

PROMOTE THE AGRICULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES
BY EXPANDING FOREIGN FIELDS

MARCH 23, 1926—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HAUGEN, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 10129]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10129) to promote the agriculture of the United States by expanding in the foreign field the service now rendered by the United States Department of Agriculture in acquiring and diffusing useful information regarding agriculture, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report thereon with a recommendation that it do pass.

The bill reported herewith is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the agriculture of the United States and assisting American farmers to adjust their operations and practices to meet world conditions the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(a) Acquire information regarding world competition and demand for agricultural products and the production, marketing, and distribution of said products in foreign countries and disseminate the same through agricultural-extension agencies and by such other means as may be deemed advisable.

(b) Investigate abroad farm management and any other economic phases of the agricultural industry and in so far as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this act, conduct abroad any activities, including the demonstration of standards for cotton, wheat, and other American agricultural products in which the Department of Agriculture is now authorized or in the future may be authorized to engage.

SEC. 2. (a) The agricultural commissioners now representing the United States Department of Agriculture in foreign countries shall hereafter be known as agricultural attachés, and the Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint from time to time other agricultural attachés after they are found to be competent through examinations held by the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Agriculture in coordination.

(b) Such officers shall constitute the foreign agricultural service of the United States, and any officer of such service when designated by the Secretary of Agriculture shall, through the Department of State, be regularly and officially attached

to the diplomatic mission of the United States in the country in which he is to be stationed. If any such officer is to be stationed in a country in which there is no diplomatic mission of the United States, appropriate recognition and standing, with full facilities for discharging his official duties, shall be arranged by the Department of State. The Secretary of State may reject the name of any such officer if in his judgment the assignment of such officer to the post designated would be prejudicial to the public policy of the United States.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint the officers of the foreign agricultural service to such grades as he may establish, with salaries in those grades comparable to those paid other officers of the Government for analogous foreign service.

(d) The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to promote or demote in grade or class, to increase or decrease within the salary range fixed for the class the compensation of, and to separate from the service officers of the foreign agricultural service, but in so doing the Secretary shall take into consideration records of efficiency.

(e) No officer of the foreign agricultural service shall be considered as having the character of a public minister.

(f) Any officer of the foreign agricultural service may be assigned for duty in the United States for a period of not more than three years without change in grade, class, or salary, or with such change as the Secretary may direct.

SEC. 3. (a) Subject to the requirements of the civil service laws, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to appoint, fix the compensation of, promote, demote, and separate from the service such clerks and other assistants for officers of the foreign agricultural service as he may deem necessary.

(b) When authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture and in accordance with the regulations of the Civil Service Commission, officers of the foreign agricultural service may employ in a foreign country, from time to time, fix the compensation of, and separate from the service such clerical and subclerical assistants as may be necessary.

SEC. 4. (a) Any officer, clerk, employee, or assistant of the Department of Agriculture, while on duty outside of the continental limits of the United States and away from the post to which he is assigned, shall be entitled to receive his necessary traveling expenses and his actual expenses for subsistence or a per diem in lieu of subsistence equal to that paid to other officers of the Government when engaged in analogous foreign service.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture may authorize any officer of the foreign agricultural service to fix, in an amount not exceeding the allowance fixed for such officer, an allowance for actual subsistence, or a per diem allowance in lieu thereof, for any clerical or subclerical assistant employed by such officer under subdivision (b) of section 3, when such clerical or subclerical assistant is engaged in travel outside the continental limits of the United States and away from the post to which he is assigned.

(c) Any such officer, clerk, employee, or assistant while on duty within the continental limits of the United States, shall be entitled to receive the traveling expenses and actual expenses incurred for subsistence, or per diem allowance in lieu thereof, authorized by law.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of Agriculture may make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and may cooperate with any department or agency of the Government, State, Territory, District, or possession, or department, agency, or political subdivision thereof, cooperative and other farm organizations, or any person, and shall have power to make such expenditures for rent outside the District of Columbia, printing, telegrams, telephones, law books, books of reference, maps, periodicals, furniture, stationery, office equipment, travel and subsistence allowances, and other supplies and expenses as shall be necessary to the administration of the act in the District of Columbia and elsewhere. With the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, an officer of the foreign agricultural service may enter into leases for office quarters, and may pay rent, telephone, subscriptions to publications, and other charges incident to the conduct of his office and the discharge of his duties in advance in any foreign country where custom or practice requires payment in advance.

The bill is substantially the same as H. R. 7111, that was reported upon by the committee in the last Congress (H. Rept. No. 248, 68th Cong., 1st sess.), to which has been added suggestions by the Department of State and other essential administrative features to make

the foreign agricultural service of the Department of Agriculture uniform with the Foreign Service of the Department of State and the proposed foreign service of the Department of Commerce in order to prevent any conflict of authority at foreign posts and to insure harmonious action by the various representatives of the United States and to avoid all duplication of effort in so far as possible in the interests of economy and efficiency.

Since comprehensive hearings were held and a complete report printed on H. R. 7111 which passed the House April 16, 1924 (Cong. Rec. vol. 65, pt. 7, p. 6500), the committee deemed it unnecessary to hold new hearings.

This bill definitely places in the Department of Agriculture the foreign agricultural service of the United States in conformity with the spirit and letter of the organic act creating the department and puts into permanent legislative form authority now carried in the annual appropriation bill. It clearly defines the activities of the department, extends to the foreign field the services that the department is now rendering in the United States regarding competition and demand for agricultural products, the marketing and distribution problems of cotton, tobacco, wheat, fruits, and vegetables, animal and animal products, and all other farm products, the investigation of farm management and other phases of the agricultural industry, and the conduct of any activities in which the Department of Agriculture is now authorized or in future may be authorized to engage.

The bill has the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce who, in a letter addressed to the committee, urge its enactment, as follows:

MARCH 10, 1926.

Hon. GILBERT N. HAUGEN,
*Chairman Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. HAUGEN: There are being introduced in Congress and referred to various committees the following bills giving statutory recognition to the foreign services of the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce: H. R. 3858 and S. 3383 on that of the Department of Commerce, and H. R. 10129 and S. 3473 on the Department of Agriculture. These measures have been subject to the most careful consideration on the part of both departments, individually and in consultation, and in their present form they represent the joint agreement of the two departments. We, therefore, recommend their early and favorable consideration by the Congress.

Very sincerely yours,

HERBERT HOOVER,
Secretary of Commerce.
W. M. JARDINE,
Secretary of Agriculture.

The committee has on file in its office a statement indorsing the Ketcham bill in the Sixty-eighth Congress signed by 19 leaders of American agriculture, representing millions of farmers, as follows:

H. R. 7111, introduced by Mr. Ketcham, is a bill to promote American agriculture by making available and expanding the service now rendered by the Department of Agriculture in gathering and disseminating information regarding agricultural production, competition, and demand in foreign countries in promoting the sale of farm products abroad and in other ways. We strongly urge all Senators and Congressmen to facilitate the passage of this bill. There never was

a time in the history of American agriculture when there was greater need of the activities contemplated by this bill.

Respectfully submitted.

L. J. Taber, master, National Grange; T. C. Atkeson, Washington representative of the grange; C. S. Barrett, president Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union of America; F. J. Haganbarth, president National Wool Growers' Association, by S. W. McClure; A. M. Loomis, secretary American Dairy Federation and secretary National Dairy Union; George C. Jewett, general manager American Wheat Growers' Association; Charles V. Holman, secretary National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation and secretary National Board of Farm Organizations; Chester Davis, commissioner of agriculture, State of Montana; Western Tariff Association, by S. W. McClure, manager; Pendleton Commercial Association, by S. R. Thompson, chairman, agricultural committee, also president of Oregon Export League; Charles E. Hearst, president Iowa State Farm Bureau, Des Moines; George E. Duis, North Dakota Wheat Growers' Association, Grand Forks, N. Dak.; W. L. Stockton, Clarkston, Mont., president Montana State Farm Bureau; Carl Gunderson, South Dakota Wheat Growers' Association, Mitchell, S. Dak.; G. P. Mix, Moscow, Idaho; T. C. Winn, Nephi, Utah; A. R. Shumway, Milton, Oreg.; Oregon Wheat Growers' Association; Hubert Egbert, president Farmers' Union, The Dalles, Oreg.; S. Sykes, president Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association.

A consideration of the problems involved in the disposition of the surplus of agricultural products abroad and the adjustment of farm production at home and the work that is already being done in the Department of Agriculture convinces the committee of the value and importance of this work.

COLLECTING AND DISSEMINATING FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION

The field work regarding foreign competition and demand of the Department of Agriculture now carried on in foreign countries utilizes to the fullest extent the agencies of other departments of the Government operating abroad.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The foreign service of the Department of Agriculture comprises the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, where, through cooperation with the Department of State, a representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is the permanent delegate of the United States. Through the institute the department maintains contact with 64 of the leading nations of the world, and from their ministries of agriculture receives periodic reports relative to areas seeded, crop conditions, production, stocks, imports and exports of agricultural products, price trends, and other pertinent information.

This exchange of information is an interchange between the departments of agriculture of the world, cleared through the international institute at Rome. From 26 of the most important agricultural centers this interchange of agricultural information is effected by telegraph.

This basic reporting service of the international institute is supplemented by cooperation between the Department of Agriculture and the Consular Service of the Department of State. Through arrange-

ment with the office of the consul general the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is coordinating the reporting on agricultural subjects by the 400 American consuls stationed in every quarter of the globe. The Department of Agriculture handles about 500 consular reports each month on agriculture and allied subjects.

The Department of Agriculture cooperates with the Department of Commerce through its Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce with reference to international trade in American agricultural products. As reports on the exports from the United States are received in the office of the above bureau, the department is notified and experts from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics cooperating with experts from the Department of Commerce tabulate the information and the results are available to both departments. As reports of the commercial attachés are received in Washington, all of those pertaining to agriculture and general economic conditions are supplied to the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics handles about 165 attaché reports each month.

At present the Department of Agriculture is coordinating the current reports on agriculture being made by the international institute at Rome, the Consular Service, and the commercial attaché service summarizing this material into a homogeneous whole and making this information available to American farmers at the earliest possible moment after its receipt. To supplement this routine work by other departments, the Department of Agriculture maintains in foreign countries at strategic points highly specialized experts working out special problems that are technically beyond the scope of the organizations of the other departments.

During the fiscal year 1925-26 eight field workers have been maintained abroad at permanent stations, while more than 60 specialists have been in foreign countries engaged upon problems of vital interest to the production and marketing problems of the American farmer. The permanent offices in foreign countries report by radio, cable, and mail on the current economic and agricultural conditions in the countries under their jurisdiction.

Over 65 cables and between seven and eight hundred written reports are received monthly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics alone. This bureau comprises 80 sections covering the economic production and marketing of agricultural commodities and is in contact with every important cooperative association and private marketing organization in the country. The extension bureau of the department with its 2,300 county agents, is in contact with the individual producer whether associated cooperatively or marketing his products individually. Through these channels of direct contact the information relative to competition from abroad and the demand of foreign markets for American agricultural products is transmitted in the most direct and understandable manner to producers and to those marketing farm products.

FOREIGN NEWS SERVICE

The foreign news service of the Department of Agriculture is co-ordinated with the domestic market-news service and utilizes the machinery already established in the Department of Agriculture,

thus giving the foreign agricultural information wide distribution at a comparatively small cost. This dissemination machinery consists of Foreign Crops and Markets, containing the current information received from every source on the condition of the principal crops in foreign countries and representing conditions affecting demand in foreign markets, together with special studies of countries and commodities.

Reports including a monthly review of world agriculture and a monthly survey of the foreign dairy situation as well as weekly statements on foreign crops and markets, are prepared for weekly publication in Crops and Markets, which goes to 125,000 crop reporters, farmers, county agricultural agents, and tradesmen.

The department operates in connection with its market-news work more than 7,000 miles of leased telegraph wire stretching to all parts of the agricultural country. As foreign agricultural news is received at Washington, the reports are flashed over this telegraph system to more than a score of branch offices, which, in turn, disseminate the information among producers through newspapers, mails, and radio.

More than 75 radio broadcasting stations, blanketing the entire country, cooperate without compensation in dispatching both domestic and foreign agricultural news.

Foreign agricultural news is at the present time being collected throughout the world and is being correlated and disseminated with dispatch throughout the United States.

The Ketcham bill proposes to make permanent this service to the American farmer.

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NOTES AND APPENDIX

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