

# Uncle Sam and the Farmer

Points of Interest Brought Out in Debate in the House



**W**HEN the annual appropriation bill for the United States Department of Agriculture comes up every year in congress there is much debate over its many items and over its huge total. First the house thunders it out. Then the senate goes over what the house has done. Then the two houses fight it out in conference. Sometimes it looks as if there might be a deadlock. The department is a big one, with many activities affecting both producer and consumer; so the total appropriation is necessarily large. There is always a flood of oration pro and con. Here are some items of general interest that were set forth in the debate over the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923 (six months of 1922 calendar year and six months of 1923). First is a statement regarding farms and farmers by Representative Philip H. Stoll of South Carolina, in effect as follows:

From the census of 1920 we find that there are 6,448,343 farms in the United States. Of these farms 3,925,000 are operated by owners, 2,454,804 by tenants, and 68,440 by managers.

The total acreage in farms in 1920 was 955,883,715 acres, and of this 503,073,007 acres were classified as improved land. The average acreage per farm was 148.2 acres. The value per farm is fixed at \$12,084. It is interesting to note that of the total number of farms 796,535 have an average of less than 20 acres each, that there are 1,503,782 farms with an acreage between 20 and 49 acres, and that of farms with acreage of 50 to 99 acres there are 1,474,745. In other words, more than one-third of the farmers of the United States are small farmers, and tend less than 50 acres of land. It is also worthy of note that there are 201,719 farms that are operated by females, and that 76.3 per cent were operated by native white farmers, 9 per cent by foreign-born white farmers, and 14.7 per cent by colored farmers.

There are nearly 6,500,000 individual farmers in the United States and there are more than 12,000,000 men engaged in this work; the permanent investment of these farmers in land and equipment amounts to approximately \$80,000,000,000, and the output of these farms is worth \$25,000,000,000 annually.

Here are interesting points in the statement of Representative Sidney Anderson of Minnesota of the appropriations committee:

The total appropriations carried for the regular work of the Department of Agriculture during the present year amount to \$38,988,050. The amount recommended in the bill now pending is \$34,978,033. This sum, compared with the present appropriations, is \$3,710,020 less than the appropriations for the current year and \$1,554,895 less than the estimates submitted by the Director of the Budget through the President. It should be remembered, however, that the current law carries an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the purchase of forest lands in the Appalachian Mountain Range and also carries an appropriation of \$2,000,000, to be loaned to farmers in the Great Plains area of the country for the purchase of seed, so that the bill in fact, eliminating new items which have been added, is approximately \$700,000 less than the regular items carried in the current appropriation bill. It should also be considered that the pending bill carries three or four new items, one for the operation of the Center Market, carrying about \$165,000; an item for the enforcement of the packers and stockyards act carrying \$410,500; and an item for the enforcement of the futures trading act which carries, I think, \$108,000, making the total carried in this bill, which is not carried in the prior bills, approximately \$700,000.

Of the total appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, speaking roughly and generally, \$18,000,000 is spent for the conduct of regulatory services, many of which are as directly of inter-

est and concern to the consumers of the country as they are to the farmers of the country. Approximately \$8,000,000 is spent for research of various kinds. Three million dollars is spent for service work, such as that involved in the inspection of fruit and vegetables, and approximately \$4,000,000 is expended for extension.

Prior to this year the appropriation for the individual forests controlled and operated by the Forest Service have been carried in something like 139 separate forest items. In accordance with the suggestion made by the Forest Service to the Director of the Budget, the items for the 139 individual forests have been consolidated into eight forest-district items without any increase in the total appropriation for the forest with this exception, that there is allocated to the current appropriations in these districts an additional appropriation of \$80,000, which is divided in this way: \$50,000 additional for fire guards, \$20,000 for additional technical men in these forests where the sales of timber are increasing or likely to increase; \$10,000 for additional employment in connection with the grazing in the national forests. The committee was in part influenced in granting this increase by the fact that the air patrol service, which has heretofore been conducted by the War Department in the national forests and in conjunction with the Forest Service, will be discontinued next year.

In 1921 the receipts from the sale of timber amounted to \$1,775,901, as compared with \$2,967,295 in the preceding year, while the receipts from the grazing privileges in 1920 were \$2,486,040. It

has not all been paid in, but the grazing receipts for 1921 will amount to about \$2,130,174. The total appropriations carried in this bill for the Forest Service is \$6,532,302, as compared with an expenditure last year, including deficiencies, of \$6,990,802.

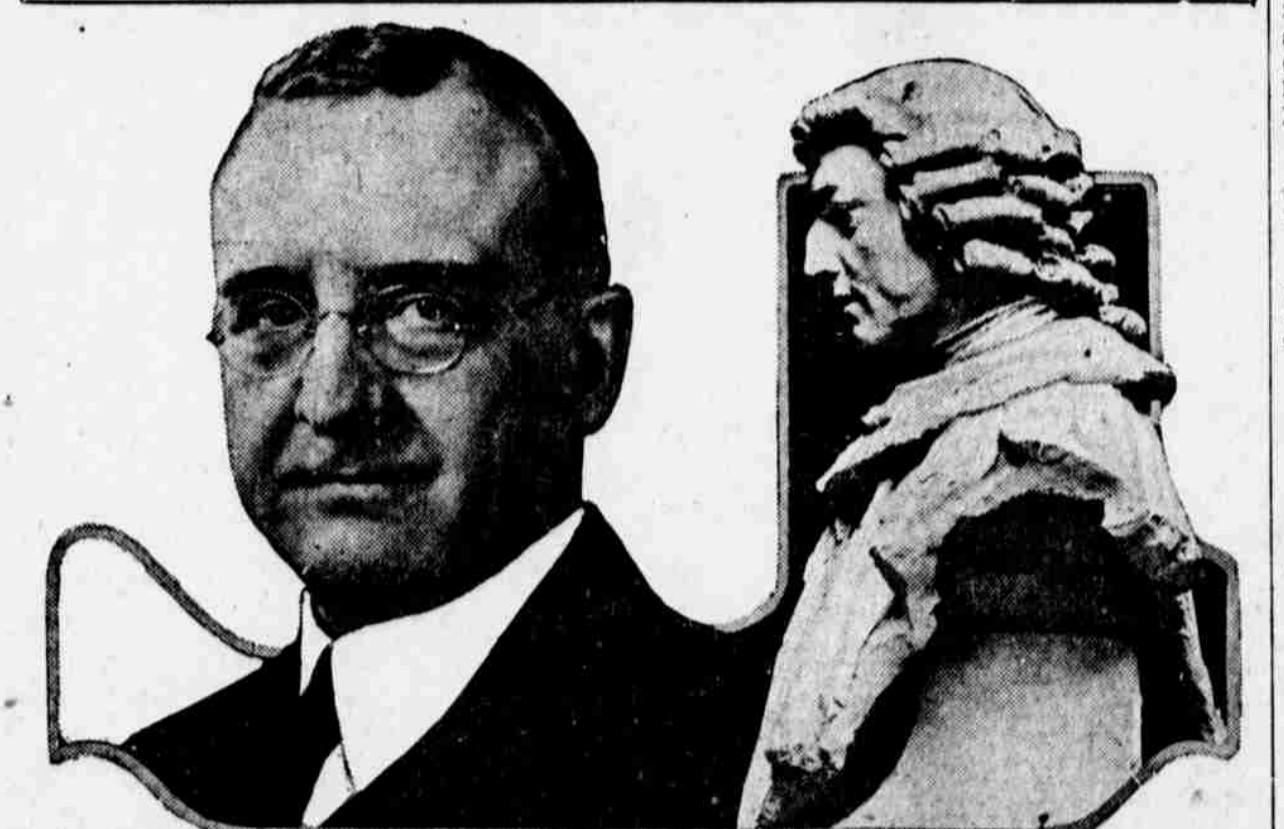
There is one considerable reduction on the face of this bill in the items for the extension of activities of the Department of Agriculture along the line of the work now being done under the Smith-Lever Act. These items are now carried in four separate items. The first of these items carried \$715,720 and was for farm demonstration work in the North. The second carried \$634,800 for the same sort of work in the South under a general title of boll-weevil eradication and control, the third was a small item of \$16,300 carried for supervising expenses in connection with the extension services of the Government, and the fourth was a general item of \$1,500,000, which was originally made for the purpose of advancing the maturity of the Smith-Lever Act by three years. The first three items have been consolidated in one item in this bill with a reduction of \$53,280, and the fourth item, which is now the second item, has been reduced from \$1,500,000 to \$1,000,000.

Mr. Clarke of New York. Has the appropriation for the distribution of seeds for buncombe purposes been eliminated from this bill?

Mr. Anderson. The committee did not report the provision for the congressional seed distribution. That is not included in the bill.

Mr. Clarke. Thank God for that. (Just the same, it was put into the bill later).

## PITT AND PITTSBURGH



Pittsburgh is to have a heroic bust of William Pitt, first earl of Chatham (1708-78), which will stand in the rotunda of the city hall. Pittsburgh (Fort Duquesne) was named for the famous British general in 1758 by John Forbes, the British statesman who revenged Braddock by driving out the French and building Fort Pitt, which still stands. The name was suggested by George Washington.

The bust is the gift of Sir Charles Wakefield, a former mayor of London. Presentation will be made May 9 by a distinguished party of Britons,

headed by the marquis of Cambridge. Mayor William A. Magee (portrait herewith) will receive the bust on behalf of the city. Pittsburgh is planning a three-day celebration.

Sir Charles Wakefield decided to present busts of Pitt and Edmund Burke about the time Virginia presented to Great Britain, through the Sulgrave Institution of America, a replica of Houdon's statue of Washington that stands in the capitol at Richmond.

The Burke bust will go to Washington and will be received by President Harding.

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**Why Complain?**

Those impatient people who complain about late trains on American railroads will probably settle into an amazed silence and speak no more about such paltry matters when it is stated that, according to dispatches, the Tashkent express to Moscow gayly puffed into its home station 21 days late recently. Russia has overturned many illusions, but this beats them all. One hesitates to ask for statistics on messenger boys.—Christian Science Monitor.

**New Form.**

Percy—How would you—aw—like to own—aw—a little puppy, Miss Dovelty? Miss D.—This is so sudden, Mr. Chaphingham.—Detroit News.

If men had the brains they think they have their legs wouldn't be strong enough to carry them.

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The clerical guest was invited to ask the blessing, and the little boy of the house listened nicely until "Amen" was pronounced. Then he said to the minister:

"You say your prayers at dinner time so you won't have to say 'em when you go to bed, don't you?"—Boston Transcript.

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The race that is responsible for the turmoil and strife in the world is the human race.—Dayton News.

Children call a spade a spade until they learn that grown folks won't allow it.

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