

One of the first tasks to be undertaken was the investigation of the methods followed by the various adhering countries in regard to the collection of crop reports and agricultural statistics in general, with special reference to the reliability of the information thus obtained.

Very satisfactory progress has been made in standardizing reports of this nature, and although perfection has not yet been attained, a marked improvement has been effected in many of the adhering countries. Under the system at present followed, but which it is the intention to improve and extend as rapidly as possible, full reports are forwarded by the various governments to Rome, so as to reach the Institute in time to permit of their publication in the regular Statistical Bulletin issued in English, French, German, Spanish and Italian, about the 20th of each month.

In addition to this full monthly report, news is constantly being received by the Institute from the various governments.

When this is deemed sufficiently important, it is rapidly translated into the languages above mentioned, being those most commonly used throughout the world and corresponding adjustment made in the weights and measures, as also the money terms used. This is then forwarded by telegraph or cable to all the adhering countries.

It is gratifying to know that the work of the Institute in this connection has shown a steady improvement, until today, its figures are quoted as both reliable and authoritative.

In the other lines of work undertaken by the Institute, the progress made has also been very gratifying.

With only such slight modifications as were from time to time found necessary in actual practice, the plan of the organization adopted by the Institute in 1908 was followed until May, 1911.

At the meeting of the General Assembly then held, Sir Edward Buck, the delegate for India, who has been associated with the Institute ever since the preliminary meeting in 1905 and who is an exceedingly able man of large experience, succeeded in bringing about a change which he had long advocated, namely, the creation of a special division of agricultural intelligence and diseases of plants.

Under present conditions, therefore, the Institute comprises the following divisions:—

- (1) Management.
- (2) General Statistics.
- (3) Agricultural Intelligence and Diseases  
of Plants.
- (4) Economic and Social Institutions.

The Division of General Statistics deals with the following subjects:—

Agricultural Statistics: Enquiry, collection and publication of agricultural information and statistics relating to animal and vegetable culture and production, the trade in, and distribution and consumption of agricultural produce; market prices and stocks of agricultural produce; general and special fluctuations in agricultural produce; markets, sales, fairs, etc., interpretation and comparison of various statistical data.

Collection of Finance and Customs Statistics relating to agricultural produce; imports and exports; daily, weekly and monthly agricul-