

*Flag Smut of Wheat in Mexico.*—Flag smut of wheat, caused by *Urocystis tritici* Koern., has never been reported from Mexico prior to 1945. It was first encountered in the region of Zitacuaro, State of Michoacán, on April 27, 1945, and appeared to be distributed throughout a number of fields lying within an area of approximately 10 square miles.

Circumstantial evidence indicates that the causal organism was brought into Mexico on wheat imported from Australia. This wheat was destined for milling, but evidently some found its way into the hands of growers and was used for seed. It is possible that other diseased fields existed during the current year in other parts of the Republic, but no positive evidence was obtained outside of Michoacán.

The Dirección General de Agricultura, Secretaría de Agricultura y Fomento, carried on an eradication campaign in the Zitacuaro area, and a quarantine has been established to prevent the movement of seed wheat from this area to other regions. A campaign of seed treatment has also been begun as an aid in preventing the establishment of flag smut.

The vast majority of the wheats grown in Mexico are susceptible to flag smut. In the event that the eradication campaign is unsuccessful and the disease becomes well established within the country, it will be necessary to begin a program of introduction and breeding for the ultimate selection of resistant varieties.—N. E. BORLAUG, J. G. HARRAR, and E. C. STAKMAN, The Rockefeller Foundation, Mexico D. F.

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