

Douglas E. Scalley, general agricultural superintendent for the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company, called to order the first session of the first annual meeting of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists at the Hotel Utah, Salt Lake City. Mr. Scalley introduced A. W. Skuderna of the American Beet Seed Company, president of the Society, who welcomed the delegates. President Skuderna then introduced Dr. E. G. Peterson, president of the Utah State Agricultural College, who gave the address of welcome.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

President E. G. Peterson
Utah State Agricultural College

In saying a word of welcome to the members of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists, I am reminded that you have come for this first annual meeting to a place of great historical interest because it was just three blocks from this meeting place that irrigation by Anglo-Saxon peoples was first practiced. Irrigation is, of course, the basis of the production of some of our most important crops, including sugar beets, so it is fitting that for the moment we recognize our obligation to the development of civilization in areas of low rainfall to the little group of weary Mormon pioneers who ninety years ago first led water from its natural bed out onto the land in order to enable them to grow crops in a land which without irrigation would have continued largely the abode of Indians, trappers and wild animals.

Irrigation obviously was valuable for many reasons; I venture to say that second only in value to the food which it provided for the increasing thousands who sought new homes in these valleys, its demonstration of the efficacy of human cooperation was its greatest value. The development of irrigation made cooperation a necessity; it would succeed only if people recognized that their welfare was bound up with the welfare of the whole.

Education and research is one expression, and undoubtedly one of the greatest in human society today, of the validity of the cooperative effort. Here on a grand scale, men agree to pool their resources and put other men, especially prepared, to work for them and in the interest of all society. It was a great day in history when we decided to do these things instead of continuing the intellectual and spiritual squalor of the centuries past when we had not only denied the validity of science and truth (unless it happened to conform to our established opinions) but actively persecuted the seeker of truth. There are no more pitiable and beautiful spectacles than the sacrificial fires, the dungeons, the blighting social ostracism, the cup of hemlock and that terrible but glorious cross by means of which over the centuries we have sought to glorify our stupidity and the evil in us and delay the advance of truth. The beauty and the glory of it is in the willingness of men, then, as now we hope, to go with smiles upon their faces into the flames that the truth which was in them might live.

The sugar beet industry of Utah and Idaho was saved by science. In 1905 Dr. E. D. Ball, then Professor of Entomology at the Utah State Agricultural College, now Entomologist at the Arizona Experiment Station, discovered that the leaf hopper was associated with curly-top problem. In 1907 Dr. Ball published his results and in 1918 work began on the breeding of disease-

resistant beets. This work of Dr. Ball was the first to demonstrate an insect transmitted plant disease, a discovery of far-reaching importance. This discovery and the following successful breeding of disease-resistant seed account for the fact that Utah and Idaho sugar factories are operating today; they would all be closed undoubtedly if this victory had not been achieved by the plant breeders.

I am informed that the companies now engaged in the manufacturing of sugar, are cooperating thoroughly in the battle which science must continually wage if we are to be successful in our battle to subdue the earth and make it minister to the increasing demands of human society.

Intelligent observers are becoming more and more conscious of the need of cooperation in human society if we are to win the battle against anarchy and chaos. America itself, rich as we potentially are in almost all the necessary resources out of which to create goods and make possible the services which an advanced civilization requires, presents the sorry spectacle of ten or eleven million unemployed and a growing sense of the futility of much that we have done to maintain our self respect and our leadership in the world. We are only six percent of the people of the world and yet we have nearly fifty percent of its essential resources. Our danger obviously is not in absence of food, clothing and shelter, and educational opportunity, enough for all of us but rather in our lack of ability to see that these necessities reach the people. In this we have shown fearful incapacity. That incapacity is in government and in the economic arrangements which have grown up in a land so rich that greed and avarice have become too largely the motive in development of civilization.

The profit motive has been a major contributor to our economic success as a nation. Controlled and subordinated the profit motive can continue greatly to serve us. Uncontrolled, it bids fair to wreck us because if uncontrolled this motive easily degenerates into greed. There are two ways to control it; by government as may be necessary and is of course necessary in considerable degree, but preferably by the conscience of man because of devotion to something more important than gain.

America with all our faults is still the hope of the world. If we can render ourselves worthy of our freedom, and our great riches, we can do much to save a civilization now threatened with extinction. If we show ourselves to be worshippers of wealth and ease and indulgence, we will record the greatest tragedy the world has ever witnessed because the world desperately today needs the help of America in preserving its inheritance of freedom and democracy. Our opportunity for world service is the greatest that has ever come to a people; our difficulties are commensurately great. We, if we can rise above brute selfishness, can save ourselves and by our example do much to save the world as it faces probably its greatest crisis.