INTRODUCTION

The following outlines of topics for investigation prepared and submitted by the respective committees of the American Association for Agricultural Legislation are designed to stimulate study along these important lines, and to unify, insofar as possible, those studies in order that the work may accomplish the maximum of good.

The problems, as outlined in this pamphlet, are either comparatively new or else present new and complicated phases. The problem of marketing is an old one but its recent modifications through the rise of strong farmers' organizations, co-operative organization of producers and consumers, standardization of products, cold storage and numberless other changes have made new and complicated problems, each demanding solution. The disappearance of free land, a great detached soldier population, the high price of food and clothing; and now being followed by a rapid rise in the price of land are originating problems of extreme importance.

A fact no less important than the above is that the people are looking more to the colleges and universities and demanding from them leadership in the solution of these problems. The colleges and college men will be called upon as never before to justify their reason for existence. They must show they are able to do constructive thinking along practical lines.

The A. A. A. L. hopes to render a great service by stimulating the study of agricultural social and economic problems, and to encourage the colleges and universities to take active interest in furnishing skilled leadership along such practical lines.

The following plan has been suggested as a basis of operation:

In most instances the outlines are made to suggest a topic for an advanced student's paper. In such cases the student is expected to write up the problem from the standpoint of his own state. If the paper is approved by the professor in charge, it should be forwarded to the Secretary's office in Madison, Wisconsin. When a paper is published the student and the institution in which he does his work will be given due credit for their part in the bulletin.

As research defines more clearly the problems and as scientifically devised remedies are worked out it is expected that they will take the form of model bills framed to accomplish the desired purposes.

The A. A. A. L. is neither a political nor propagandist organization. It is primarily a research organization, but proposes to render to the public in practical form the results of its research.

The state of Texas has taken the lead in framing a state association for agricultural legislation, T. A. A. L., to be closely associated with the A. A. A. L. It is believed desirable for other states to follow the Texas lead in order to better adopt the general outline of study to their peculiar needs, and that those doing and promoting the study in any state may be more closely associated.

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The lack of harmony in the method of development of the different committee outlines shows that they were made from very different points of view, and without the benefits flowing from a general discussion among the different committees relative to the content and method of presenting such a study program. However, committee conferences are planned as an important feature of the annual meeting of the A. A. A. L. to be held this year at Chicago, Dec. 28—31, and it is expected that the study program will be more thoroughly and systematically worked out.

**FOOD PRODUCTION AND PRICES**

L. H. Bailey, New York, *Chairman.*

H. J. Davenport, New York       B. H. Hibbard, Wisconsin

1. The production and prices of the leading articles of food before the war.
   A. In the United States.
      1. Crops:
         (a) Production, 1910 to 1914.
         (b) Prices for the same period.
      2. Livestock:
         (a) Production, 1910 and 1914.
         (b) Prices for the same period.
   B. The same for other countries, as Canada, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Germany.

2. Food Production and Prices during 1915–1918.
   A. In the United States.
      1. Crops:
         (a) Amounts produced.
         (b) Explanation of changes in amounts as compared with preceding period.
         (c) Government control of prices; influence over production.
         (d) Competitive prices.
         (e) Speculation in food products.
      2. Livestock:
         (a) Numbers of.
         (b) Explanation of changes in numbers.
         (e) Government control of prices and influence over production.
         (d) Competitive prices.
   B. Other countries similarly treated.

3. Exports and Imports of food:
   A. The normal movement before the war—1910–1914.
   B. The movements during the war.

4. Amount of food in proportion to population 1910–1914 compared with 1914–1918, and the relation of the amount available to the price. This might well be charted.