3. SOME PROBLEMS OF SEED IMPROVEMENT AND DISTRIBUTION

Fred W. Kellogg

The seed supply has been the subject of debate for years. But unfortunately, each of the agencies interested in this vital agricultural question have debated it very largely from its own viewpoint. Perhaps certain prejudices have served to belittle the opinions, advice, and counsel of the agencies of which we were not a part. Happily, there has been a complete change of attitude during the past two years. The Seed Marketing Conferences, arranged by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, brought us together for the first time to discuss a problem of common interest. Representatives of all of the agencies worked together harmoniously on the committees of the Conference. It was found that little conflict existed in the point of view of the committee members or in the general conference toward the proposition under discussion.

Conferences such as this would be of untold value if they served no other purpose than to promote a closer acquaintanceship between the agricultural workers and the seedsmen who are devoting their lives to the service of the country’s most important industry. But better acquaintanceships invariably break down prejudices and create a sympathetic interest and understanding of common problems. There are few problems, no matter how complex, that will not yield eventually to the close teamwork of a group of conscientious men. Questions relating to the seed supply will not prove an exception, if we ever keep in mind that the interest of agriculture is paramount in every situation.

In giving our consideration to the question of “Seed Improvement and the Distribution of Seed,” from any viewpoint, we must recognize a situation peculiar to agricultural seeds. These seeds are produced by farmers and are consumed by farmers. Thus one set of farmers may be likened to the producer of the raw material, while the other group is, or should be, the ultimate consumer of a finished product. The interests of the one are antagonistic to those of the other. The principal concern of the grower of seed is to receive the highest possible price for seed, weeds, dirt, and all, while the consumer looks for the highest grade at the minimum cost. These are the real opposing groups and the seed cleaner and distributor simply

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2President, Kellogg Seed Co., Milwaukee, Wis., and Fast-President, Wholesale Grass Seed Dealers Association.