THOMAS Jefferson’s efforts in behalf of agriculture are being given special recognition this year. No group of American citizens has more reason to honor his memory than agronomists. All citizens find both inspiration and solid fundamentals in his writings, and in the moral character of the man. Agronomists find these things, and much besides. The Jefferson who was statesman and philosopher is better known, perhaps, than the Jefferson who was also the careful farmer of stubborn Davidson soil, the keen observer of agricultural science and practice in many lands, the founder of agricultural curricula and libraries, and the agricultural scientist and geographer.

In recognition of the great contributions that he made to agricultural science and to the welfare of American agriculture, the Congress of the United States has passed a joint resolution providing for the creation of a National Agricultural Jefferson Bicentenary Committee. This Committee is undertaking to sponsor and promote appropriate activities in honor of Thomas Jefferson. Because of certain unavoidable delays, the Committee was not organized until a considerable time after the two hundredth anniversary of his birth—April 13, 1943. A pilgrimage to Monticello is planned for April 13, 1944, insofar as possible under wartime conditions, by representatives of the Land Grant colleges and other persons interested in both agriculture and Thomas Jefferson.

Of greatest importance will be the programs and activities carried on by the many cooperative groups of citizens, such as the American Society of Agronomy, that result in calling the attention of agricultural people generally to the great contributions of Jefferson. He was concerned not only with practical farming but also with fundamental scientific principles. He realized that science and practice went together: For him there was no valid choice between practical success and deep scholarship; each was essential to the other. Jefferson was also a profound geographer who saw the basic importance of both local and regional geography to agriculture as well as to political development. His Notes on the State of Virginia, his basic thinking that helped President Monroe formulate the famous message to the Congress on the relation of other nations to the New World, his grasp of the importance of the Louisiana Territory, and his support of the Lewis and Clark expedition testify abundantly to this aspect of his scholarship.

Young men, and older ones as well, of all phases of agronomy and soil science will find inspiration and stimulus from the work and life of Jefferson. The universality and symmetry of his scholarship in art, science, justice, and morality are rarely seen combined in one person.

Members of the Society are urged to give special emphasis this year to their own reading of Jefferson. Beyond this it is hoped they

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1 Public, No. 196, 78th Cong., Chap. 333, 1st Sess., S. J. Res. 47.