until after the war, but all preparatory steps are being taken so as to avoid delay when peace has been restored. There is reason to hope that within a short period of years the institute may become self-supporting (except, of course, as regards the cost of purchasing for the nation selected works of outstanding merit). But it is necessary to provide for an adequate guarantee fund to ensure the stability of the scheme, at least during its initial stages, and thus to enable a high standard to be rigorously maintained without regard to immediate financial necessities. The Board of Trade confidently hope that such a guarantee fund will be forthcoming.

AGRICULTURE AND THE GOVERNMENT[1]

In the field of agriculture we have agencies and instrumentalities, fortunately, such as no other government in the world can show. The Department of Agriculture is undoubtedly the greatest practical and scientific agricultural organization in the world. Its total annual budget of $46,000,000 has been increased during the last four years more than 72 per cent. It has a staff of 18,000, including a large number of highly trained experts, and alongside of it stand the unique land grant colleges, which are without example elsewhere, and the 69 state and federal experiment stations. These colleges and experiment stations have a total endowment of plant and equipment of $172,000,000 and an income of more than $35,000,000 with 10,271 teachers, a resident student body of 125,000, and a vast additional number receiving instructions at their homes. Country agents, joint officers of the Department of Agriculture and of the college, are everywhere cooperating with the farmers and assisting them. The number of extension workers under the Smith-Lever Act under the recent emergency legislation has grown to 5,500 men and women working regularly in the various communities and taking to the farmer the latest scientific and practical information. Alongside these great public agencies stand the very effective voluntary organizations among the farmers themselves which are more and more learning the best methods of cooperation and the best methods of putting to practical use the assistance derived from governmental sources. The banking legislation of the last two or three years has given the farmers access to the great lendable capital of the country, and it has become the duty of both of the men in charge of the Federal Reserve Banking System and of the Farm Loan Banking System to see to it that the farmers obtain the credit, both short term and long term, to which they are entitled not only, but which it is imperatively necessary should be extended to them if the present tasks of the country are to be adequately performed. Both by direct purchase of nitrates and by the establishment of plants to produce nitrates, the government is doing its utmost to assist in the problem of fertilization. The Department of Agriculture and other agencies are actively assisting the farmers to locate, safeguard and secure at cost an adequate supply of sound seed. The Department has $2,500,000 available for this purpose now and has asked the Congress for $6,000,000 more.

[1] From President Wilson's Message to Farmers' Conference at Urbana, Ill., January 31 ,1918.

USE OF THE METRIC SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES[1]

More extensive use of the metric system in the trade and commerce of the United States is recommended in a resolution adopted by the United States section of the International High Commission, of which Secretary McAdoo is chairman.

The commission has regarded this subject as of particular importance in the United States. It is, of course, unnecessary for the United States section to recommend to the Latin-American sections of the commission anything in connection with the metric system, which is exclusively in use throughout Latin America. One of the main obstacles to documentary uniformity as between the United States and Latin America is to be found in the fact that the United States does not make the use of the metric system obligatory, and consequently its consular documents have to

[1] Publication authorized by the Treasury Department.

allow the use of that system merely as optical. Any uniform system of classifying merchandise, however, will require on the part of the United States thoroughgoing and complete adherence to the metric system.

Of more importance than statistical and administrative questions is the use of the metric system in trade. Now that the United States is obviously being drawn into closer and more vital commercial relations by the rest of the world, and particularly with Latin-America, our manufacturers and exporters will be obliged to meet the demands of their prospective customers in a somewhat more accommodating frame of mind than hitherto. Only the English-speaking nations still have to adopt the metric system of weights and measures, and among them the British Empire, or at least Great Britain, seems to be giving serious consideration to the necessity of making a change. Those who read the Commerce Reports of the United States Department of Commerce know how numerous are the opportunities necessarily allowed to pass by because of our inability to supply goods and machinery constructed in accordance with the metric system. The subject has now assumed a most practical character in the minds of those who are planning for post-war trade expansion.

The resolution adopted by the commission is as follows:

The United States section of the International High Commission, having in view the present efforts to bring about the exclusive use of the metric system of weights and measures within the jurisdiction of the United States, resolves:

I. That in the opinion of the section the adoption of that system would be productive of great advantage in the commercial relations of the United States with the other American republics.

II. That the secretary of the section be directed to communicate a copy of this resolution to the chairman of the proper committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

AN ECOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK

LAST spring a cooperative ecological survey of the Palisades Interstate Park was established by the commissioners of the Park and the department of forest zoology of The New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse. The park is a large area of about 30,000 acres under the management of joint commissioners representing the states of New York and New Jersey. The park lies along the lower Hudson, including most of the scenic portion of the Palisades, on the west bank of the Hudson, and a relatively large area (the Harriman section) south and west of West Point, in the low wooded mountains of the Hudson Highlands.

This survey is intended to relate the wild life of the park to its numerous visitors, of which during the season just closed there have been about 48,000 campers, who averaged ten days each. Investigations of the birds have been made by Professor P. M. Silloway; the plankton organisms by Dr. Gilbert M. Smith and the fish by Dr. Chas. C. Adams and Professor T. L. Hankinson, assisted by A. E. Fivaz. The first season's field work has been completed and publications on the survey are in preparation from the standpoint of park utilization. The birds have been studied from an educational and recreational, as well as an ecological, point of view. The plankton for its bearing upon the problem of drinking water needed in the park, the fish, and the bathing facilities. The fish have been studied from the standpoint of food, education and recreation. The water storage area has been greatly increased by dams, creating and enlarging ponds and reservoirs. A system of management for these waters and the streams is to be worked out in harmony with the aims of the park.

Those in immediate charge of the work are Mr. Edward F. Brown, manager of the camp department of the park, and Dr. Charles C. Adams, forest zoologist of the college. This is the first comprehensive ecological survey systematically conducted and intended to relate primarily the wild life forest resources of a large public park to the educational, recreational, scientific and economic activities of the park. Many of the problems are the same