

low acreage sown last fall, is asked to increase the acreage this fall by one-quarter million acres, or 50 per cent. These six states, Kansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Indiana, Illinois, and Oregon, in which nearly one-half of the winter wheat was sown last fall, are asked to furnish considerably more than one-half of the increase planned for this fall. Their agricultural leaders think it is possible and are taking the necessary steps to see that it is done.

The largest percentage increases are requested in some of the southern states. Mississippi leads with 455 per cent increase and Georgia comes next with 100 per cent increase; Alabama is asked for 50 per cent increase; Arkansas for 37 per cent; and South Carolina for 37 per cent. These southern states are anxious to increase their acreages by this amount to safeguard their own food supply. The increase in actual acres, however, is comparatively small in each of these cases.

Wisconsin, another state in which

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the present wheat acreage is small, is asked to increase the sowings 29 per cent, as wheat is well adapted to newly opened land and as present prices make it a profitable crop in the state. Montana is asked to put in an even million acres, an increase of nearly 30 per cent. But this is not a large total for the entire state, in view of its large acreage of unused land suitable for wheat.

The following states are asked to increase their acreages 16 to 20 per cent over those sown in the fall of 1916: New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Iowa, Tennessee, Arizona, Idaho, and California. The following states are asked to increase their acreage by 11 to 15 per cent: Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Kansas, Kentucky, Utah, Nevada, and Washington. The following states are asked to increase their 1916 acreages by 6 to 10 per cent: Delaware, Maryland, Minnesota, Texas, Wyoming, and New Mexico. The states of Missouri and Colorado are each asked for 5 per cent increase, while practically the same acreages as sown last fall are asked for in Nebraska and South Dakota. The excessive winterkilling in Nebraska and consequent lack of seed wheat makes the situation for wheat growers very difficult this year in that state, but every effort is being made to equal and increase if possible the acreage of last year.

Most of the states for which only small percentage increases are suggested recently increased largely their wheat acreages and are already growing about as much as is consistent with well-balanced agriculture.

**Rye to be Increased Heavily**

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 57 per cent over the five-year (1912-1916) 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 states in the corn belt are asked also to enlarge considerably their rye acreage over that sown in 1916, as the lighter soils which are not especially well adapted for wheat could be planted to advantage to rye.

**Special Methods to Increase Yields of Wheat and Rye**

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

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farmers. These should appeal especially to those who can not increase their usual acreages without doing injustice to other crops which should be grown.

These principles may be summed up as follows:

- (1) Plow early. Give the plowed land two months to settle before sowing, where possible.
- (2) Compact the late-plowed land with roller and harrow.
- (3) Don't plow after a cultivated crop. Prepare such land with disk and harrow.
- (4) Make the seed bed a fit place for the seed.
- (5) Sow with a drill sound, plump, clean seed of adapted variety.
- (6) Prevent losses from smut by treating infected seed with formaldehyde.
- (7) Make the soil fertile with manure or fertilizers applied judiciously where needed.
- (8) Reduce winterkilling by following the above suggestions.

**Tremendous Effort and Co-operation Necessary**

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, and other state and local agencies are planning to aid in every way possible.

**DANIELS' BAN ON NAVY LEAGUE**

A Washington dispatch, dated August 16, says: Secretary of the Navy Daniels declared today that he would have nothing to do with the Navy league as it is at present officered, and that no other person in the navy would have anything to do with it. He added that he expected the resignation of Col. Robert M. Thompson, president of the league, to be forthcoming.

The secretary said that after its publication of a statement attacking the navy without first informing the navy department of its character or giving any information whatever concerning the charge that was made, the league ought to call itself the "anti-navy league," or "the league for traducing the navy."

Mr. Daniels expressed the conviction that the officers of the league alone were responsible for the charge and that the membership of the league, "composed of so many excellent people," would be so outraged by it as to require a house cleaning.

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