

When less than a decade ago, that remarkable man, David Lubin, of California, stirred to action by the realization that, through the manipulations of speculative corporations and individuals, the farmers of America and of the world at large were being yearly robbed of a large proportion of the just returns from their labors, set his keen intellect to work to devise a remedy, even he could scarcely have anticipated the tremendous nature of the agencies which it was to be his lot to put in motion through the organization of the International Institute of Agriculture.

His original conception was merely a universal Crop Reporting Bureau, to be established on lines similar to those already existing in many individual countries. This he foresaw would eventually render impossible the market manipulations of those persons who for years had been making it their business to secure advance information relative to the supply and demand of agricultural produce throughout the world.

This great project was submitted by its determined and persistent originator to one after another of the leading governments of the world, only to be rejected as Utopian and impracticable, not to say impolitic, and it was not until he succeeded in gaining the ear of His Majesty, King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, that he received any encouragement.

The details of the first memorable interview between His Majesty and citizen Lubin are interesting to a degree, but are best reserved for private recital. Suffice it to say that the King at once took the matter in hand, and, after repeated interviews and careful consideration of the whole scheme, issued an invitation to all the governments of the world to send representatives to Rome to discuss the formation of

"An international institution absolutely unpolitical in its aims, which would have before it the conditions of agriculture in the different countries of the world, which would give notice periodically of the quantity and quality of the crops on hand, and promote their production, facilitate their sale and encourage a more favourable settlement.

"Acting in unison with the various agricultural bodies now in existence, this institution would furnish reliable information as to the demand and supply of agricultural labor in various parts of the world, so as to provide immigrants with a safe and useful guide. It would make possible collective defence by the nations against diseases of plants and domestic animals, which, as a rule, cannot be successfully fought by means of partial action; it would also encourage the development of societies for rural co-operation, agricultural insurance and agrarian credit."

This invitation was accepted by forty sovereign powers and the delegates chosen by them met in Rome in June, 1905.

These representatives were men of high standing in their respective countries.

The delegates from Great Britain were the Earl of Miinto, the Earl of Jersey, Sir Thomas Elliott, then Permanent Secretary of the British Board of Agriculture, Mr. T. P. Gill, Permanent Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland and Sir Edward Buck, representing the government of India.

The discussion was of the fullest and most interesting character, and while the delegates naturally failed to agree on every point, they were unanimously in favor of the establishment of an International Institute of Agriculture to be charged with the duty of carrying out the project outlined in His Majesty's invitation.

Several European countries which had experienced more or less agrarian agitation proposed that the more powerful agricultural organi-