

SCIENCE

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OFFICIAL FIELD CROP INSPECTION

Now, when it has been forcibly brought out that the nation is vitally interested in farm results and that to get maximum production, some system of efficient supervision is essential it may not be out of place to call attention to a line of work in which official supervision would be beneficial and for various reasons quite essential, even under normal conditions. There is a phase of farm cropping, especially with cereals, in which the state is not only vitally interested but could become of great aid to growers, and to the consuming public. That line of work may perhaps be properly named official field crop inspection.

Great strides have been made, from the educational standpoint, in crop improvement during the past twenty-five years. It is apparent, however, to those who are closest to the work that improvement in cereal cropping is not nearly proportionate to the general gain in information as to possible cropping methods. There is much knowledge as to tillage, crop rotation, seed breeding, and much improvement in farm machinery and methods of crop handling through farm machinery; yet the processes which, from a scientific standpoint are necessary to high production of yield and quality are not in common practise and, when used, are so intermittently followed as to cause failure of crop improvement that should otherwise naturally follow.

If the above is true, it is worth the attention of those of us who are specialists in certain lines of agriculture to try to determine the reasons for such failure to follow best processes and to arrive at a remedy along the lines which may result in getting the process constructively carried on.

For example, much work is done in breeding seeds. The states and nation are at much expense to allow certain experts to study Men-