

# SCIENCE

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## THE OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

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WITHOUT wasting time in discussing the question whether there is such a thing as agricultural science, I desire to proceed at once to a brief review of the conditions both favorable and unfavorable to the progress of those scientific activities necessary to the improvement of American agriculture and the welfare of country people upon whom we all depend for our food supply, for the proper employment and treatment of our lands, and for certain human qualities best propagated and preserved in the life of the open country.

### THE PLAN

No thinking man can fail to be deeply impressed with the magnitude and the far-reaching consequences of what might be called the American program for agricultural advancement.

This program took definite form in 1862 in the establishment of a national Department of Agriculture, and in the passage of the Land Grant Act, whereby a college of agriculture was established in every state of the union. It was characterized and vitalized a quarter of a century later by subsequent acts providing for an experiment station in connection with every agricultural college; and mightily advanced by state appropriations, in some instances multiplying many times the federal subsidy. So generous indeed were these appropriations that the \$30,000 of federal funds

<sup>1</sup> Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section M, Agriculture, American Association for the Advancement of Science, New York, December 27, 1916.