

The officers of the University of Arizona and of the Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station have taken a lively interest in the project and the Tucson Chamber of Commerce expressed its appreciation of the importance of the enterprise by donating the site, installing a water supply, electric connections and rendering other valuable assistance.

Plans for building have been approved and construction will be begun as soon as the site is prepared. It is expected that the laboratory will be ready for operation about September 1, at which time Dr. W. A. Cannon, the resident investigator, will take up his duties.

THE U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.

THE last Congress appropriated \$3,500,000 for a new building with granite fronts for the U. S. National Museum. This will be placed on the mall to the north of the Smithsonian Institution and at a suitable distance from it. Tentative plans for such a building were submitted to Congress in response to a resolution passed at the previous session, but the fortunate change from brick and terracotta will necessarily lead to some alterations, particularly in the design for the exterior. The general arrangement of the halls and the amount of floor space will, however, remain practically the same as in the provisional plans. These contemplate a rectangular building, about 480 feet front and 350 feet deep, surrounding two open courts, and about 80 feet high including the basement. The building will afford about 400,000 square feet of floor space, or nearly nine and a half acres, and is designed for four floors, the first and second to be used for exhibition purposes, the basement and upper floor to be for the arrangement of the reserve, or study series, for workrooms and other necessary museum purposes. A special effort will be made to have the offices of the museum staff not only near the study series, but as near as possible to their respective exhibition halls, while the lighting of the exhibition halls will be mainly from the sides, in order to avoid dark corners and reflection.

The construction of the new museum is to be in charge of Mr. Bernard R. Green, who had the supervision of the new building for the Library of Congress. The sum of \$250,000 was appropriated for the first year. The preparation of working plans will be proceeded with at once, and it is hoped that contracts for the work may be made early in July so that the building may be commenced as soon as possible.

THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

THE appropriation for the current expenses of the United States Department of Agriculture provided by the recent session of Congress covers a total of practically six million dollars—\$5,978,100, to be exact. This is an increase of \$769,140 (including an emergency appropriation for foot-and-mouth disease) over the appropriation for the present year. During the past five years the amount of the appropriation for the department has increased over two and one quarter million dollars.

The increased funds are for the most part to enable an extension of the work of the department along its present lines rather than to take up new special features. Nearly every bureau and division receives additional funds, but the wording of the appropriation act mentions very few new undertakings. Indeed, the wording is now so comprehensive as to render this unnecessary, and makes the legitimate field of the department cover practically all science as applied to agricultural investigation and practice. One new bureau is recognized—the Bureau of Statistics, which is raised from the grade of division. The scientific staff of the Weather Bureau is increased somewhat, an assistant chief being added, among others, and the bureau is authorized to erect five observatories and to establish cable communication between Block Island and Narragansett Pier, with terminal buildings and equipment at each place. The Bureau of Animal Industry receives an increase of \$100,000 for its meat and other inspection work, and an emergency appropriation of \$500,000 is placed at the disposal of