FIRST of all I should like to thank the members of the American Society of Agronomy for the honour conferred upon me when they elected me as President of the Society. I take it as a personal compliment, but more significantly as a generous gesture of friendship to my colleagues and yours who are citizens of Canada. Your action in electing a Canadian as President was doubly appreciated and assumed added significance in the light of Canada’s entry into the war. Now that we have seen two full years of the conflict, and because of your vital concern with its progress, I thought you might be interested in a discussion of the position of the agricultural scientist in Canada in relation to the war effort that Canada is making. In this I have had in mind his contribution at the present time and that which he may be called upon to make in view of the war and the needs of agriculture in the post-war period.

One of the results of the present world conflict has been to focus sharply the attention of all thinking people upon the paramount importance of scientific training. It is literally true that the winning of the war depends on the contributions which the scientific workers are capable of making as the struggle progresses. Whereas in World War I the students in science departments at our universities enlisted almost in a body when hostilities began, in World War II they are being encouraged to attend university, engage in military training, and complete their studies. In Canadian universities military training for all male students is compulsory, and it is now possible to proceed to a degree and at the same time qualify for a commission in the armed forces. Virtually all students in category A have enrolled in the Canadian Officers’ Training Corps. The universities have thus become an integral part of the organization for prosecuting the war. It is a clear recognition on the part of the government that highly trained personnel will be required in ever-increasing numbers if the war is to be brought to a successful conclusion.

Scientists are essential in three different fields of activity and in the following order: First, to man the research departments; second, to

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1Address of the President delivered before the thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Society in Washington, D. C., November 13, 1941.
2Dean of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada.