In this, the third year of the war, agronomists and soil scientists can see better than ever the results of the application of their research. Members of this Society and the institutions with which they are associated laid the foundation for the remarkable increase in food production American farmers achieved in 1944. What is that record? Briefly stated, it is a 33% increase in crop production as compared with the average for 1935-39. This was accomplished with only a 3% increase in the acreage of crop land. How was it achieved? It is of course difficult to assign the increase that should be credited to the different factors, but a careful estimate\(^1\) breaks down the 33% increase as follows:

- Better than normal weather: 8 to 10%
- Agronomic practices:
  - Improved varieties of crops: 4 to 5%
  - Increased liming and fertilization: 4 to 5%
  - Adjustments in land use and cropping systems: 2 to 4%
- All other factors: 11 to 14%

The most spectacular increases have been in the major war crops, such as peanuts and soybeans. The farm production record of 1944, I am sure, is a source of pride to members of this Society and offers convincing proof of the effectiveness of agronomic research.

The work of the Society, particularly of several of the committees, has been seriously handicapped by conditions associated with the war. Despite such difficulties, however, all of the functions of the Society have been carried on satisfactorily as indicated by the reports of the officers and committees. The officers responsible for developing the program of the annual meeting had made excellent progress before the decision was made to cancel the meeting. They and the members preparing papers are to be commended for the way they have carried on with the publication of abstracts and the articles that will appear in the *Journal* in 1945 and in the *Proceedings* of the Soil Science Society.

The annual meeting of the Society was cancelled by the almost unanimous vote of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairmen of the Agronomy and the Soil Science Societies. This action was taken at the repeated requests of the Office of Defense Transportation and after a large number of organizations, including important scientific societies, had complied with the request. The action represents another contribution of the Society to the war effort.

Cancellation of the annual meeting presented an unusual situation to your officers. The following actions were taken by the Executive Committee: