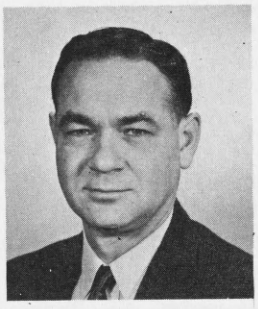
NORTH DAKOTA
Farm Research
Bimonthly Bulletin

Volume 27, Number 2 November - December, 1969

From the DIRECTOR



A. G. HAZEN

As we conclude another bountiful harvest season, it seems appropriate to review the humble beginnings from which our present day agriculture has sprung.

Our forefathers found in what became our United States a land sparsely settled by the American Indians who hunted, fished and farmed. The Indians had already developed several crops that are still highly important in our agriculture, including corn, kidney and lima beans, squashes, pumpkins, tomatoes, tobacco and short-staple cotton.

The early settlers also found living conditions difficult. They faced starvation until they adopted the crops and tillage methods of the Indians, which differed from practices in Europe. For example, New England Indians taught the Pilgrims to throw a fish or two into each hill of corn. The Indians may not have known that the decaying fish released nitrogen, but they did know that was the way to make corn grow!

Following the American Revolution, primarily caused by the English government's attempts to control agricultural trade and to restrict westward movements, the agriculture of our United States began an unprecedented period of improvement. We can very correctly call it a **quiet** agricultural revolution.

This agricultural revolution has resulted from widespread progress in mechanization, greater use of soil nutrients, adoption of cover crops and other conservation practices, use of improved varieties, wider use of irrigation, balanced feeding of livestock and poultry, and more effective control of insects and disease. This quiet revolution is a tribute to the farmer. He has used the ideas of inventors, scientists and statesmen, coupled with a good measure of his own individual intuition and ingenuity. In short, he has put these things to good use for himself and all mankind.

Achievements of American farmers have been possible largely because of basically favorable soils and climate, the union of farm crops and skills from all parts of the world, a unique system of research and education, determination in the face of

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In This Issue

On The Cover: Arlan Holkesvig, foreman at the Agricultural Experiment Station's Agronomy Seed Farm, sends another bag of seed to the top of a growing stack. Seed is processed at the farm during the fall and winter months, and is stored in rafter-high stacks until growers pick it up in the spring. These stacks are just the beginning of this fall's processing season, and this warehouse will be filled wall-to-wall before processing ends.

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Vol. 27, No. 2 **November - December, 1969**

A BIMONTHLY progress report published by the

Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University of Agriculture and Applied Science

Fargo, North Dakota 58102

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