

Productile Abatement

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The writer is wondering if mosquito abatement workers have, or are experiencing, similar difficulties as mentioned below:

In Cape May County, New Jersey, both the Army and Navy contingents are being enlarged as rapidly as possible; most of the locations where they are situated need elevating to eliminate standing water, many acres of swamp or boggy land have to be groomed to suit the needs. New roads leading to these units are built up to a height of ten feet in places. A Federal, State and County flying field is also in the making and will cover many hundreds of acres; hydraulic fill on these government projects is tabooed, as mud, sand or debris do not meet with the requirements.

That these projects may be perfected with the proper approval, it requires thousands of tons of earth (loam, clay, gravel) to meet the engineers' O.K. To get this material, which is transported by trucks, the contractor purchases adjacent farm land or buys by the yard; if by the yard, we are safe, but should he buy by the acre he takes the earth as long and deep as he can excavate it. Gravel for roads, runways, etc. is obtained likewise. This is leaving many acres with standing water which will be undrainable and always available for breeding; also, a menace and an eyesore.

To complain about this avails us nothing. There apparently is no way to remedy this method; the contractor, nor any agency, seems not to care what mos-

mosquito breeding menaces they leave, though the government and health groups are howling for mosquito protection.

I have always been interested in reports and discussions by mosquito fighters on breeding they find in gravel or clay pits. Most reports favor no breeding in old pits, a few say occasionally they discover light breeding. In this county we will take larvae from three out of five pits within five years after digging; some produce breeding the first year, but this is rare. The pit menace might not be serious for the duration of this county's defense program, but I feel we should not hand too many "lemons" like this to those who follow extermination work in the years to come.

Pardon my reference to the following sonnet, but it is just the way I feel:

"It is not the work of one man
That brings us to the goal;
It's the everlasting teamwork
Of every blooming soul"

Rhode Island

Milton H. Price reports that the Legislature closed without taking any action on mosquito control thus leaving them with no mosquito control program for 1942.

Atlantic County, N. J.

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Mosquito breeding control came into its own - at