

SCIENCE

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND EXPERIMENT STATIONS¹

Two great things have occupied the center of attraction and thought in the affairs of this association and the institutions embraced in its membership during the past year. These are the Smith-Lever Extension Act and the changes in the relations of the agricultural colleges with the United States Department of Agriculture. The discussion of administrative questions involved in the new developments along both of these lines will consume a large share of the time of this convention. It is my purpose at the present hour to consider briefly some of the broader relations of these matters to the future development of the land-grant colleges and the Department of Agriculture.

The Extension Act has rounded out the Federal legislation providing for the endowment along agricultural lines of the institutions whose establishment was made possible by the land-grant act of 1862, not so much by liberal grants of money for extension work as by recognition of such work as a legitimate and necessary function of these colleges which ought to be performed throughout the nation. The chief importance of the new policy of the Department of Agriculture in its relations with these colleges is the recognition that this national institution, founded also in 1862 primarily for research and instruction in agriculture, is really a part of our national system of agricultural education, represented in the states by the land-grant colleges, and that therefore it should work not alongside of them but in close interlocking alliance with them.

The enlargement of the functions of both the colleges and the department due to the

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