It is a privilege which I esteem highly to stand today in the presence of the assembled representatives of two institutions, the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science and the American Society of Agronomy. For the American Society of Agronomy, which I have the honor to represent, it is the tenth annual meeting. The little group of earnest men who met in Chicago ten years ago to organize this society doubtless had visions of the increased service which agronomists might render by such a union of forces. I very much doubt, however, whether their imaginations visualized, even as a possibility, the nation plunged into a world war in the short space of one decade or the service we are now called upon to give.

Since that fatal 4th of August, 1914, all agencies, Federal, State, and private, collective and individual, have been called upon to face a great problem. Men must be fed and clothed before they can fight. A continuous stream of foodstuffs must be kept moving from this country and Canada to our allies and the allied armies at a time when not only is the world's available food supply low, but the stores of wheat in Russia, India, and Argentina are inaccessible. Especially heavy, therefore, is the responsibility resting upon American agriculture. Its problem is not merely one of planting greater acreages of food crops, but of increasing the output with a reduced force of workmen. With the outbreak of war in 1914, the period of abundant labor came to an end. Great war contracts were awarded our manufacturers and available labor was rapidly drawn to industrial centers.