

SCIENCE

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A NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY THAT DESIGNED TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY, CONSIDERED WITH REFERENCE TO THE UPBUILDING OF SUCH A DEPARTMENT.

THE United States Government is doing more to discover the resources of its terri-

tory and to teach its people to develop them than any other government in the world. Our many noble establishments for the promotion of science, both pure and applied, are the admiration of all. Foreigners regard these institutions as the most unique feature of our government. They represent the true American idea. It is the more to be regretted, therefore, that this grand idea, so well established in our laws, is not adequately represented in the organization of the government.

The scientific work of the government is carried on by many agencies scattered through the various departments, the more important ones, however, being connected with the Treasury Department, the Navy Department, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. Some of them are not connected with any department.

The majority of these bureaus have no logical connection with the departments to which they belong, and an investigation of their origin is necessary in order to find out how they became attached to the several departments. It usually came about in this way. Some government official became deeply interested in a certain line of scientific work bearing upon the development of the country. After agitating the matter for several years he finally secured an appropriation from Congress authorizing the investigation to be made in the de-