THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE FARMERS OF THE STATE.

C. P. Norgord, Commissioner of Agriculture, Madison.

The new State Department of Agriculture has been established through the consolidation of the following: The Office of the State Veterinarian and Live Stock Sanitary Board; the Bureau of Immigration; the Office of the State Apiary Inspector; the work of the State Board of Agriculture, consisting of the State Fair andCompilation of Agricultural Statistics. There has been added to this department, the office of State Entomologist, whose duty it is to inspect nurseries and orchards and control insect diseases within the State.

The Field of Work—Mainly that of Control and Regulation

In establishing this new department, it was the purpose of the legislature to form a department which should occupy a field of work entirely different from that of the Experiment Station. The work of the Experiment Station is to conduct experimental work for the discovery of new and improved methods of handling farm problems, that of the College of Agriculture to teach agricultural subjects in the University and to conduct agricultural institutes and meetings throughout the State.

The main function of the Department of Agriculture is that of controlling disease conditions among animals and farm crops throughout the State. This may be illustrated by the control and eradication of the foot-and-mouth disease the past year.

The Veterinary Division, in co-operation with the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, handled the foot-and-mouth disease by the method of slaughtering herds wherever the disease appeared. While some fault was found with this method by individuals, and the cost to the State amounted to nearly $70,000.00, nevertheless, the method pursued proved more effective and wiser than the quarantine method pursued by other countries, such as Denmark. For, after somewhat over a year's work following the first occurrence of this disease, it is now entirely eradicated from the boundaries of the state and nation. In pursuing the quarantine method at the close of the year's work, Denmark still had over 5,000 herds afflicted with the disease, and during the year lost 10% of its milk flow and between 10 and 15% of its young pigs and calves. Had we pursued this method and lost even 10% of our dairy products valued at $100,000,000, we would have lost $10,000,000, not to mention the losses in pigs and calves.

The control work may also be illustrated by the efficient work of the Dairy and Food Commission in the control of sanitary conditions in our creameries and cheese factories. Also by the seed inspection work of the state now being done by the State Experiment Station. Had this latter form of control work been established years ago, we might have kept out of this state Canada thistles, quack grass and other noxious weeds that are annually reducing our yields, adding to the cost of production and greatly diminishing the value of our lands. By this department also the germination of seed for sale is inspected. This is of particular importance this year when the amount of seed
corn is so scarce and germination so low.

Regulations Enforced Through Education

In carrying out the control work, it is not the purpose of the Department of Agriculture to simply enforce the law, but to educate the farmers to the importance of having regulatory laws and obeying them and to thus secure a willing compliance with the regulatory laws of the State. To this end the Department of Agriculture is co-operating with the University and College of Agriculture and has during the year sent its men to many Farmers’ Institutes and University and College of Agriculture Extension meetings throughout the state to present subjects along control and regulatory lines.

Advantages of Combination

The advantage of combining the various inspection departments in one large department lies in the fact that in serious situations, such as the foot-and-mouth disease, where tremendous responsibilities and difficult decisions are imposed upon one man, there is opportunity for consultation with the heads of the other inspection divisions, who, being in the same department, are also responsible for the methods adopted by the particular division under consideration. Moreover, when a method has thus been adopted, it can be enforced with more confidence and authority by the person in charge when that person has behind him the authority of a large control department such as the entire Department of Agriculture.

A further advantage in this combination lies in the opportunity of using the inspectors of one line of work for the inspection of other lines as well. For instance, a part of the inspection of the Entomology Division can be done by the inspectors of the Veterinary Division and these inspectors in turn can also make observations of the condition and yield of crops throughout the state for the Crop Statistics Division.

The opportunity for combining work is particularly great in connection with the education work conducted to acquaint the people of the state with the inspection laws.

The chances for having different kinds of inspection work done by one person increases in proportion to the number of inspection divisions combined in the same department, hence the advantages of such a combination and the possibility of reducing the expenses by such combinations.

The Specific Work of Each Division of the Department

The Division of Immigration

The Immigration Division performs the double duty of assisting in settling the great new lands of Northern Wisconsin and of seeing that prospective settlers are given the exact truth about the opportunities and difficulties of settling in Northern Wisconsin. The work of this division is kept absolutely separate from the sale of land. Its work is done entirely with a view to the benefit of the future settler and citizen of Wisconsin. The great rolling tracts of land in Northern Wisconsin have just as big a percentage of good fertile, tillable soils as southern Wisconsin or the great plains of the west. Indeed were it not for the remnants of the great forests left in the form of stumps and brush, this region could be called the great prairie region of Wisconsin. Yet the stumps, though difficult to remove, are not a permanent disadvantage.
Why did these great forests not extend into the Dakotas and Montana? Simply because there has not been enough moisture on the prairies in ages past to produce trees and forest. The stumps and the great forests that fill northern Wisconsin are the surest evidence of sufficient moisture in the past and the greatest guaranty that in the future we shall have abundant supplies of moisture, which working on the fertile soils of northern Wisconsin will in a short generation change the plains of upper Wisconsin from the forests of old to great fields of grains, grasses and corn, herds, barns and homes, taxable property for the state of Wisconsin. Then Wisconsin will become one great extensively cultivated area, from the southern border against Illinois not only to the central part of the state, but from the southern border of the state, on and upward, covering the whole state to the Great Lakes on the north and from the Mississippi River to Lake Michigan on the east.

These opportunities of northern Wisconsin the Immigration Division is holding forth to those who have the means and the health to conquer the wilds. Not all are prepared to succeed in northern Wisconsin and since the state of Wisconsin cannot be responsible for placing settlers on northern lands to fail, the Immigration Division takes great pains to present the effort required and problems to be encountered in subduing new lands, as well as the splendid opportunities this part of the state affords. In this work we are going out to find the farmer in southern Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Indiana, who, having started on new lands himself and made money in farming, can start his sons in northern Wisconsin with sufficient funds to make a clearing, wishes to see them also make homes for themselves on cheap new lands, and while they are building their homes and making their living, secure the advantages of the rise in value of their lands that their fathers secured on the prairie land.

This division also helps the new settler by information about land clearing methods, plans for buildings, rations for dairy cows, etc. In this part of the work the division is greatly aided by the College of Agriculture. No other state gives so much personal service to the intending settler as does Wisconsin. In this way the Division of Immigration is helping settle northern Wisconsin.

In 1915 more than twenty-nine hundred families took up new farm homes in central and upper Wisconsin. Thirteen hundred located along the lines of a single railroad. Hundreds of these were assisted by the Division of Immigration and the prospect for 1916 is indeed encouraging.

Division of Entomology.

In creating the office of the State Entomologist, a division of the new State Department of Agriculture of Wisconsin, the legislature imposed upon this office the responsibilities for the prevention, control and alleviation of the tremendous insect damage to agricultural crops.

Under the head of preventive work in Entomology, may be noted the inspection of nurseries where young trees, shrubs and plants are propagated for sale, thereby insuring freedom from dangerous insects and disease in this material which is destined for shipment throughout the state. All nurseries in this state, numbering more than 150, are inspected at least once a year and if found clean are licensed to transact business.

Chemicals and other materials for spraying, classed as insecticides and fungicides for the control of insect pests
and fungus diseases, are inspected for purity and misbranding.

Information concerning methods of control of insects and diseases and the necessary spraying machines, accessories and the proper materials to be used in spraying are constantly demanded by citizens, park boards or commissions, companies and corporations. As an example, at the advice and instigation of the Entomologist, the city of Milwaukee Park Board has recently purchased a large high power sprayer for the treatment and care of park and boulevard trees in the city. The city of Racine is already equipped, and the cities of Kenosha and Sheboygan contemplate immediate purchase of such outfits. This marks great advancement in interest of our people in preservation of our ornamental trees and shrubs.

The farmers' insect foes, especially grasshoppers, army worms, cutworms, Hessian fly, potato beetles and many others are levying heavy tax on farm produce. It is the duty of the Entomologist to take measures to prevent serious infestations of these pests, and to give aid in reducing the large amount of damage occurring at the present time.

Every county in the State of Indiana is reported to be infested with the dangerous San Jose scale. Up to the present time our inspection service has controlled this pest so that it is known to occur at but a few points in southern Wisconsin, and those infested regions are being sprayed carefully.

By means of reports, timely bulletins and circulars, this information will be made available to the citizens of the state. It is believed that after a course of years, when control methods for these plant pests are better known, a very great reduction will be made in the amount of insect damage, which at present easily aggregates ten to fifteen million dollars each year in the state of Wisconsin.

**Apiary Inspection.**

The State Apiary Inspection work covers the inspection and control work of the diseases among bees. The bee industry, which is rapidly increasing in importance in the state of Wisconsin, is seriously threatened by a number of diseases, chief among which are the American and European Foul Broods. These diseases have gained extensive foothold in the state and are being combated by the destruction of infected comb and through disinfection of hives. The introduction of Italian Queens, immune to this disease, is another way by which this disease is combated. The Experiment Station is carrying on extensive breeding preparations to supply Italian Queens to the beekeepers of the state.

**Veterinary Division—Office of State Veterinarian**

The work of the Veterinary Division has already been mentioned in connection with the successful eradication of the foot-and-mouth disease. The work of this division is to prevent the introduction and spread of all contagious diseases among animals and to cooperate with the Board of Health in stamping out diseases which are dangerous to man as well as to animals. Among such diseases may be mentioned foot-and-mouth disease, glanders, among horses, rabies, anthrax, hog cholera, hemorrhagic septicemia and tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is probably one of the most dangerous diseases in its relation to man and one which causes great financial losses.

A commission in Germany appointed to study the causes of tuberculosis among children, found that 25% of all cases could be traced to drinking milk
and using dairy products. In England 23% was found. Wisconsin has made great progress in eradicating this disease.

Three years ago a law compelling the testing of all animals sold for breeding purposes was passed, but the following legislature repealed the law because the people were not ready for so stringent a measure. Since then there has been a lull in the testing and a consequent increase in the disease. Tuberculin testing has advertised the presence of tuberculosis rather than the good work done in eradicating tubercular animals.

Recently a good dairyman having a large milk trade tested his herd, removing five tubercular animals. This so advertised the presence of tuberculosis in his herd that the net result was a loss of trade to him. The Veterinary Division is, therefore, putting forth a new plan for the eradication of tuberculosis which is based upon the advertisement of the eradication of the disease rather than the discovery of it. The plan proposes to list all the herds that have been cleaned up according to the requirements of the Veterinary Division and the Live Stock Sanitary Board, and to advertise these as tuberculosis free animals. This, we believe, will increase the demand for these animals from within and without the state at a larger price than can be secured for common herds.

This plan has been adopted by all the Breeders' Associations within the state, was carefully scrutinized by committees from these associations and has been modified according to their suggestions. We have also the assurance from a number of states now closed to shipments made under Wisconsin's tests, that they will open to the shipment of cattle listed upon our tuberculosis free list. Already a number of herds have been tested and passed into the accredited tuberculin tested class.

Division of Agricultural Statistics

This division compiles estimates by counties of the acreage, production and condition of various crops, also an estimate of the number and value of farm animals. The farmer is benefited in many ways by this service. The publications are available to the farmer so that he can secure up-to-date information on the various crops in this locality as well as in other sections of the country. If statistics of this kind were not compiled and given publicity, many so-called boards of trade would issue figures with an object in view of influencing the market. The accurate estimates of this Division have prevented the publication of misleading reports. The publication of crop reports by counties proves to the prospective settler that crops can be matured in the northern section of the State, and shows how rapidly this territory is being developed.

The State Fair Division—Premiums

A total of $37,500.00 will be offered in premiums for live stock, agricultural, horticultural, dairy products, poultry, and to encourage the agricultural boys and girls of the state at the 1916 State Fair.

The premium list of this great exposition has been thoroughly revised, members of the faculty of the Agricultural College of the University of Wisconsin, well known agriculturists and breeders of the state assisting State Fair officials in this work.

Every effort is being made to emphasize the agricultural features of the State Fair in order that it may stand out before the people as a great show of model stock and farm products.

The Department of Agriculture also acts in an advisory capacity to the district and county fairs. In this capacity this department is sending out to the
secretaries of these fairs a suggestive premium list to aid these fairs in building up a classification and premium list that will be of maximum educational value to the various agricultural communities of the state.

This year's State Fair will be open to world-wide competition and plans have been made to present this year the greatest State Fair and Exposition in the history of Wisconsin. This will be the sixty-fifth year the Badger State has given a State Fair and it will be fitting indeed to have this great exposition the best the state has ever seen.

This year's State Fair will cost no more than the 1915 State Fair, which, but for rainy weather, would have paid its own way.

The aim of the State Fair officials is to, if possible, give the citizens of Wisconsin a great State Fair each year without cost to the tax payers. When it is remembered that to accomplish this means an expenditure of about $110,000 in five days, some idea of the magnitude of the State Fair may be obtained.

Entertainment Features

There has been some criticism during past years of the entertainment features of the State Fair. It has been charged that some features of the so-called "Pike" were unworthy of a place on the State Fair Grounds.

State Fair officials already have taken steps to eliminate cause for this criticism by doing away with these so-called "Pike" shows. There will be nothing objectionable on the State Fair grounds this year. In place of the "Pike" there will be a combined Mexican and Wild West show, using about 100 people with several carloads of horses and cattle. It will be entertaining and instructive. It costs the State Fair nothing, and a small admission fee will be charged.

There will be a fine array of special attractions and bands, with another record breaking automobile show.

The aim will be to provide a Fair worth more than the admission fee, and to provide attractions worth traveling miles to see. Those who care nothing for entertainment will find the Fair itself worth more than the price of admission. Those who come to be entertained as well as informed will also find what they desire to see.

The 1916 State Fair will be so large that no one can see it all in one day.

The city of Milwaukee is going to cooperate to make the Fair a success and as a result a harvest festival, costing that city many thousands of dollars, will be provided each night for entertainment of visitors who attend the Fair during the day.

In 1915 steps were taken in the direction of a greater and cleaner Fair, conducted economically, and this year this policy is being continued.

The State Fair belongs to ALL CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN, and the aim of the State Fair officials is to provide a Fair that will be of interest to all citizens of Wisconsin, whether they are from rural sections or cities of the state.

Let all citizens of the state co-operate to make the Fair successful.