

The work of the statistical division of the Department of Agriculture deals with all that relates to the economics of farming. The main purpose of its monthly reports is to keep the farmers informed as fully as possible of all matters having any influence upon the world's markets in which their products find sale. Its publications relate especially to the commercial side of farming. It is therefore of profound importance and vital concern to the farmers of the United States, who represent nearly one half of our population, and also of direct interest to the whole country, that the work of this division be efficiently performed and that the information it has gathered be promptly diffused. It is a matter for congratulation to know that the Secretary will not spare any effort to make this part of his work thoroughly useful.

In the year 1839 the Congress appropriated \$1000 to be taken from the patent office funds for the purpose of collecting and distributing rare and improved varieties of seeds and for prosecuting agricultural investigations and procuring agricultural statistics. From this small beginning the seed division of the Department of Agriculture has grown to its present unwieldy and unjustifiably extravagant proportions. During the last fiscal year the cost of seeds purchased was \$68,548.81. The remainder of its appropriation of \$125,000 was expended in putting them up and distributing them. It surely never could have entered the minds of those who first sanctioned appropriations of public money for the purchase of new and improved varieties of seeds for gratuitous distribution that from this should grow large appropriations for the purchase and distribution by members of Congress of ordinary seeds, bulbs and cuttings which are common in all the states and territories and everywhere easily obtainable at low prices. In each state and territory an agricultural experiment station has been established. These stations, by their very character and name, are the proper agencies to experiment with and test new varieties of seeds, and yet this indiscriminate and wasteful distribution by legislation and legislators continues answering no purpose unless it be to remind constituents that their representatives are willing to remember them with gratitude at public cost. Under the sanction of existing legislation there was sent out from the Agricultural Department during the last fiscal year enough of cabbage seed to plant 19,200 acres of land; a sufficient quantity of beans to plant 4,000 acres; beet seed enough to plant 2,500 acres; sweet corn enough to plant 7,800 acres; sufficient cucumber seed to cover 2,025 acres with vines; and enough musk melon and water melon seeds to plant 2,875 acres. The total quantity of flour and vegetable seeds thus distributed was contained in more than nine million packages and they were sufficient if planted to cover 89,596 acres of land. In view of these facts, this enormous expenditure without legitimate returns of benefit ought to be abolished. Anticipating a consummation so manifestly in the interests of good administration, more than \$100,000 has been stricken from the estimate made to cover this object for the year

ending June 30th, 1895, and the Secretary recommends that the remaining \$3,500 of the estimate be confined strictly to the purchase of new and improved varieties of seeds and these be distributed through the experimental stations. Thus the seed will be tested and after the test has been completed by the experiment station, the propagation of the useful varieties and the rejection of the safely valueless may be left to the commonsense people.

Economy in public expenditure is a duty that cannot innocently be neglected by those intrusted with the control of money drawn from the people for public uses. It must be confessed that our apparently endless resources, the familiarity of our people with immense accumulations of wealth, the growing sentiment among them that the expenditure of money should be in some manner to their immediate and personal advantage, the indirect and almost stealthy manner in which a large part of our taxes are exacted, and a degenerated sense of official accountability have led to growing extravagance in governmental appropriations. At this time, when a depleted public treasury confronts us, when many of our people are engaged in a hard struggle for the necessities of life, and when enforced economy is pressing upon the great mass of our countrymen, I desire to urge with all the earnestness at my command that congressional legislation be so limited by strict economy as to exhibit an appreciation of the condition of the treasury and a sympathy with the strained circumstances of our fellow-citizens. The duty of public economy is also of immense importance in its ultimate and necessary relation to the task now in hand of providing revenue to meet government expenditures and yet reducing the people's burden of Federal taxation.

After a hard struggle, tariff reform is directly before us. Nothing so important claims our attention and nothing so clearly presents itself as both an opportunity and a duty—an opportunity to deserve the gratitude of our fellow-citizens, a duty imposed upon us by our oft-repeated professions, and by the emphatic mandate of the people. After full discussion our countrymen have spoken in favor of this reform, and they have confided the work of its accomplishment to the hands of those who are solemnly pledged to it. If there is anything in the theory of a representation in public places of the people and their desires, if political officers are really the servants of the people, and if political promises and professions have any binding force, our failure to give the relief so long awaited will be sheer recreancy. Nothing should intervene to distract our attention or disturb our effort until this reform is accomplished by wise and careful legislation. While we should staunchly adhere to the principle that only the necessity of revenue justifies the imposition of tariff duties and other Federal taxation, and that they should be limited by strict economy, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that conditions have grown up among us which in justice and fairness call for discriminating care in the distribution of such duties

and taxation as the emergencies of our government actually demand. Manifestly if we are to aid the people directly through tariff reform, one of its most obvious features should be a reduction in the present tariff charges upon the necessities of life. The benefits of such a reduction would be palpably and substantially seen and felt by thousands who would be better fed and better clothed and better sheltered. These gifts should be the willing benefactions of a government whose highest function is the promotion of the welfare of the people. Not less closely related to our people's prosperity and well-being is the removal of the restrictions upon the importation of raw material necessary to our manufacturers. The world should be open to our national ingenuity and enterprise. This cannot be while Federal legislation through the imposition of a high tariff forbids to American manufacturers as cheap materials as those used by their competitors. It is quite obvious that the enhancement of the price of our manufactured products resulting from this policy not only confines the market for these products within our own borders, to the direct disadvantage of our manufacturers, but also increases their cost to our citizens. The interests of labor are certainly though indirectly involved in this feature of our tariff system. The sharp competition and active struggle among our manufacturers to supply the limited demand for their goods soon fill the narrow market to which they are confined. Then follows a suspension of working mills and factories, a discharge of employees, a distress in the homes of our workmen. Even if the often disproved assertion could be made good that a lower rate of wages would result from free raw materials and low tariff duties, the intelligence of our workmen leads them quickly to discover that their steady employment if permitted by free materials is the most important factor in their relation to tariff legislation.

A measure has been prepared by the appropriate Congressional committee embodying tariff reform on the lines herein suggested, which will be promptly submitted for legislative action. It is the result of much patriotic and unselfish work and I believe it deals with its subject as consistently and thoroughly as existing conditions permit. I am satisfied that the reduced tariff duties provided for in the proposed legislation, added to existing internal revenue taxation, will within the near future, though perhaps not immediately, produce sufficient revenue to meet the needs of the government. The committee, after full consideration and to provide against a temporary deficiency which may exist before the business of the country adjusts itself to the new tariff schedules, have wisely embraced in their plan a few additional internal revenue taxes, including a small tax upon incomes derived from certain corporations. These new assessments are not only absolutely just and easily borne, but they have the further means of being such as can be remitted without unfavorable business disturbances whenever the necessity of their imposition is no longer existing.

In my great desire for the success of