provements in methods of beekeeping, fish culture, etc. It will strive constantly to meet the demands for the economic application of the branches of science it represents.

COMMITTEE OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ON LAND UTILIZATION

SECRETARY WALLACE has appointed a committee of six scientific men of the Department of Agriculture to consider the entire problem of land utilization, especially with respect to the country's future requirements.

In appointing the committee Secretary Wallace suggested that as the basis of the work to be undertaken careful consideration should be devoted to the country's present crop production, home consumption and foreign demand, relating the land now under cultivation to present and near future demands. It seems to the secretary that this study should be followed by a more careful survey and classification than has yet been made of lands which can be brought under cultivation in the future, and the conditions necessary to make it profitable under the plow.

The suggested survey would include the arid lands of the West suitable for irrigation, swamp lands which can be reclaimed by drainage, and the cut-over timberlands of the various sections. In studying the cut-over lands consideration will be given to their possibilities both for cultivation and for reforestation.

The personnel of the committee of six is as follows:

Dr. L. C. Gray, agricultural economist, Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics, chairman.

C. V. Piper, agrostologist in charge forage crop investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Dr. G. M. Rommel, chief, Animal Husbandry Division, Bureau of Animal Industry.

C. F. Marbut, in charge, soil survey investigations, Bureau of Soils.

E. E. Carter, assistant forester, Forest Service.

S. H. McCory, chief, Division of Agricultural Engineering, Bureau of Public Roads.

At the present time a little less than half the total national area is in farms, and only about one-quarter of the total area is improved land. Many persons, deceived by these facts, assume that there is an unlimited reserve supply of farm land. Such is not the case, however; by far the greater part of the 1,000,000,000 acres not yet in farms probably can never be used for the growing of crops, and plans must be made to use this land for the benefit of the nation.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE MELLON INSTITUTE

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made by the board of trustees of the University of Pittsburgh of the appointment of Edward Ray Weidlein as director of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research. Mr. Weidlein has been acting director since the recent resignation of Dr. Raymond Foss Bacon, and prior to that time, since 1916, he served as associate director. Dr. Bacon, who left to engage in consulting chemical practise in New York, succeeded Dr. Robert Kennedy Duncan, the first director and formulator of the institute's system of practical cooperation between science and industry, upon the latter's death in 1914.

Mr. Weidlein was a student of Dr. Duncan and later became an industrial fellow of the Mellon Institute. He has been associated intimately with the Industrial Fellowship System since 1909, and since 1916 has been a member of the administrative staff of the institute. He has had much experience in the supervision of industrial research and enjoys a national reputation as a specialist in the systematic investigation of the problems of chemical and physical technology.

Edward Ray Weidlein was born at Augusta, Kansas, on July 14, 1887. He was graduated at the University of Kansas with the degree of bachelor of arts in the year of 1909; in 1910 he received the degree of master of arts. He engaged in a study of camphor, under the direction of the late Dr. Robert Kennedy Duncan, and he carried out a comprehensive study of the ductless glands. From 1912 to 1916 Mr. Weidlein was a senior fellow in the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, having supervisory charge of the institute's investigations on the metallurgy and hydrometallurgy of copper, and