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OUR JOB AHEAD1

By Professor RICHARD BRADFIELD

HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

There has been considerable discussion of the advisability of holding our annual meeting this year. Some saw the physical difficulties involved and favored cancellation. The majority, perplexed by the numerous new problems confronting them as a result of the war, felt even more keenly than normally the need to talk over their problems with their colleagues in other institutions. All felt that to justify a meeting at this time especial emphasis should be placed upon problems connected with the war. Such problems have been the dominant theme of our program.

To-night, I shall exercise my prerogative as your President to speak to you about the job that lies ahead of us as agronomists in the post-war world. My remarks are based on the premise that the war will end eventually in a victory for the United Nations. I would not care to think about any other type of post-war world.

I think I can justify speaking about post-war problems in the midst of the war. This is a war of ideals. We need a clear conception of what we are fighting for, if we are to put our best efforts into the war. We need to express our objectives clearly so that the rest of the world can know what they are and can support us if they believe as we do. The problems of the post-war period will be just as difficult, possibly even more difficult, than those of the war. Internal dissension tends to disappear during a war. It will tend to rise again after the tension of war eases and we begin to consider the superficially

1 Presidential address, American Society of Agronomy, St. Louis, Missouri, November 12, 1942.