INTRODUCTION.

The Year-book for 1896 consists of two parts, 1st, the "Record," and 2nd, the "Abstract."

In order to increase the number of copies available for the general distribution compression has been the primary principle adopted in the preparation. The result is a larger issue and a smaller book.

I have to record the good work done by Messrs. J. Wilkins and J. Skead in connection with the compilation.

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Department of Agriculture, Statistics Division, 1897.