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WHEAT
in the
WORLD ECONOMY

A GUIDE TO WHEAT STUDIES
of the FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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FOOD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Established at Stanford University, California, in 1921, jointly
by Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Trustees of Le-
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distribution, and consumption of food

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FOREWORD

For twenty years WHEAT STUDIES has been the channel of publication for a substantial portion of the work of the Food Research Institute. The 180 studies in the twenty volumes, published in the two decades 1924-44, are the product of a huge amount of continuous, intensive research by a slowly changing group of co-operating scholars. With wheat as the common focus, the studies reach over a wide range of subjects. Indeed, the effort that has gone into them is justified partly by the fact that the Institute has taken wheat as the social-science equivalent of the white rat, the guinea pig, and the fruit fly in research in the natural sciences. *Wheat in the World Economy*, the main title of the present book, suggests the primary emphasis in most of the studies.

Many readers of WHEAT STUDIES find the series of great value for reference, and some have spoken of it as a mine of reliable information. As this mine has been enlarged, however, it has gradually become harder for them and ourselves to find with ease the data on and discussions of numerous specific matters. One main purpose of the present *Guide to Wheat Studies*, therefore, is to facilitate use of the series by those already familiar with it, and by others who undertake any sort of study dealing with wheat.

Another major purpose is to open this mine to others who have not hitherto seen or used WHEAT STUDIES and who are aware of no interest in wheat as such. Its resources are pertinent to many who are concerned with various aspects of such broad subjects as agriculture, technology, historical developments, business cycles, geography, nutrition, transportation, marketing, price behavior, and public policy, and also techniques of analysis, interpretation, and presentation. Those interested in statistical charts, tabulation, and cartography will find here a multitude of examples of many types.

Statistical data are liberally included in most of the studies, in charts and in tables. For the most part, these statistics are compiled from many sources, official and unofficial; but they

are discriminatingly selected, carefully checked, and conveniently presented. In addition, there are a number of original series constructed by the Food Research Institute, as materials for research here and elsewhere. Most of these are in studies by M. K. Bennett, Helen C. Farnsworth, and Holbrook Working. The most widely used are the series on United States wheat acreage and production since 1866 (Working), world wheat stocks, prewar and postwar (Farnsworth and Bennett), flour consumption in the United States (Working), and British "parcels prices" (Bennett). Latest revised data for the last three of these appear in the appendix tables of most of the annual *Reviews*.

One caution deserves emphasis. Statistics are continually being revised, and on several points later research has yielded modifications of earlier statements. Accordingly, where divergences between earlier and later data and discussions appear, the later are invariably to be preferred.

The present volume is divided into three parts: I, Abstracts; II, Lists; and III, Index. The abstracts cover all issues of WHEAT STUDIES except the *Survey* numbers. The *Reviews* of the crop years 1923-24 to 1943-44 (Section A) are separated from the *Special Studies* (Section B). Part II, printed on green paper, presents a complete chronological list of individual issues (Section C); a list of all *Special Studies*, classified by author (Section D); and a similar list, classified by type of subject (Section E). Part III, which constitutes the major portion of this volume, is a composite index to the contents of every issue of WHEAT STUDIES.

The abstracts of *Reviews* and of *Special Studies*, both in order of issue, enable one to get the general purport of all the studies except the periodical *Surveys*. Most of these abstracts are reprinted from the cover pages of individual issues beginning with Volume III. Addition of the abstract of the May 1944 *Survey* (and its addendum) to the abstracts of *Reviews* provides a running summary of developments in the world wheat position and outlook in the period from July 1923 to July 1944.

The various lists in Part II give a general conspectus of the whole series of WHEAT STUDIES, and afford a ready means of

finding studies in some significant classification. The titles appear also in alphabetical order and in bold-face type in the Index (Part III).

The composite index, the work of Helen M. Gibbs, is more complete than indexes of long series of professional journals, but is less detailed than are most of the indexes included in the bound volumes. The *Special Studies* are covered more fully than the *Review* and *Survey* issues, which naturally follow a more consistent pattern.

Throughout, references are given in brief. Thus "Jun '26 II (8), 265-92" refers to the issue of June 1926, Volume II, Number 8, pages 265-92. In the composite index only volumes and pages are cited.

The past twenty years have been notable for a general expansion in research personnel and output, in the natural and social sciences. Anything that facilitates efficient and economical use of this accumulating body of material constitutes a special kind of research contribution. This *Guide* is presented in the hope that on library reference shelves, and on or beside the desks of scholars and others, it may not only help to answer puzzling questions but also promote sound and efficient research.

J. S. DAVIS