MEETING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN AGRONOMIC RESEARCH

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The agronomist should be and is proud of his job. His work is basic to the public welfare because our food supply is dependent to a very large extent on the field to which the agronomist is devoting his life work. Agronomy has to do with a business representing in this country, in material wealth alone, an amount reaching toward 10 billion dollars annually. Last year the income from America's field crops reached the substantial sum of $9,001,682,000.

In so important a business it is well for us to stop along the way occasionally to take inventory; to see where we are, so to speak. In commercial business it is customary to find the outgo as well as the income of the business; possibly agronomists might receive helpful suggestions through some such procedure.

Agriculturally, times are hard, and it is doubtful if the agronomist has ever had greater need for a careful review of his whole program than now.

The amount of agronomic work under way in the United States is extensive, and yet we are just nibbling at the edge of things. Of the 6,710 active projects being prosecuted by American experiment stations, 2,156 are agronomic in character, being classified under the headings of farm crops, soils, and fertilizers. Thus the agronomists are responsible for something like one-third of the research in our agricultural experiment stations. Does not this fact furnish a real challenge to all men engaged in agronomy?

During the year 1926 the experiment stations of the United States expended about 12 million dollars, more than 2 million of

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