plant in that the flowers fall off about noon. They shed their seeds readily for this is a character of most wild plants which must be overcome in producing a successful field type.

## New Insecticides

DDT is the name given to a new insecticide instead of its difficult name Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane. DDT is proving so useful for insect control by the military services that it will probably be some time before it is available for domestic use. Reports on its effectiveness indicate that when this insecticide is sprayed on walls or other surfaces it leaves a toxic residue which kills flies and numerous other insects which alight on these surfaces. From the standpoint of its contact effect upon insects, it has the longest residual effect of any insecticide as yet known. It appears to be harmless to humans and other warm-blooded animals, and it is believed that when it becomes readily available to the public it will aid in better control of many insects which are otherwise difficult to control. For outdoor use, it is possible that this insecticide will have to be used in a restricted manner so as not to endanger honeybees and other beneficial insects.—J. A. Munro.

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A new method, known as the "aerosol bomb," has recently been developed by the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine for applying a pyrethrum insecticide in the control of mosquitoes and other insect pests in buildings and other enclosures. The container holds a few fluid ounces of the pyrethrum extract in combination with freon, a substance which develops sufficient internal pressure to gradually force the mixture out of the "bomb" in a fog-like manner through a small valve-controlled opening. At present the entire output of "aerosol bombs" is used by the military services in mosquito and other vermin ridden territory, but it is expected that after the war is over that "aerosol bombs" will have extensive use in the control of household insects.—J. A. Munro.

**How well will vegetables keep in a heated basement, provided they are stored in an insulated vegetable keeper?**

W. J. Promersberger of the Department of Agricultural Engineering has designed a vegetable keeper. See Special Circular A-60, Extension Service, published in Septem-

ber, 1943. This vegetable keeper was installed in a heated basement in a residence. Vegetables placed in one of these units late in September, were not sufficiently cooled for good storage conditions. Carrots placed in a unit during the week of October 25 are still in good condition. (March 1944).