THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON SEED STOCKS.

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The conditions which gave rise to the slogan “Food will win the war” created a flood of interest in the seed stocks of the country immediately. America entered the conflict, and this prompted the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a Committee on Seed Stocks whose duties, as he expressed them in brief, were to look after the supply of and demand for seeds.

Inquiries as to where seed could be purchased, where it could be purchased cheaply or obtained gratis, were reaching the Department daily in large numbers and one of the first steps taken by the newly created committee was to prepare partial lists of firms and individuals having seed for sale. This was to serve in satisfying the nervous as well as the legitimate inquirer. These lists, while far from complete and often belated in their appearance, served a very useful purpose. Coincident with the preparation of these lists, a piece of work of fundamental importance was undertaken by the committee. It consisted of taking an inventory of the country’s stocks of seed. This disclosed much interesting information, especially since the committee had at its disposal the well organized machinery of the Bureau of Crop Estimates with its large corps of crop reporters, the machinery of the Extension Service, and the newly organized Seed Marketing Section of the Bureau of Markets, the inspection forces of the Bureau of Chemistry, and the crop

1 Contribution from the Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Read before the eleventh annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy at Baltimore, Maryland, January 7, 1919.