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THE production, storage and distribution of an adequate supply of food and raw materials constitute the primary function on which all civilization has been founded. The raw materials are at the present time of various kinds. Primarily they had to do with clothing and shelter, so cotton, wool, leather and wood have always been the major products. The number of products used for food and raw materials has increased from time to time and the proportion has varied as opportunities for new uses and wider distribution have developed. While adding to the total of production and consumption, they have not materially changed the dependence of the world upon the staples of centuries past.

During the past century America has been producing an excess of food. She has offered opportunity for development to her own growing population and to the crowded populations of Europe. As long as there was an abundance of rich and fertile land available for cultivation, the major effort of agricultural research has been to increase the production per man and that effort has been so highly successful that one agricultural worker can to-day produce four or five times as much food as his grandfather could. The major portion of the nation's rich and fertile acres has now been taken up. If this nation is to continue to develop for another century, as she has during the past, those engaged in agricultural research must redouble their efforts and increase the production per acre as they have in the past increased the production per man. The European nations reached this condition a long while ago and those nations that recognized the problem and put forth the greatest efforts in the development of food production have grown the most rapidly in wealth and power. The field of agricultural research therefore offers to the coming generation of

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