In pursuance of the purpose of the act of Congress of March 4, 1931, which extended to Puerto Rico in modified form the Hatch, Adams, and Purnell Acts and the Federal extension acts, and provided for coordinating agricultural research and extension activities in the island, the chief of the office visited Puerto Rico in company with the director of extension work of the department to study the situation and to undertake negotiations looking to the coordination provided for in the act. The other insular stations were not visited.

CLOSING OF THE ALASKA, GUAM, AND VIRGIN ISLANDS STATIONS

Since Congress made no appropriation for the department to continue the operation of the stations in Alaska, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, it became necessary to arrange for disposing of the property and closing the stations. In the appropriation act for this department for 1933 Congress authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to dispose of the property and return the personnel appointed from the continental United States to the mainland.

The station at Matanuska, Alaska, together with all of its equipment, was transferred to the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines on July 22, 1932. The Sitka station was closed on June 15 and the Juneau office on August 31. All property of the Sitka and Juneau stations was placed in custody of Charles H. Flory, Commissioner of Agriculture for Alaska. The property of the Guam station was transferred temporarily to the Governor of Guam on July 6, 1932, and by him to the Island government on July 27 for use as an agricultural school. The Virgin Islands station was transferred to the Department of the Interior on July 8, that department having been authorized by Congress to operate a station. The inventoried value of all property transferred was about $259,800.

SOME BENEFITS FROM THE WORK OF THE INSULAR STATIONS

ALASKA STATIONS

The first experiment station in Alaska was established at Sitka in 1898, following legislation by Congress secured very largely through the activity of J. G. Brady, then governor of the Territory. On account of the extent of the Territory and the marked differences in its climate, other stations were established from time to time at Kodiak, Kenai, Copper Center, Rampart, Fairbanks, and Matanuska to determine the agricultural possibilities of these widely separated regions. By reason of unfavorable climatic conditions, transportation difficulties, lack of permanent settlers, etc., the Kenai, Copper Center, and Rampart stations were closed after a few years and their work transferred. The Fairbanks station was transferred to the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines in May, 1931, and the Kodiak station was closed and the livestock work transferred to the Matanuska station in June, 1931.

For a number of years the work of the Alaska stations for southeastern Alaska was centered at Sitka, for southwestern Alaska at Kodiak, and for the interior of the Territory at Fairbanks and Matanuska.

The Alaska stations have demonstrated that in many parts of the Territory agriculture can be made to supplement other industries which may become established, by providing much of the food required. The possibilities of the Yukon and Tanana Valleys for grain and mixed farming, the adaptability of the Matanuska Valley for general farming and dairying, the raising of livestock on Kodiak and the southwestern treeless region, and the possibilities of gardening and truck farming in southeastern Alaska have been demonstrated. To meet some of the limitations on successful agriculture the stations have developed varieties of grains that will ripen during the average growing season in Alaska; introduced and developed varieties of root and forage crops, vegetables, and small fruits adapted to the different regions; and have developed methods of feeding and managing livestock suited to Alaskan conditions. To meet the need for a hardy race of milk cows, the stations undertook to produce such a race by crossing the Galloway and Holstein-Friesian breeds and selectively breeding the progeny, with the result that several of the second-generation hybrid cows have given more than 10,000 pounds of milk during a lactation period. It is expected that this experiment will be continued by the Alaska Agricultural College until a fixed breed is established.