

lost. A geneticist, a plant pathologist, a chemist, or an entomologist is not something that can be improvised in a few months or years, for the fact should not be lost sight of that those who are now completing their work, or have but recently completed it, are not only the result of a long and more careful process of training, but also of a more rigid system of selection than ever before. The country needs their services now even more than in prosperous times, when wastefulness is less harmful.

One effect of the proposed action is the elimination of large numbers of the so-called temporary staff. Many of these are the very men who by virtue of their training are capable of rendering a very special service and many of them constitute the connecting link between the farmer and science. Temporary helpers are the cheapest and most effective type of assistance available to enable the work of the higher officers to find expression in field service, without which the farmer contact is largely lost. Moreover, it is from this group that many of the effective workers of the future should come. Would it not therefore be sounder policy in these trying times to take stock of the situation with a view to determining not only what services should be eliminated or curtailed but also those that should be conserved and even strengthened.

In addition to the foregoing, a serious blow is struck at the morale of the remaining staff, who see the efforts of years brought to nothing. The spirit of an organization is not something that can be built up at a moment's notice and it is this factor that will bear most heavily on the most efficient and valued members of departments. If we have faith in the future of our country, may we not well question whether we are justified in paying so heavy a price to tide us over a merely temporary emergency.