THE RELATION OF RESEARCH TO DEMONSTRATION WORK IN AGRICULTURE.

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Probably the greatest single problem which confronts the administrative officers of agricultural institutions at the present time is the proper distribution of the funds and efforts of the staff between research and the extension, or demonstration, fields. Most such institutions are supported by funds collected as direct or indirect taxes, and the taxpayer is often insistent in his demands for some tangible re-benefit. The serious economic problems involved in the nation's food supply have led to the organization of a host of congresses, associations, societies, or companies of public, semi-public, or private origin and support, having for their avowed purpose the improvement of agricultural conditions, and demanding of our land grant colleges and departments of agriculture much more than it is possible to give of inspiration, information, and intelligence in methods of general farm practices.

That the need is urgent for getting into actual practice, on a very much larger proportion of the farms of this country than at present, of the best methods now known to agricultural science, and of the new facts which are being so rapidly discovered in this field, is generally recognized. This is reflected in the general character of the programs and preparations for the anniversary celebrations of this week. Fifty years ago, the federal government adopted a plan for encouraging collegiate instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts. Twenty-five years ago federal assistance for research in agricultural science was provided. There seems to be now a nation-wide consensus of opinion that the time is ripe for rapid development of extension service and demonstration work in this field. But in this, as in all great popular movements, there is danger that the enthusiasms of its friends may cause them to over-emphasize its relative importance or to over-