the farms will be recognized in prize lists for the coming fair. While the Board has taken no definite action upon this, it has been discussed, and in working upon the premium list, it is intended to give prizes to encourage the young people, and in all probability our Board will vote a banner, at least, to the county whose young people win the most prizes in these junior contests.

I, for one, and the Board as a whole, I may say, feel very much encouraged with the outlook for the Wisconsin State Fair as a great educational feature in this state, and we propose to push right along the same lines that we have been following for the last four or five years, but, gentlemen, we ask for your support, we ask all of you to use your influence for the upbuilding of the Wisconsin State Fair, and we ask you all to give us your presence at the Fair of 1905. Thank you.

HOW THE FARMER MAY OBTAIN THE BEST AGRICULTURAL AND LIVE STOCK LITERATURE, WITHOUT COST.

FRANK A. HUTCHINS, Madison.

In talking over this subject with the secretary, he suggested that the most valuable result would probably be the publication of the paper in the proceedings. But I want to make an impression upon those who are here, if I can, and in order to do so, I have arranged to make an exhibit of my material which is here before you, and which I wish you would examine during your recess in the library room below, where you may also be furnished with much material which I hope will be valuable.

The government of the United States, through the department of agriculture, and through nearly fifty state experiment sta-
tions, which it subsidizes, expends many hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in careful investigations of subjects of direct practical interest to farmers. These investigations are conducted generally by men of proved ability, they are sometimes very expensive and cover long periods of years. It often happens that while such experiments are in progress bulletins are issued which secure information and suggestions from thousands of intelligent farmers and students. The bulletins, giving results or suggesting lines of experiments are widely scattered.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, the United States Department of Agriculture printed and distributed 415 Farmer's Bulletins, 25 of which were new publications. The aggregate number of copies printed was 6,435,000 and the cost of publication was $104,000. The various state agricultural experiment stations issued 300 bulletins and about 3,000,000 copies, making a total of 10,000,000 copies of bulletins distributed by these agencies.

The Farmer's Bulletins treat in a practical simple and untechnical way of subjects of particular interest to farmers and gardeners. They may be obtained upon application to the department, or through the congressman, although the former is the better way. The Year Book of the Department of Agriculture is an encyclopedia of practical popular articles on specific topics and a description of the organization and work of the department. A larger edition is printed than of any other public document, and as most of them are distributed by congressmen, it would be easiest to get in that way. The Department of Agriculture publishes documents which are interesting to farmers, and it is very anxious to get its publications in their hands and is active in advertising them. A small fee is charged for certain of the publications, but most of the valuable ones are free. The Department will send its monthly list of publications regularly to any applicant, without expense. A list of publications which are available for free distribution is printed at intervals and includes those of the most general interest. Each bureau and division occasionally issues a list of its own publica-
tions which are free. The Forestry bureau has recently issued a bulletin which is called the Woodman's Handbook No. 1. This volume contains rules for finding the contents of logs and standing timber, methods of estimating timber, brief outline of forest working plans and a description of instruments useful in the woods. It is distributed free by congressmen and by the Department of Agriculture. It will be found especially useful to Wisconsin farmers. Circular 24, from the office of Road Inquiry on Highway Maintenance and Reports is a compilation of testimonials and arguments favoring good roads, chiefly from Wisconsin men and papers. The Statistics division issues monthly the Crop Reporter which can be had either through the Department or through congressmen.

"Experiment Station Work" is a subseries in the series of Farmers' Bulletins, which gives condensations of the most valuable published reports of the agricultural experiment stations in our own and foreign lands. When the reader has found a synopsis of a paper which especially interests him he can usually obtain the fuller report by writing to the publishing station. More than this, he can get into touch with enthusiastic and earnest investigators who will enjoy giving him personal aid.

I have been particularly interested to know whether our farmers used these books, and have been surprised to find how few of them were in touch with that great department in Washington. It has happened within the last year that I have lived with farmers in New York, New Jersey, North Carolina and Michigan, although I am not a farmer myself, and as a matter of fact I found in none of these places any intelligent knowledge of what the Department of Agriculture was doing, except in the mountains of North Carolina, where a Northern man is in constant communication with them, writing to the Department and even securing from the Department at Washington two visitors within a year to aid him in trying some experiments which they thought would be of value to the farmers in the Appalachian mountain district.

By sending a postal card to Washington, your name will be
put on the mailing list, you will receive every month a list of
the publications of that month, with instructions how they can
be obtained; you can select those that you want; most of them
you will receive without cost, and the others for a very small
fee. The Department of Agriculture will give without cost to
any public library in Wisconsin a full set of the bulletins which
are of value in the state of Wisconsin. In addition to that, it
will do this: it will give a card catalogue, which is simply an
index that can be kept up to date. Each card contains a refer-
ence to some article in the bulletins or year book which will also
be furnished to public libraries which will agree to make it use-
ful to the farmers. From this card catalogue, you may easily
turn to and find every article in the year book or in the bulletins
on desired subject. The Free Library Commission has been
working for a number of years to try to get the public libraries
of the state to put in the card catalogues, these and other pub-
lications, and we find it very difficult for two reasons; in the first
place, the librarians are generally girls or women living in towns
who have no particular interest in agriculture and farming, and
they are busy and their enthusiasm is given to education in
other directions. They say, "We do have some of these publica-
tions and the farmers do not come in for them."

Now, there are some places where special arrangements are
made in the public library; at Portage, for instance, the farmers
from four townships are allowed access to the library and they
have all this material and they are beginning to come in to get
these books and look up these facts, and the law now has this
provision, that wherever a public library is founded in the state
of Wisconsin, the farmers, or the authorities of adjoining town-
ships may make a contract with that library so that the far-
mers may have reading material and the same privileges that the
village or the city people have.

The township of Madison, (which is quite a small township as
many of you know, being so much of it under water,) made an
arrangement with the city of Madison a few years ago, and for
$25 a year, they have equal privileges, all the residents of the
city of Madison. At Portage two or three of the townships pay $10 a year which is voted at the annual meeting. At the village of White hall, which is in the center of the township of Lincoln in Trempealeau county, when the library was started, the township voted $150 to start with, and then they paid $100 a year and now $75, and they have a representation on the board, so of course they feel perfectly at home.

There are a great many other ways in which agriculture literature can be got, practically, free. I shall not try to cover the whole ground this morning, but I have made two or three suggestions in the hope that when your attention is directed to it, there will be a practical outcome. Mr. McKerrow, do you think that the farmers of the state, as a rule, get these Experiment Station records, and the farmer's bulletins as freely as they ought?

President McKerrow: No, sir; they ought to get a great many more than they do.

Mr. Hutchins: It seems to me that in your farmers' institutes, this matter might be brought up so that the farmers shall be better posted upon what their privileges are.

President McKerrow: We have had a good many of these books sent by congress and the senators of the state to different institutes.

Mr. Hutchins: Many of you know, possibly, of the work done at Cornell University, for the children of the public schools. The University has sent out some beautiful pamphlets that should be of very great interest to teachers and to children and to all who live on the farm. Each is full of practical suggestions, is beautifully illustrated and is sent out free, because the work is done by the Experiment Station and I am sure they would be a great help to the children of Wisconsin. I wrote Mr. L. H. Bailey the director in regard to this matter, and he wrote that he would send these to Wisconsin to our teachers and pupils, for the bare cost of the printing and press work and the bare cost of folding them into envelopes. I went to the State Department of Education and put this matter before them, and
finally they were sent to the public libraries of the state, but that was not the best place for them. The Department of Education said they were going to take it up, but that is the last I heard of it. The New York State Printer at Albany now has the matter in charge, as the pamphlets are out of print and arrangements may be made with him for the purchase at a low price of a volume which contains the most valuable material of these pamphlets.

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DISCUSSION.

Mr. Mead: May a private individual obtain from the government those card catalogues?

Mr. Hutchins: I think they can by purchase. That does not include the cabinet which I have here, but these may be arranged very practically and nicely in an envelope box.

Mr. Mead: Are those cards to be strung on wire rods or are the loose cards?

Mr. Hutchins: They are to be strung on wire rods. Where you have a great many people handling them, it is better to have a cabinet, but for a small library, you can have it in a box.

President McKerrow: Let me ask, how many receive from the Department at Washington the list of publications each month? Evidently not many. I would advise everybody that does not, to write to the Department at Washington, asking for a catalogue of their Bulletins for farmer’s use, then you can select from that list such as are suited to your conditions. Of course, a Wisconsin farmer is not interested in the growing of cotton in the South, for instance; but you will find in each list something that is of value, both to you and your wife and your boys, and our girls. I always look new catalogues over as they arrive to see what there is new that will be helpful to us, check it and send it back to the Department, and the material comes right along.
Prof. Shaw: I would like to ask whether it is the intention of the Department to continue these publications, following up the bulletins which have been issued showing experiments which have been made. For instance, some of these bulletins show experiments on soy beans and cow peas. They have been made by experts who have gathered the information. Now, what I want to know is this, will that work be followed up in the future, will the departments in the near future confirm by experimental work what has been thus gathered?

Mr. Hutchins: I cannot speak for the Department. There is certain work being done, and what I am after is to help the farmers to get the results of those investigations. I cannot go back of it, the Department is responsible for them. There is this about it, it is stated distinctly in the Experimental Station Record, published at Washington by Mr. A. C. True, that these are experiments, and that each farmer must do some work in addition, to make the results of those experiments in his particular case valuable.

Mr. Stiles: What difference does it make to farmers whether these experiments have been made and the data collected, or they have been doing experimental work of their own?

Prof. Shaw: I will answer that question by putting another, —What effect is all this going to have upon the individual efforts of men who are trying, to the best of their ability, to collect the information and put it in concise, condensed and consecutive outline for the benefit of the farming public?

President McKerrow: That brings up the question of competition between the individual and the government.

Mr. Hutchins: I am merely trying to tell you how you can get the results of these investigations, and if I can tell you in addition how you can get the results of individual experimenters I shall be glad to do that. Then you can fit them against each other and take the things you think the best. In this world we can’t know everything and it is the man who knows how to find out what he wants, when he wants it, who has the advantage. My business as librarian is to show you how you can get the best
facts at the time you want to work them out. I can't furnish you brains to work them out with after you have got them, you have got to work your own brains. As to this matter the more competition there is the better. It is for the farmer to say whether it is the individual experimenter, who has got nearer the truth or has got more of the truth or the government expert.

Prof. Shaw: Mr. Chairman, although a little aside from the question matter before this audience as I think it is, because I have had a little experience in the running right up against the government of the United States in the line that I am talking about. Now, do not misunderstand me, I am not blaming the government of the United States, or finding fault with it in the slightest degree for the magnificent work that it is doing, but I do want to bring out this fact, that possibly discouragement will grow out of it to capable men who are doing splendid work in the line of book making. I have thought a little bit on these lines in recent years, as probably some of you know. This thought came to me a few days ago, and I think there is something in it. While I acknowledge the full value of the bulletins that are being issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Experiment Stations, I have had occasion recently to write up the question of corn, for the book that I am writing on Cultivated Crops. I had to ransack about, I think, one hundred bulletins in order to get the information that I wanted on that subject. I got that information, as applied to different localities, to certain sections, different phases of the subject. If I had been a farmer, simply wanting to get information on the growing of corn, I do not think, sir, that I would have ransacked those one hundred bulletins in order to get that information, part of which were issued by the Department of Agriculture of the United States. But if I had known where to lay my hand on a book that took up the question of corn and made it so plain that a man, who did not know what corn was before he met with that book, could begin at the ace of corn and go right on with it to the end, if I had know where that kind of a book was, that is the kind of a publication I would have
selected, rather than go through an enormous library or one hundred bulletins. Now, if that book has to come into competition with all that the Department of the United States is doing and the Experiment Stations, it is not going to have a very big sale, because it has to be bought, and the others are got for nothing. Now, I want Mr. Hutchins to show us the way out of this difficulty.

Mr. Stiles: I think you have got a snap. All you have to do is to publish this book and if the farmer would rather have it than the other, he is going to buy it.

President McKerrow: The farmer likes things boiled down. After Shaw has boiled it down, he will be glad to get it.

Prof. Shaw: A man is butting right against the Department in such work, and it seems to be there ought to be some way devised by the Department to advertise his book.

President McKerrow: Your book is getting the finest kind of advertising here this morning.

Mr. Hutchins: One of these bulletins contains what is called The Farmer's Reading Course, and in that issue are suggestions about reading circles among farmers, and there is a list of textbooks and bulletins on various subjects. In this list is Stock Breeding, by Miles; Feeds and Feeding, by Prof. Henry, and a lot of others.

President McKerrow: Mr. Hutchins has attempted to state to us simply the information that is at hand for us farmers, you can see that the man who is going to use this library must be his own sifter to sift out what will be good for him and throw away the chaff. Like Prof. Shaw, I believe that there are a great many of these bulletins that are a little too scientific or indefinite for the farmer, but there is lots of good matter in them, and it will pay to get them, and then besides that, we must buy the best books and the best agricultural and live stock journals to keep up with the times. A bulletin issued by the government two or three or five years ago is not up with the times, for, as we all know, new things are coming up all the time, we must
keep at the front of our profession if we are going to march ahead of our class.

A Member: I think the great trouble is to get the farmers to read these documents. The United States is the most liberal institution I ever ran across, as far as bulletins are concerned. There is plenty of information down there if you will only send down and get it. I have sent for lots of bulletins on all sorts of questions, and studied them, and they have been useful, but I always find when I want to put them into operation that I learn something that I had no learned from the United States government or anybody else, and in the process I have done some thinking myself. I sent down to Washington for some of these free books and bulletins and Uncle Sam was so generous that he sent me a whole mail sack full.

President McKerrow: I have been in the same fix and I have had books to give away, but when it was a sack full of seeds, I didn't give them away, because I didn't think they were worth giving away. I feed them to the sheep.

Wisconsin is a dairy state and questions of live stock breeding are very important to us, but I never saw any breed that didn't need good feed, too. The Wisconsin Agricultural College, under the law of the state, has been investigating different feeds put upon the market for sale, and a gentleman who has made this work one of his specialities and who is eminent, I believe not only in Wisconsin but throughout the country as being an expert in this line, has consented to discuss this question before us this morning, and I take pleasure in introducing to you Prof. Woll, of this Experiment Station and Agricultural College, who will talk about The Inspection of Feeding Stuffs in Wisconsin and Some of the Results so far Obtained.