

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1900.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE FOR 1900.

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to the responsible editor, Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

SECRETARY WILSON begins his report with a complimentary reference to the work of his predecessors which has brought the Department of Agriculture to its present state of efficiency. He declares his own aims to bring the Department scientists to the help of the producers, to ascertain what we import that they can produce, with a view to encouraging its growth; to search the world for grains, fruits, grasses and legumes, that they may be domesticated here and be an improvement on what we have; to secure new and improved varieties of plants by cross-fertilization; to cooperate with the experiment stations in all the States and Territories in research of practical value to the people of all sections; and to seek out new markets for our surplus products.

Mr. Wilson emphasizes the manner in which this Department differs from others. He says its appropriations should be regarded as an investment, for the reason that it makes direct returns therefor by adding to the wealth of the country, thus adding yearly largely to the profits of the farmers and others as the result of its investigations. He instances as money-saving or money-making agencies the Weather Bureau; the meat inspection; the pathological investigations of plants; the services of the entomologist; the services of the