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PROFESSORS' SALARIES¹

ARE EQUITABLE SALARIES PAID TO PROFESSORS?

By Dr. WILLIAM A. NOYES

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THE professors in our colleges and universities are not receiving their fair share of the returns coming to others from the rapidly increasing prosperity of the country. No one will claim that professors were overpaid in 1900. In order that they may retain their economic status in comparison with other men and women their salaries must be increased in the same proportion as the income of the average citizen. Salaries have fallen far below this equitable level.

The volume of "Statistical Abstracts" of the United States published by the government in 1928 gives the following numbers in millions of dollars for the values of farm products, mineral products and the

values added to raw materials by manufacture in the years 1900 and 1925:

	1900 Millions of Dollars	1925 Millions of Dollars
Farm products	3,549	13,034
Mineral products	1,110	5,678
Manufacture	5,123	26,778
	9,782	45,490

To avoid an unfair use of the statistics for farm products, it should be stated that the farm population remained stationary during this period, while the total population increased 50 per cent., or from 77.1 millions to 115.4 millions.

¹ A symposium on the salary question arranged by the Committee of One Hundred on Scientific Research, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Shrine Lounge, Des Moines, Iowa, December 31, 1929.

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