I was very glad when Mr. Carleton invited me to attend this conference because it gives such an excellent opportunity to meet you gentlemen face to face.

For the first time in history, the commercial bodies of this country are fully aroused to the importance and necessity of a larger yield of better grain. Heretofore, the work of organization has never been undertaken because there seemed to be no suitable body to assume the responsibility and to conduct the work.

Until very recently, there was no tie to bind the various interests of the Grain Trade in one homogeneous organization. The various interests were all working to the same end in their own way—all doing good work, but not following the same plan and the same line.

Mr. Manning W. Cochrane, President of the St. Louis Merchants Exchange, addressed the Council of North American Grain Exchanges in New York in September upon the impossibility of filling orders for pure seed. In this paper he struck the key note—he found the one item upon which all of the interests could unite. He was appointed chairman of a committee, with power to act, and he called a meeting in October, to which he invited representatives of the United States Government, the State agronomists, the higher officials of the railroads, the bankers, the Secretaries of the State Boards of Agriculture, Superintendents of State Normal Schools where agriculture is taught, the National Federation of Millers, the Grain Associations of the various States, the manufacturers of cereals and agricultural implements, the Boards of Trade, Commercial and Civic Clubs, the press and, in fact, every organization interested in the welfare of the entire nation.

Although the notice of the meeting was short, forty-two represen-