

SCIENCE

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At the close of the World War, the outlook for research in the United States, both as to its immediate future and as to its permanent place in our economic structure, was very rosy. The tremendous part which the results of new discoveries played in the conduct of the war and in the sustenance of the nations whose normal productive energies were being diverted to war purposes, had attracted popular attention to and support of research activities. Research men had received new impetus and enthusiasm from the practical benefits of their work which became suddenly manifest. Organization of research agencies and the general recognition of the possibilities of cooperative organized attack upon the problems which need scientific study seemed to promise much for the immediate future of research work.

All this seemed to be particularly true of research in agriculture. The vital importance of the products of agriculture to the national need had been emphasized again by the war-time needs and slogans. Nations, like ours, which had been going through a period of almost inconceivable industrial development had come to hold in light esteem the earlier understanding of the importance of a sound and permanent agricultural system, which knowledge had been forced upon the preceding generation of American statesmen by the post-Civil-War experiences. But the vital importance of a steady production of a sufficient supply of agricultural products for the world's needs had been so emphasized by the war, and America's strategic position as a food-producing nation had been so clearly shown, that it seemed that a re-awakening of public interest in the support of anything which would aid in insuring a sound national agricultural policy was inevitable.

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