

THE AMERICAN BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
TO ITS PARENT,
THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL
COLLEGES AND EXPERIMENT STATIONS,
GREETINGS:

By unanimous vote of the American Breeders Association at its Sixth Annual Meeting, its Council was directed to extend greetings to its parent organization, the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations. I have the honor, therefore, in the name of the Council of the American Breeders Association, to express to you, our parent organization, our feeling of high regard and our profound gratitude for your service to all interested in the objects of the new organization.

In 1899 the idea occurred to those attending the Hybridizers' Conference in London, under the auspices of the Royal Horticultural Society, that there should be in America an association of breeders which should include both those interested in plants and those interested in animals. This suggestion was placed before Secretary Wilson, who suggested that a committee of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations would be the best auspices under which to organize such an association. Following this suggestion a promotion committee was appointed at the annual meeting of the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations at New Haven, Connecticut, in 1900.

Under the call issued by the promotion committee appointed for that purpose by the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations, a meeting was held during the last days of December, 1903, in St. Louis, Mo., at which the American Breeders Association was formed. Since that time six annual meetings have been held, at Champaign, Ill., Columbus, Ohio, Lincoln, Nebr., Washington, D.C., Columbia, Mo., and Omaha, Nebr. The

Seventh Annual Meeting has been called to meet with the National Corn Exposition at Columbus, Ohio, February 1, 2 and 3, 1911.

The American Breeders Association has successfully carried out the purpose of your organization committee in bringing together both the scientists and the practical breeders interested in both plant breeding and animal breeding. As originally formed, besides general officers, there was a Section of Plant Breeding and a Section of Animal Breeding. By a nearly unanimous vote by mail of the membership in 1910 the Constitution of the Association was changed, adding a third section relating to heredity in man, called the Eugenics Section.

The five reports of the annual meetings already published and the sixth report now in preparation have the credit in America and abroad of containing the best collection extant of authentic knowledge relating to heredity and breeding. During 1910 the Association established a magazine under the name American Breeders Magazine. Up to this time the membership was confined largely to scientists and technical breeders, but with the organization of a magazine the effort is being made to build up a large membership of practical plant breeders and animal breeders and of people who have a general interest in heredity in man.

The work of the Association is largely done through committees, nearly fifty in number. These committees carry the main responsibility of securing from the members of the Association and others the addresses and papers presented at the annual meeting. These papers, together with special articles, editorials, and news items secured by the Secretary or prepared in his office, make up

the subject matter of the Magazine. As yet a large part of the material of the Magazine is reprinted in the annual report. Members are requested to use the individual numbers of the Magazine in securing new members, depending upon the bound annual report for their files of the scientific articles.

The \$2 annual membership fee from about one thousand members has paid the necessary expenses for stationery and for printing the annual report. The increasing membership which comes with the establishment of the Magazine promises to pay expenses and to gradually build up the Magazine. The Association is at present on a basis of something over one thousand members and 150 life memberships. The \$20 fee for life members has given a permanent fund of about \$3,000. The management of the Association has always kept the expenses within its income and at present there is a small surplus in the current expense fund which is now being used in a campaign for greatly enlarging the membership.

The American Breeders Association is proud to come back to its parent Association with a substantial report of progress. It is fair to say that the new Association has greatly increased the interest in the scientific study of heredity, in the improvement of our several billion dollars' worth of plant products, and in the better scientific breeding of our domestic animals. It has assumed the delicate yet important task of leadership in the discussion of heredity of the human family. The officers of the Section of Eugenics, the committees on the different phases of heredity in man, and the editorial officers of the Magazine and annual report have adopted the policy of instituting scientific investigation rather

than entering campaigns for promoting any existing theories regarding the improvement of heredity in man. Under the direction of this section, private funds have been supplied so that a number of people are devoting their entire time to investigations in different phases of eugenics. An article in No. 3 of Vol. I of the Magazine by Dr. Goddard of New Jersey on "Heredity of Feeble-mindedness" illustrates the fact that we have an open field for investigation of very great importance in human heredity.

It is believed that the Association is greatly stimulating the work of breeding in departments of agriculture and State experiment stations and by private institutions and individuals. Annually larger and larger expenditures of money and time are being devoted to working out the facts and methods needed by breeders of plants and animals, and larger and larger sums are being placed at the disposal of those who under public or private auspices create new varieties, breeds, and strains with new values.

The promotion committee which called the first meeting of the American Breeders Association was composed of the following named gentlemen: Professor W. M. Hays, University of Minnesota, St. Anthony Park, Minn., Chairman; Director L. H. Bailey, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; Professor Thomas F. Hunt, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; Dr. Herbert J. Webber, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., and Dean Charles F. Curtiss, Iowa Agricultural College, Ames, Iowa.

The Association and its Council have assumed the work delegated to the promotion committee. It is now suggested that this statement be received as the final report of the promotion committee and that it be discharged.

The new Association comes to the old, not only to express its deep gratitude, but also to express the most hearty good will and the wish for the broadest cooperation in the future.

Sincerely and with gratitude.

W. M. Hays, Secretary, for the Council.

C. F. Curtiss, Chairman Animal Section.

H. J. Webber, Chairman Plant Section.