WHY THE LEVER ACT

In combating the boll weevil there grew up in the South a type of farm demonstration work inaugurated by the lamented Dr. S. A. Knapp. It proved wonderfully successful. It attracted the attention of the politicians who were quick to see in it a means to advance their political fortunes. Here was in the making a dangerous system. At this point the question arose, how may this farm demonstration work be put upon a safe, permanent and efficient basis where it may grow and cover the country. The answer is found in the Lever Agricultural Extension Act. This Act places the work with the state colleges of agriculture, puts it upon an educational instead of a political basis and connects the state college with the farm.

In preparing the state enactments the league urges the governors and members of the legislatures to invite the faculty of the state college to assist in framing the legislation necessary to accept the Lever Act and put it into operation.
THE LEVER AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACT.

AN ACT.

To provide for co-operative agricultural extension work between the agricultural colleges in the several States receiving the benefits of an Act of Congress approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and of Acts supplementary thereto, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of the same, there may be inaugurated in connection with the college or colleges in each State now receiving, or which may hereafter receive, the benefits of the Act of Congress approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled "An Act donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts" (Twelfth Statutes at Large, page five hundred and three), and of the Act of Congress approved August thirteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety (Twenty-sixth Statutes at Large, page four hundred and seventeen and chapter eight hundred and forty-one), agricultural extension work which shall be carried on in co-operation with the United States Department of Agriculture: Provided, That in any State in which two or more such colleges have been or hereafter may be established the appropriations hereinafter made to such State shall be administered by such college or colleges as the legislature of such State may direct. That pending the inauguration and development of the co-operative extension work herein authorized, nothing in this Act shall be construed to discontinue either the farm management work or the farmers' co-operative demonstration work as now conducted by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Department of Agriculture.

Section 2. That co-operative agricultural extension work shall consist of the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations in agriculture and home economics to persons not attending or resident in said colleges in the several communities, and imparting to such persons information on said subjects through field demonstrations, publications, and otherwise; and this work shall be carried on in such manner as may be mutually
agreed upon by the Secretary of Agriculture and the State agricultural college or colleges receiving the benefits of this Act.

Section 3. That for the purpose of paying the expenses of said co-operative agricultural extension work and the necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with the same, there is permanently appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury or otherwise appropriated, the sum of $480,000 for each year, $10,000 of which shall be paid annually, in the manner hereinafter provided, to each State which shall by action of its legislature assent to the provisions of this Act: Provided, That payment of such installments of the appropriation hereinbefore made shall become due to any State before the adjournment of the regular session of the legislature meeting next after the passage of this Act may, in the absence of prior legislative assent, be made upon the assent of the governor thereof duly certified to the Secretary of the Treasury: Provided further, That there is also appropriated an additional sum of $600,000 for the fiscal year following that in which the foregoing appropriation first becomes available, and for each year thereafter for seven years a sum exceeding by $500,000 the sum appropriated for each preceding year, and for each year thereafter there is permanently appropriated for each year the sum of $1,100,000 in addition to the sum of $480,000 hereinbefore provided: Provided further, That before the funds herein appropriated shall become available to any college for any fiscal year plans for the work to be carried on under this Act shall be submitted by the proper officials of each college and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. Such additional sums shall be used only for the purposes hereinbefore stated, and shall be allotted annually to each State by the Secretary of Agriculture and paid in the manner hereinbefore provided, in the proportion which the rural population of each State bears to the total rural population of all the States as determined by the next preceding Federal census: Provided further, That no payment out of the additional appropriations herein provided shall be made in any year to any State until an equal sum has been appropriated for that year by the legislature of such State, or provided by State, county, college, or local authority, or individual contributions from within the State for the maintenance of the co-operative agricultural extension work provided for in this Act.

Section 4. That the sums hereby appropriated for extension work shall be paid in equal semi-annual payments on the first day of January and July of each year by the Secretary of the Treasury upon the warrant of the Secretary of Agriculture, out of the Treasury of the United States, to the treasurer or other officer of the State duly authorized by the laws of the State to receive the same; and such officer shall be required to report to the Secretary of Agriculture, on or before the first day of September of each year, a detailed statement of the amount so received during the previous fiscal year, and of its disbursement, on forms prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 5. That if any portion of the moneys received by the designated officer of any state for the support and maintenance of co-operative agricultural extension work, as provided in this Act, shall by any action or contingency be diminished or lost, or be misapplied, it shall be replaced by said State to which it belongs, and until so replaced no subsequent appropriation shall be apportioned or paid to said State, and no portion of said moneys shall be applied directly or indirectly, to the purchase, erection, preservation, or repair of any building or buildings, or the purchase or rental of land, or in college-course teaching, lectures in colleges, promoting agricultural trains, or any other purpose not specified in this Act, and not more than five per centum of each annual appropriation shall be applied to the printing and distribution of publications. It shall be the duty of each of said colleges annually, or on or before the first day of January, to make to the governor of the State in which it is located a full and detailed report of its operations in the direction of extension work as defined in this Act, including a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures from all sources for this purpose, a copy of which report shall be sent to the Secretary of Agriculture and to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.

Section 6. That on or before the first day of July in each year after the passage of this Act the Secretary of Agriculture shall ascertain and certify to the Secretary of the Treasury as to each State whether it is entitled to receive its share of the annual appropriation for cooperative agricultural extension work under this Act, and the amount which it is entitled to receive. If the Secretary of Agriculture shall withhold a certificate from any State of its appropriation, the facts and reasons therefor shall be reported to the President, and the amount involved shall be kept separate in the Treasury until the expirations of the Congress next succeeding a session of the legislature of any State from which a certificate has been withheld, in order that the State may, if it should so desire, appeal to Congress from the determination of the Secretary of Agriculture. If the next Congress shall not direct such sum to be paid, it shall be covered into the Treasury.

Section 7. That the Secretary of Agriculture shall make an annual
report to Congress of the receipts, expenditures, and results of the cooperative agricultural extension work in all of the States receiving the benefits of this Act, and also whether the appropriation of any State has been withheld; and if so, the reasons therefor.

Section 8. That Congress may at any time alter, amend, or repeal any or all of the provisions of this Act.

**APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE LEVER ACT.**

The Lever Act gives absolutely and unconditionally $10,000 per year to every state that accepts its provision through its Governor or the legislature. One-half of this money will be available July 1st, 1914, if accepted before that time. The Table below shows the conditional appropriations that the states may receive, provided they appropriate as much more money for the same purpose. The first column shows the amount available the first year beginning July 1st, 1915. The second column shows the maximum amount of the conditional appropriation which is reached in eight years. The second year's appropriation will be an increase of about five-sixths added to the first year with a similar sum added every year until the maximum is attained. These figures are only approximate.

**AVAILABLE July 1ST, 1915.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>First year</th>
<th>Shows amount when maximum is reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>$21,480</td>
<td>$146,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td>11,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>17,600</td>
<td>113,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>11,200</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>4,800</td>
<td>32,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>8,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>6,480</td>
<td>44,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>25,200</td>
<td>170,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>21,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>26,200</td>
<td>178,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>128,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana</td>
<td>18,800</td>
<td>128,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>14,500</td>
<td>99,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>20,900</td>
<td>142,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>14,100</td>
<td>96,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Continued from page six)
Example showing approximately how to ascertain the amount of money available for any year until the maximum is reached. The following figures are for Iowa:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>$34,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>$15,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>66,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>81,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>97,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>113,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>129,150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

at which figure it remains. It will be noticed that the amount over-runs only $850 figures in the general list, so they are substantially accurate.

RULING

To ascertain the figures for any State, take the amount in the first column for the first year and add thereafter for each of the seven succeeding years 5/6 of the first year sum as above. This will show approximately the amount of appropriation in any year required by the State to meet the Federal funds.

STATES MUST ACCEPT THE ACT TO SECURE THE BENEFITS

It will be noticed that the Act carries an appropriation of $10,000 per year to every State, effective upon the Governor's acceptance of the Act and notice thereof to the Secretary of Agriculture. This acceptance carries no obligation by the State except that the money must be expended as provided in the Act. The larger appropriations are conditional and effective only when the States furnish a similar sum for the same purpose. It is inconceivable that any State would fail to do this. Many States doubtless will make appropriations in excess of the amount required, and the State should do this if the necessity for it should arise. The legislatures of most States convene next winter, 1914-15, and it will be necessary for the legislatures to take action to meet the requirements of the Lever Act. The State enactment should be very carefully considered so that it will perfectly articulate with this Act, supply the funds and complete the plan. In some cases more money will be needed than has been provided for, therefore, the County Boards should be authorized to make appropriations to supplement the State and Federal funds, or at least to put it to a vote of the people of the county. The ideal seems to be to have the money that is expended divided into about three parts, one to be furnished by the Federal Government under the Lever Act, one by the State from the general treasury, and one part by the county or some local organization. It will be noticed that under the Act private individuals or organizations may make donations for the work within the State but not elsewhere. Let us suggest to the Governors of the respective States that it would be well to deal with this matter in the annual message and have prepared and present a bill for passage.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE


Mr. H. H. Gross,
President, National Soil Fertility League,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Hon. A. P. Lever has referred to me your letter of May 13 asking for certain information relative to the Smith-Lever Extension Act. Your questions may be answered as follows:

If the Governor of the State accepts the provisions of this Act before July 1, 1914, the first appropriation to the State will be available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1914, but no funds will be available to any State until its acceptance of the provisions of the Act has been certified to
the Secretary of the Treasury, and the plans for the expenditure of the first appropriation approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

I have already informed the Governors of all the States of the passage of this Act, and indicated to them the form in which acceptance should be made.

Very truly yours,

D. F. HOUSTON,
Secretary.

FROM THE ABOVE IT WILL BE SEEN THAT TWO THINGS ARE NECESSARY. THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ACT BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE PLAN OF EXPENDITURE OF THE APPROPRIATION BE APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES SHOULD ALL SEE THAT THEIR PLAN IS PRESENTED AND APPROVED BEFORE JULY 1, 1914, IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SO.

THE NEED FOR BETTER FARMING.

With about 100,000,000 population we are now practically consuming all we raise; indeed we are already importing food products. In fifty years (a short time in the life of a nation) we shall have 200,000,000 people to feed. How shall it be done? This is the most colossal economic question that has ever been asked. How shall it be answered? The reply is

SCIENTIFIC FARMING

To many of us science seems mysterious and difficult. It has a big sound, but really it is only common sense systematized, classified and put into usable shape. It shows us how to work with nature instead of against her, and this is exceedingly important. Any intelligent farmer can apply science to his work with a few simple suggestions. Bring together in the field a practical, sensible farmer who wants to learn and a man who knows and the difficulties will soon disappear. It is all very simple. Why not keep it so? The farmer who applies science diligently and intelligently will find his avocation far more interesting and profitable than he ever believed was possible. It will give him a broader view and larger

income and increased courage. It will dignify farming. It will make the tiller of the soil proud of his vocation. May we not hope that it will help to keep the boys on the farm.

THE BRAIN IS THE BEST FERTILIZER.

A trained mind directing strong muscles spells efficiency. The day of definite knowledge is dawning. Mr. Knowso is taking the reins from Mr. Guessso and he will do the driving. The soil is God's best physical gift to man. No one has a right to abuse or deplete it, and only the efficient have a moral right to occupy and use it. One man will raise 30 bushels of corn upon an acre while another will raise 60 under like conditions. The difference is in men and methods. Man for man, the American farmer produces twice as much as his European rival, but he requires four or five times as much land upon which to do it. The American need is smaller farms and better farming.

DUTCH COMMEND THE PLAN.

In speaking of the Lever Bill then pending, the Dutch Commissioner of Agriculture said to the writer, "Your plan is an improvement upon ours, yet we doubled our output. We employ twenty field teachers—your plan will require nearly four thousand. I am simply amazed at the magnitude of it. Only in your country is such a colossal thing possible. It is one of the greatest works for agriculture and for humanity ever undertaken."

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The plan is to establish in every agricultural college an extension department at the joint expense of the Federal Government, of the State, and, in most cases, of the county. The operation carried on will be wholly directed by the college faculty of the State College of Agriculture. The college will as fast as practical, place in every community a trained man thoroughly familiar with the latest and best methods of farm operation. He will cooperate with such farmers as desire it and assist them to understand
and apply the methods that are best suited to their condition. The cooperator or farm adviser will connect the farm with the sources of scientific knowledge, viz., the agricultural college, the experiment station and the Federal Department of Agriculture. He will test soils, plan crop rotations, give advice as to drainage and general farm operations. He should specialize in stock growing. If pests should appear he will get quick action from every source of relief and help to combat them. He will assist cooperative movements in buying and selling, promote and encourage the study of agriculture in and out of the public schools. He will cooperate with such local organizations as the Farmers' Institute, the Grange, and will generally assist in building up agriculture in his territory, and make farming in it more efficient and prosperous. He will stimulate interest in the industry, particularly among the young, and show them that farming is a big business and a profitable business, and that it furnishes golden opportunities for young men and women of brains and industry. Remember brain beats brawn. Taken together, they are an unbeatable combination.

PART TAKEN BY THE NATIONAL SOIL FERTILITY LEAGUE

The National Soil Fertility League was organized for the sole and express purpose of aiding the agricultural colleges to secure just such legislation as the present Lever Act. To this end in October and November, 1911, it prepared a tentative bill and sent it to the agricultural men and others for suggestions. After replies had been received, an amended draft was sent out and when this was returned, final copies were prepared and given to the Executive Committee of the colleges of agriculture. Upon invitation of Chairman Thompson, Mr. Gross representing the League, met the Executive Committee in Washington in December, 1911, for the purpose of having the bill introduced. At the conference it was agreed that Mr. Lever would be the best man to deal with the subject for two reasons: First, his commanding position on the agricultural committee and his capacity for getting things done. Second, because he himself had pending a bill on the same subject. Dr. Thompson took the bill up with Mr. Lever and it appeared that with a number of changes particularly in Section 4, Mr. Lever's bill would satisfactorily meet the situation. These amendments were agreed upon by Mr. Lever and Dr. Thompson's committee, and Dr. True of the Department of Agriculture was asked to put the bill in proper legislative language, and this he did, thereupon Mr. Lever introduced the bill. Neither the National Soil Fertility League nor its president claims to be "the author" of the Lever Act, but they claim credit for the idea. Their work was to help get it on the statute books.

Congressman Lever in a letter to Mr. Gross, under date of May 21st, aptly says: "You are entirely correct in your statement that the Lever act is not the work of any one man, but the joint effort and earnestness of a number of men, among them yours." After its introduction it worked unexpectedly for its passage, and for nearly three years carried on a sustained and vigorous campaign to awaken interest in the subject and to create a definite and effective public sentiment in support of the measure. As indicative of its success, about a thousand newspapers gave us their earnest and persistent support editorially and otherwise. Hundreds of Boards of Trade and other organizations got back of the bill with definite systematized work. At the proper time a flood of letters previously arranged for began to pour in upon Washington calling for the passage of this bill. One senator, when the campaign was at its height, showed by his report that he had already received 659 appeals to pass the bill and that more were coming in by every mail. His experience is no doubt the experience of others. The President of the League personally interviewed at length over 150 Senators and Representatives and in nearly every case was courteously received, patiently listened to and support promised. The Women's Clubs of the entire country were thoroughly aroused and did splendid work in aid of the campaign. The efforts of the agricultural colleges were exceedingly important. To them much is due the success of the Campaign. Congressman Mann, the Republican leader of the House, paid the League a high tribute in saying its campaign was one of the most effective that he had ever known. The handling of the measure upon the floor of the House by Congressman A. F. Lever and in the Senate by Senator Hoke Smith was exceedingly effective. The measure could not have been in better hands. When President Wilson finally signed the Act on May 8th there went upon the Statute Books one of the most important, far-reaching and beneficial constructive measures ever passed.

"County Agents Not Chiefly Advisers."

"County agricultural agents are sometimes referred to as 'county ad-
visers." This implies a misunderstanding of the real work of the agent. Advisory work is a part of the agent's duties, but is a minor part. The county agricultural agent has about half a dozen principal functions:

"He studies the agriculture of the country to learn what is being done and what is worth while agriculturally in each part of it. This study includes farm, financial and organization surveys.

"He gives the results of his studies to farmers, not in the way of advice, but as facts observed and conclusions drawn. This is done through the local press, lectures, institute circulars, short courses and personal interviews.

"Based on these local studies and the ascertained needs of the county, clubs, associations and the like are organized and the individuals solicited to undertake definite lines of agricultural improvement on their own farms. Organizations are also formed for co-operative buying and marketing and the standardization of farm products.

"He endeavors to co-ordinate all existing agricultural agencies within the county, so that all may work unitedly and efficiently.

"He develops local leadership. The task of improving the agriculture of an entire county is so stupendous that the agent must be primarily an administrator. He must inspire and accept the help of voluntary assistants in work.

"He acts as the connecting link between the scientists of the research institutions of the state and nation and the farmer, presenting the results of investigations in such a way that the farmer can use them, and calling attention of scientists to the local agricultural problems of the county and soliciting their assistance.

"He gives advice. This may relate to spraying, seed treatment, mixing fertilizers, combating insect pests, cultural practices, or other miscellaneous matters which are the stock in trade of every well-informed agent. The giving of advice is seventh on the list, because in actually improving the agriculture of the county it is probably of least importance though in point of time it may be the first work undertaken."

ABOUT THE COUNTY ADVISER

An Illinois farmer says:

"I note with interest the letter in your issue of March 12 about the county agent and his work. I assume that the reason the man wrote as he did was that he already knew enough about farming and of course with him the agent could not do any good.

"My farm is a small one. I am considerably in debt. My son and I operate a little dairy. We were trying to grow alfalfa. Our county agent happened along, and I asked him to tell why the alfalfa was so short and yellow. He told me that the land needed limestone and phosphorus. At first I would not listen. He brought out a bag of limestone dust and we scattered it on a corner of the field and harrowed it in. We tried out the bone-meal, too. Then for the first time I knew what alfalfa ought to look like. Now I am feeding our cows a little hay nearly all winter, and it is only a matter of a year or two when we will stop buying bran. That is what our county agent did for us.

"Then he helped us test our cows, too, and coaxed me to sell three to the butcher. That cut down the feed bill a lot and did not much lessen the receipts. We bought one good cow with the money that the three cows brought and he helped us select her. Now we are headed towards a herd of paying cows."

"Our agent came and helped locate our silo and showed us how to mix the concrete. He threw off his coat and helped hoist the buckets of concrete. He does not insist that he knows it all, but he surely does know enough more than some of us to be a big help to us, and I for one am grateful and do not like to see a good man knocked. Maybe there are smart alecks in the county adviser business, but our man is not that kind."

A SUGGESTION.

Let the reader put himself in the place of this farmer—his environment and outlook and then re-read the above. Surely this County Adviser was a Godsend to this man and his family. He gave them a larger hope, a broader vision and increased courage for further effort. What must have been the effect upon the mind of the farm boy when he saw visions of a greater success. This kind of work will help to keep the boy on the farm.

AGRICULTURE IS THE HOPE OF THE NATION.
IN APPLIED SCIENCE LIES THE HOPE OF AGRICULTURE.