IN THE last World War we followed the slogan, "Food will win the war." We have changed our concept of World War responsibilities in agriculture and now say in the words of Secretary Wickard, "Food will win the war and write the peace". Those are solemn words that place a great responsibility upon all of us engaged in the science of the production and protection of that most powerful of all weapons—FOOD. To produce FOOD we must have SEED.

To be true to our trust we must see to it first that all seed supplies are adequate, are conserved, are increased, are wisely distributed and protected against the emergencies that we know very well exist or will arise. This is not our first experience in administering such a trust. We had an experience in 1917. At that time, however, the needs were different. Lean years preceding World War I had left the granaries with meager stores of wheat and corn. Acting at once the Secretary of Agriculture created as part of his far-flung war effort, a Committee on Seed Stocks, whose function it was to make a survey and to look into the supply and demand for seed.

Two of my predecessors in the Division of Forage Crops and Diseases played prominent parts on this committee—Dr. R. A. Oakley as Chairman and Dr. A. J. Pieters as Secretary. The committee had at its disposal the machinery of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, the Extension Service, the Seed Marketing Section of the Bureau of Markets, the inspection force of the Bureau of Chemistry, and the crop specialists of the Bureau of Plant Industry. The committee worked in cooperation with the Grain Corporation and seed associations, as well as with the Food Administration and the War Trade Board. For the first time in its history the Department of Agriculture got a close-up view of the country's seed supply and learned at first hand what can happen in a commercial way when the country becomes apprehensive as to the adequacy of the supply. At the Baltimore meeting of the American Society of Agronomy on January 7, 1919, Dr. Oakley reported on his committee's findings and this

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2Head Agronomist in Charge.