

TITLE XII.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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SEC. 520. There shall be at the seat of Government a Department of Agriculture, the general design and duties of which shall be to acquire and to diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture, in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word, and to procure, propagate, and distribute among the people new and valuable seeds and plants.

SEC. 521. The Department of Agriculture shall be under the charge of a Commissioner of Agriculture, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be entitled to a salary of four thousand dollars a year.

3 Mar., 1873, c. 226,

SEC. 522. There shall be in the Department of Agriculture:

One chief clerk, at a salary of two thousand dollars a year.

One chemist, at a salary of two thousand dollars a year.

One assistant chemist, at a salary of one thousand six hundred dollars a year.

One entomologist, at a salary of two thousand dollars a year.

One microscopist, at a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars a year.

One botanist, at a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars a year.

One statistician, at a salary of two thousand dollars a year.

One superintendent of experimental gardens and grounds, at a salary of two thousand dollars a year.

One assistant superintendent of experimental gardens and grounds, at a salary of one thousand two hundred dollars a year.

One disbursing clerk, at a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars a year.

One superintendent of the seed-room, at a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars a year.

One assistant superintendent of the seed-room, at a salary of one thousand two hundred dollars a year.

One librarian, at a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars a year.

One engineer, at a salary of one thousand four hundred dollars a year.

One superintendent of the folding-room, at a salary of one thousand two hundred dollars a year.

Two attendants in the museum, at a salary of one thousand dollars a year each.

One carpenter, at a salary of nine hundred and sixty dollars a year.

SEC. 523. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall appoint a chief clerk, with a salary of two thousand dollars a year, who in all cases during the necessary absence of the Commissioner, or when the office of Commissioner shall become vacant, shall perform the duties of Commissioner, and he shall appoint such other employes as Congress may from time to time provide, with salaries corresponding to the salaries of similar officers in other Departments of the Government; and he shall, as Congress may from time to time provide, employ other persons, for such time as their services may be needed, including chemists, botanists,

Establishment of Department of Agriculture.

15 May, 1862, c. 72, s. 2, v. 12, p. 387.

Commissioner of Agriculture.

15 May, 1862, c. 72, s. 2, v. 12, p. 387.

Clerks and employes.

15 May, 1862, c. 72, s. 4, p. 388.

3 Mar., 1873, c. 226, v. 17, p. 506.

20 June, 1874, c. 328, v. 18, p. 107.

Officers and employes.

15 May, 1862, c. 72, s. 4, v. 12, p. 388

entomologists, and other persons skilled in the natural sciences pertaining to agriculture.

Bonds of Commissioner and chief clerk.

15 May, 1862, c. 72, s. 4, v. 12, p. 388.

SEC. 524. The Commissioner, and the chief clerk, before entering upon their duties, shall severally give bonds to the Treasurer of the United States, the former in the sum of ten thousand dollars, and the latter in the sum of five thousand dollars, conditioned to render a true and faithful account to the Treasurer quarter-yearly of all moneys which shall be by them received by virtue of their office, with sureties to be approved by the Solicitor of the Treasury. Such bonds shall be filed in the office of the First Comptroller of the Treasury, to be by him put in suit upon any breach of the conditions thereof.

Custody of property, records, &c.

15 May, 1862, c. 72, s. 3, v. 12, p. 387.

SEC. 525. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall have charge, in the building and premises appropriated to the Department, of the library, furniture, fixtures, records, and other property appertaining to it, or hereafter acquired for use in its business.

Duties of Commissioner.

15 May, 1862, c. 72, s. 3, v. 12, p. 387.

SEC. 526. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning agriculture which he can obtain by means of books and correspondence, and by practical and scientific experiments, accurate records of which experiments shall be kept in his Office, by the collection of statistics, and by any other appropriate means within his power; he shall collect new and valuable seeds and plants; shall test, by cultivation, the value of such of them as may require such tests; shall propagate such as may be worthy of propagation; and shall distribute them among agriculturists.

Purchase and distribution of seeds, plants, &c.

23 July, 1866, c. 208, s. 1, v. 14, pp. 199, 201.

2 Mar., 1867, c. 166, s. 1, v. 14, pp. 440, 452.

25 June, 1864, c. 455. 2 Mar., 1867, c. 166, s. 1, v. 14, pp. 440, 452.

SEC. 527. The purchase and distribution of seeds by the Department of Agriculture shall be confined to such seeds as are rare and uncommon to the country, or such as can be made more profitable by frequent changes from one part of our own country to another; and the purchase or propagation and distribution of trees, plants, shrubs, vines, and cuttings, shall be confined to such as are adapted to general cultivation and to promote the general interests of horticulture and agriculture throughout the United States.

Annual and special reports of Commissioner.

15 May, 1862, c. 72, s. 3, v. 12, p. 387.

SEC. 528. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall annually make a general report in writing of his acts to the President and to Congress, in which he may recommend the publication of papers forming parts of or accompanying his report, which shall also contain an account of all moneys received and expended by him. He shall also make special reports on particular subjects whenever required to do so by the President or either House of Congress, or when he shall think the subject in his charge requires it.

Annual report of expenditures.

2 Mar., 1867, c. 166, s. 1, v. 14, pp. 440, 445.

SEC. 529. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall, on or before the fifteenth day of December in each year, make a report in detail to Congress of all moneys expended by him or under his direction.

[See §§ 3660-3665, 3669.]