

## On Golden Hinges

—BY—  
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## Nation Calls For Billion Bushels In Wheat Crop In the Next Year

Department of Agriculture and State Officials Set High Mark For Production

Acres to Be Greatly Increased — Rye Yield Also to Be Improved—Plans of Officials

THE production of over 1,000,000,000 bushels of wheat and over 83,000,000 bushels of rye through the planting of 47,337,000 acres to winter wheat and of 5,131,000 to rye this fall is the immediate war agricultural program for the nation announced by David F. Houston, secretary of agriculture. This record winter wheat acreage, an increase of 18 per cent over last year, would yield 872,000,000 bushels if the average yield for the past ten years is equalled, or under a repetition of the favorable conditions of 1914 would give 880,000,000 bushels. In either case with a spring wheat crop next year equal to that of 1915 the nation will have more than 1,000,000,000 bushels of wheat for domestic use and export.

This vastly increased production of wheat, needed in any case, will be absolutely essential to prevent a serious shortage of breadstuffs next summer should the growing corn, now behind the season, be much damaged by early frosts.

The program approved by the secretary of agriculture represents the best thought of the United States department of agriculture and of state agricultural officials and state councils of defense.

### Many Factors Involved.

The study of this question has involved many factors, and the specialists have been aware from the first that the demands for wheat may exceed the supply next year. Effort therefore has been made to recommend in each state about as large an acreage in wheat and rye as can be sown without upsetting proper farm practice, which must be maintained in the interest of wheat and rye crops this and succeeding years as well as in the interest of other necessary spring planted crops which are not discussed in detail at this time, as they are not food crops in which a marked shortage exists.

The estimates, the department states, are made with the knowledge that there is some shortage of the fertilizer supply, but with the understanding that there will be no general shortage in the supply of seed or of farm machinery which is necessary in the production of the wheat crop. It is understood also that ample transportation facilities will be provided and a fair price for wheat will be established. These factors have been assumed as fixed and satisfactory. If any one or more fail to be adjusted in good time no person can tell how serious will be the effect on the total crop.

### Unusual Efforts by Farmers.

The planting and cultivation of these increased acreages of fall sown grains call for unusual effort on the part of the farmers. Plans to place at the disposal of farmers all assistance possible are being perfected in the United States department of agriculture, the state colleges of agriculture and other state and local agencies which co-operate in farming matters. The assistance of successful growers of wheat and rye in a campaign to turn out bumper crops in 1918 is assured.

The state officials will do their utmost to get the acreages expected of their states into the ground. The program as originally worked out by the federal department of agriculture called for somewhat more than 44,000,000 acres to be sown this fall. When this proposal was presented to the officials of the several states a further increase was considered possible and desirable by them. As a consequence the recommendation for the sowing of 47,337,000 acres is made.

Following is a summary of the department's recommendations regarding winter wheat and rye:

### Wheat.

The planting of approximately 47,337,000 acres to winter wheat, on the basis of the average yield for the past ten years, indicates a total production of 872,000,000 bushels, which exceeds all previous winter wheat crops harvested in the United States with the exception of the crops of 1914 and 1915, when the acreages harvested and yields per acre were both above normal. If the extremely favorable conditions under which the winter wheat crop of 1914 was grown are again experienced the yield of winter wheat next year will be 880,000,000 bushels, or by far the largest winter wheat crop ever produced and even larger than the total of both winter and spring wheat crops for all past years except two.

### Principal Increases.

The principal increases in acreage of winter wheat are recommended in the areas where the acreage devoted to that cereal are already large and farmers are accustomed to growing wheat and are equipped with machinery for producing the crop. A material increase also is recommended in most of the areas where the production of oats and corn is heavy, since much wheat can be sown to advantage on oat stubble and in the standing corn or on ground from which the corn crop has been removed for the silo or cut for fodder.

### Rye to Be Increased.

It is recommended that there be sown in the United States this fall 5,131,000 acres of rye, which, on the

basis of ten year averages, will yield 83,635,000 bushels. This is an increase of 917,000 acres, or 22 per cent over that sown last year, when the largest acreage in the history of the country was put in. It is an increase of 48 per cent over the 1915 acreage and of 57 per cent over the five year (1912-16) average sown acreage.

In any consideration of the expansion of the acreage of bread grains in certain parts of the country it is necessary to consider wheat and rye together. This is because rye can be planted safely on many fields with less risk than wheat. Further, rye can be used as a substitute for wheat as a bread grain by those who are accustomed to it. Rye succeeds on poorer soils and with less fertilizer and in colder climates than wheat and for these reasons should be planted in preference to wheat where it has been proved a safer crop. The farmer who, because of an attractive guaranteed price for wheat, may be tempted to plant wheat rather than rye in a locality where rye is the more certain crop takes a speculative risk of loss through winter killing and destructive wheat diseases which is unwarranted. While no guaranteed price for rye has been authorized by congress, there is every reason to expect that the price of rye for the next year will bear a satisfactory relation to that of wheat and therefore justify the planting of rye where the present experience with it indicates its superiority.

### Methods to Increase Yields.

Specialists of the department of agriculture and the state agricultural colleges hope that by better methods the average yield per acre will be at least maintained wherever there is a fertilizer shortage and will be increased in other sections. Much educational work will be done to make this desire an actuality, and in this campaign the most successful growers will have a prominent part. For instance, it is stated that on the land that could be sown to fall wheat this autumn it is possible materially to increase the yield per acre by putting into practice some principles that are already well known to most farmers. These should appeal especially to those who cannot increase their usual acreages without doing injustice to other crops which should be grown.

These principles may be summed up as follows:

- First.—Plow early. Give the plowed land two months to settle before sowing where possible.
  - Second.—Compact the late plowed land with roller and harrow.
  - Third.—Don't plow after a cultivated crop. Prepare such land with disk and harrow.
  - Fourth.—Make the seed bed a fit place for the seed.
  - Fifth.—Sow with a drill sound, plump, clean seed of adapted variety.
  - Sixth.—Prevent losses from smut by treating infected seed with formaldehyde.
  - Seventh.—Make the soil fertile with manure or fertilizers applied judiciously where needed.
  - Eighth.—Reduce winter killing by following the above suggestions.
- The accomplishment of this great increase of wheat and rye acreage without disrupting correct farming practice will call for tremendous effort on the part of farmers. However, the United States department of agriculture, the state colleges of agriculture and other state and local agencies are planning to aid in every way possible.

### ROOP PRAISES AIRMEN.

Says American Army Aviators Are Unequaled.

"The American army aviators are not equaled anywhere in the world," said Lieutenant General Vladimir Roop, head of the Russian commission, after witnessing a special exhibition of a score of army fliers in command of Captain Charles Gaetz in Camp Kelly, Texas.

"I would not like to make any prediction at this moment," he added, "but I feel satisfied in my own mind after what I have seen here today in saying that the United States must be counted with in this war, and if it puts a fleet in the struggle on a par with this battle exhibition the enemy must be wiped out. I confess I was not prepared to find the United States so well prepared and so magnificently equipped."

"Russia is coming back. While I cannot discuss plans, you may say my country will give a good account of itself and will score a great record yet in this war for liberty and democracy."

### KANSAS HAS BIG WHEAT PLAN

Farmers Asked to Plant 10,000,000 Acres Next Fall.

Dr. Henry J. Waters, president of the Kansas State Agricultural college and also president of the Kansas Council of Defense, made announcement of a campaign to induce the planting of 10,000,000 acres of wheat in Kansas next fall.

Demonstration trains in charge of experts will be run through the state to inform farmers as to the best methods of preparing the soil for seeding.

## U. S. WILL INSURE ALL ITS FIGHTERS

Experts Devising Plan to Compensate For Injuries In War.

## BENEFIT FOR DEPENDENTS

Scheme Will Make It a Tax on the Whole People, Says Insurance Man. The Treasury, War, Navy and Commerce Departments Are Working on It to Avoid Evils of Pension System.

Following a conference in Washington with Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, a committee of prominent insurance men have drawn up a plan for pensions or compensation for casualties in the war, which will be submitted to congress.

The details are to be worked out in co-operation with the secretary of the treasury and officials of the war, navy and commerce departments, as well as the Council of National Defense. It was said they will conform as closely as possible to the principle of the workmen's compensation law.

To give some idea to soldiers, their families and the public of what the government, aided by the insurance men, was trying to work out, the head of one of the large companies, who deprecated any idea of self advertisement and therefore did not wish to be quoted by name, outlined the basis on which the experts are working.

"The government," he said, "is interested in putting something through in this matter that will be a happy solution of a difficult problem. It decided to appoint a committee of actuaries, with the agreement that the insurance companies would help the government. It is not life insurance that is sought. It is casualty insurance or, better still, it is compensatory insurance."

"That Uncle Sam is a great big employer was the idea finally agreed on by the insurance and casualty 'chemists' down in Washington, and the proposed insurance will in effect be a death benefit for the dependents of those who succumb in action."

### To Avoid Evils of Old System.

"The government, you see, is very eager to do something to avoid pensioning as it has formerly existed, to avoid the evils of the old pension sys-

tem. What it wants to work out is compensatory insurance. Age has nothing to do with it. It isn't life insurance."

"Of course the companies might have gone into a pool or a bureau, and the government would be sending out checks after proof, but the great desire now is to simplify the whole matter."

"In short, it is proposed to put the pension plan on a workman's compensation basis. Of course it is up to congress, but I think it will go right through without a hitch. Mr. McAdoo stated what was wanted on behalf of the president, and the companies are willing to lend to the government their expert service, their statistics, etc. They have very recent statistics from Canada, where a great deal of insurance is carried."

"The government and the representatives are in co-operation to develop the simplest possible plan, such a one as is being carried out by big business through the workmen's compensation."

"The workmen's compensation law interposes between the workmen and the hazards of labor. By this plan it is desired to interpose between the soldier and the hazards of war. The plan when finally worked out may be varied, according to the condition of the family of a soldier. It might be a matter of compensation by installments."

### Will Be a Tax on Whole People.

"The principle of the workmen's compensation is being recognized by the United States in this war. The government says: 'We'll meet the necessary tax to compensate, and it will be a tax on the whole people. It will be just the same as if the problem arose in a bridge factory, a shoe factory or on a railroad. We'll tax ourselves. Here's a whole army going up against these hazards, and some must meet them.'"

"Such acceptance of this principle amounts to a social evolution. It would be a victory to have it accepted without debate, and with this compensation principle granted and accepted the ground is covered for this war. It will help volunteering, for the volunteers nearly all have dependents and the drafted have not. It simply shows what a great democracy does for itself in this emergency."

"Such a system would supplement a soldier's per diem. His dependents would get his compensatory damages. That is why the government wants the plan crystallized in advance. The plan will probably be uniform, without regard to previous occupation."

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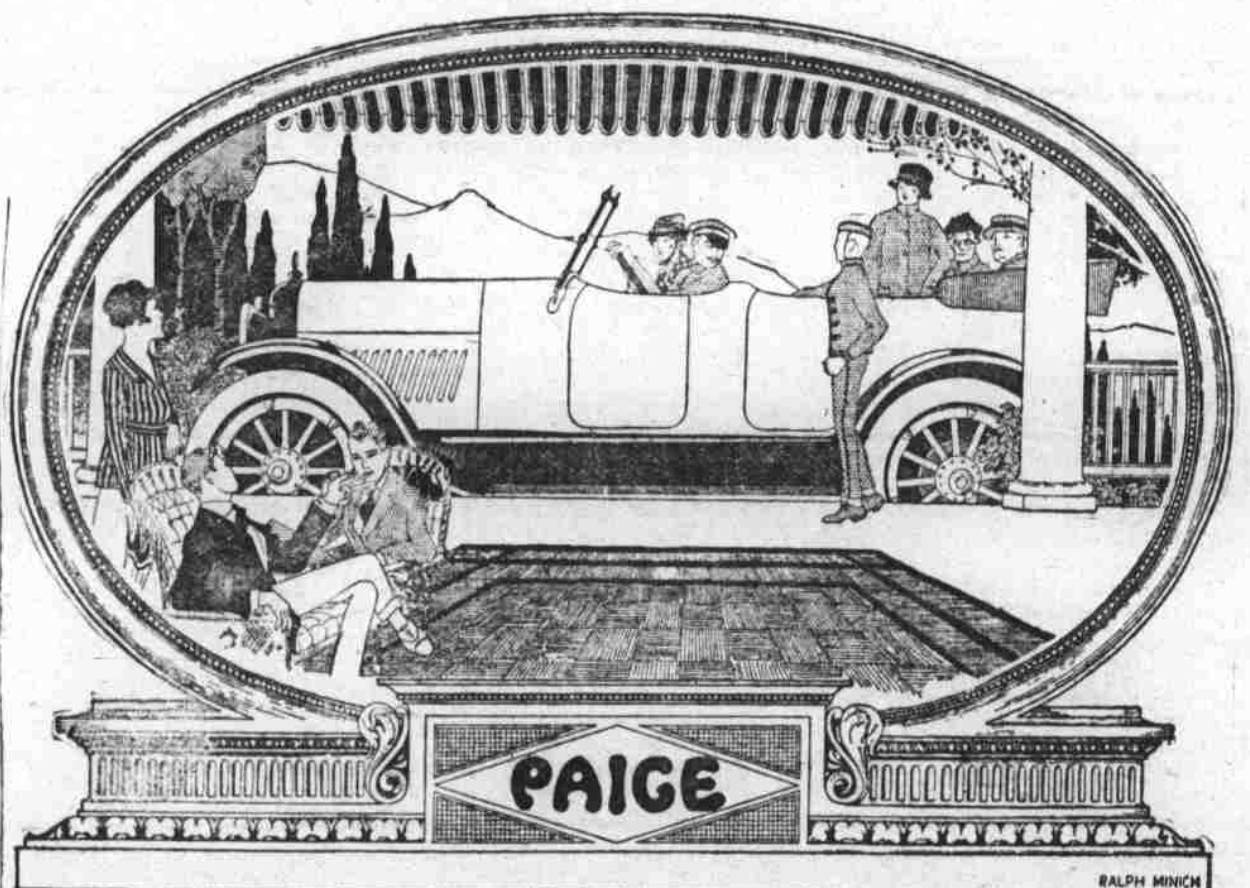
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