

to the limit permitted by available good seed, labor and equipment. The placing of too great emphasis on production in new regions is inadvisable since the introduction into a farm operation of a crop not usually grown frequently involves practical difficulties not easily foreseen nor quickly surmountable."—(Secretary Houston, April 7.)

"Where winter wheat has been damaged sufficiently to justify the abandonment of fields, it should by all means be replaced by spring-planted food crops, preferably small grains or corn."—(Secretary Houston, April 7.)

On April 1 the condition and acreage of the winter wheat crop was such as to forecast a production of 52,000,000 bushels less than that of 1916, and 243,000,000 bushels less than the crop of 1915.

The planting of spring wheat is not recommended for a region where oats or corn is more certain to produce satisfactory yields. In some states, however, flax ground may be sown to spring wheat and new land broken for flax.

Oats and barley may be substituted in some sections for spring wheat. In areas in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and Montana, barley can be relied on, and oats have a much wider range. Barley yields a larger weight of feed per acre than any other small grain crop and may be substituted directly for wheat in human food.

"The place of rye under present conditions is an important one. The crop this year should be harvested and utilized with more than the usual care. Considerable acreage is planted in some sections for plowing under in the spring for green manure. Where conditions are suitable part of this acreage might well be held for harvesting, and followed with a suitable summer or fall crop for plowing in later."—(Secretary Houston, April 7.)

Buckwheat may be planted later than any similar crop and often does well on old meadows or waste land. The acreage in this crop could well be increased, especially in certain portions of New York, Pennsylvania and New England.

In Western Kansas, Oklahoma, and northern Texas the acreage in the grain sorghums should be increased practically to the limit that can be handled properly with the labor and facilities available.

"Grain sorghums may well be used in that area to replace winter wheat on fields abandoned because of winter injury. * * * In the past these grains have been used chiefly as poultry and stock feed, but they have possibilities also as human food."—(Secretary Houston, April 7.)

Conditions warrant the planting of the largest acreage of corn which it is possible to handle effectively. The corn crop of 1916 was 400,000,000 bushels less than the crop of 1915 and considerably less than the 5-year average. The world demand for this grain is such that its profitability to the American farmer is clear. The fall is the proper time for breaking sod for corn. There are many unproductive meadows and indifferent pastures that could profitably be broken up and planted to corn. The reduction in the amount of hay and pasture will be more than replaced by the corn stover, ensilage and grain.

"An important increase in our food supply may be made by enlarging the area planted to navy beans in the north and west and to Mexican and Tepary beans in the southwest, and by stimulating in every reasonable way an increase in the area of potatoes planted, especially for local use."—(St. Louis conference.)

PREVENTION OF WASTE IN FOOD CROPS

"In the case of the great staple cereals which constitute a large proportion of our food supply, conspicuous production wastes result from failure to give proper attention to the selection and safeguarding of seed for planting, the preparation of the land, and the care of the crop."—(Secretary Houston, March 27.)

"Under existing conditions every precaution should be taken (1) to reduce production wastes by testing seed sufficiently in advance to insure against the planting of dead seed; (2) to treat with disinfecting dips all seed subject to diseases that can be prevented, such as the smuts of wheat, barley, oats, and rye, the losses from which are estimated conservatively at \$50,000,000 to \$60,000,000 in the United States in the average year; (3) to prepare especially thoroughly for planting these vitally important

cereal crops and to care for them as may be necessary during the season.

"A widespread outbreak of late blight throughout the important potato-producing districts (which, fortunately, rarely occurs except in restricted areas) might diminish potato production at the rate of 3,000,000 bushels a day during August and September if prolonged warm and rainy weather should occur. This disease can be prevented by spraying, and early preparation should be made to combat it vigorously. Potato diseases of a preventable character frequently reduce the crop by from 50,000,000 to 100,000,000 bushels. While not entirely preventable, they should be guarded against to the fullest extent possible.

"Sweet potato losses from black rot, foot rot, and other diseases in the field result mainly from failure to select and disinfect seed and to practice sanitation in the beds. Bean losses from anthracnose and other diseases can be prevented to a large extent by the use of disease-free seed. The obtaining of such seed should receive special attention this season.

"In the southern states, approximately 50,000,000 bushels of sweet potatoes are produced annually, and it is estimated that at least 10,000,000 bushels of these are lost annually by decay. Frequently wholesale waste occurs at harvest time, not only of sweet potatoes, but of white potatoes and other underground food crops, through lack of proper storage facilities to safeguard the crop from destructive freezes at digging time. Early this season plans should be made and executed in the building of suitable storage houses or cellars. This usually can be done at relatively low cost if undertaken in time. In view of the experience of the past year, it would appear that surpluses of such vegetable crops as are capable of preservation by drying for soup stock, such as carrots, potatoes, celery, etc., could be preserved profitably for food use in regions where fruit evaporators which could be utilized for this purpose already exist. Surplus sweet corn, if cut at the proper stage, can be sun dried or oven dried, as in earlier years before systematic canning of corn was developed, and, in this way, be preserved for food use."

THE MEAT SUPPLY

In increasing the acreage of staple food crops care must be taken not to create a deficiency of hay and forage which would not only jeopardize the future meat and dairy supplies of the country, but would result in a shortage of roughage for military draft and saddle animals.

"In regions where dairying dominates, the full acreage of clover, alfalfa, and the grasses that is in productive condition should be maintained. The older, thinner, and less productive grass lands, however, frequently can be made to produce much larger yields of feed in corn than if left as they are in unproductive grass."—(Secretary Houston, April 7.)

The live stock holdings of the farmers of the United States are already too low. It would be most unfortunate if these numbers be diminished further under the pressure of the present demand for food. Indeed, an early increase of the animal products of the country should be made. Such an increase must come chiefly through the enlarging of our food supply, by more successful methods of feeding, and through more complete control of contagious diseases.

"Milk production could be increased fully one-fourth by more liberal and intelligent feeding. Pork production could be increased satisfactorily through the more extensive use of fall litters, better care and feeding. The poultry products of the United States could be doubled within a year."—(St. Louis conference.)

"When conditions render it feasible, small flocks of poultry should be kept by families in villages, towns, and especially in the suburbs of large cities. Many families in villages and on the outskirts of cities also should consider the advisability of keeping a pig, if sanitary regulations permit."—(Secretary Houston, April 7.)

Senator Pomerene of Ohio says that since the country has gone into the business of preparing for war the manufacturers of flags have raised wholesale prices between 200 and 400 per cent. One thing can be said for the flag makers, they don't intend to be exceptions to the rule that proves that patriotism pays.

Conscripting Wealth

According to the law the government can conscript the man—call a human being into the army and compel him to lay his life upon the altar. His own ambitions, the hopes of his parents and the happiness of wife and children—all these give way to the country's claims. If life, why not property?

Heretofore the government has drafted the man but has hesitated to draft property. We are moving forward into a brighter light; we see more clearly what is just. Property is coming in for its share of the burdens in the war—or, at least, for more nearly its share.

If the soldiers march to the front without finching the capitalists should prepare to obey the command: Pocketbooks—present.

In the past it has been "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." This time, let the present generation furnish the money as well as the men.

The glory of paying taxes is second only to the glory of personal sacrifice. There is glory enough for all.

W. J. BRYAN.

PROHIBITION AS A WAR MEASURE

Following is a telegram sent by Mr. Bryan to Hon. Virgil G. Henshaw, 326 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.:

Lincoln, Neb., April 28, 1917. — Am very sorry that engagements in the far west will prevent acceptance of invitation to join governors in presenting memorial in favor of immediate national prohibition. While I would not, during the war, advise any action contrary to the judgment of the federal officials entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the war, it is proper to lay before them arguments in favor of immediate action. In addition to reasons of permanent character, there are two arguments in favor of prohibition as a war measure. First, the use of alcohol impairs efficiency and in this crisis we can not afford to allow efficiency to be impaired either among soldiers or producers. Second, we need all the grain for food, and can not spare any for the breweries and distilleries. To urge an increase in garden products while we permit one hundred and forty million bushels of farm products to be converted into intoxicants, would be "saving at the spigot and wasting at the bung hole."

W. J. BRYAN.

THERE IS WORK FOR ALL

Patriotism is love of country translated into terms of service. It can be manifested in peace as well as in war—by loyalty at home as well as at the battle front. It consists in the performance of duty whatever that duty may be.

"If you can not on the ocean,
Sail among the swiftest fleet,
Rocking on the highest billows,
Laughing at the storms you meet;
You can go among the sailors,
Anchored yet within the bay,
You can lend a hand to help them
As they launch their boats away."

That is to say, if you are not needed as a soldier, you can help produce food or aid the soldiers through the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., or do your part in some other effective way.

APPRECIATES PAPER-WEIGHT

The following letter was received by Mr. Bryan from Governor Charles Henderson, of Alabama:

"Montgomery, Ala., April 7, 1917.

"Hon. W. J. Bryan,
"Miami, Fla.

"Dear Sir:

"It is with pleasure that I acknowledge receipt from you through the kindness of our mutual friend, Mr. Hood, of the souvenir in the form of a paper-weight. It conveys beautiful sentiments and it shall be preserved in the capitol together with its history through future years. The sentiments are ennobling and to which every one can subscribe. I thank you for remembering Alabama in your distribution of them.

"Yours very truly,
"CHAS. HENDERSON."