

of wheat so as to make 81 per cent of the kernel into flour instead of 73 per cent as at present. The problem, however, has many sides and various important issues are involved. How far the increased milling should be pressed and how rapidly are important questions to be considered. Such action as the results of further inquiry may determine should be promptly taken.

Some of the European nations have secured a considerable addition to the food supply either by reducing the production of malt liquors or by reducing or prohibiting the production of distilled liquors. It has been roughly estimated that the value of food materials entering into the manufacture of alcoholic beverages in this country in one year, on the basis of prices lower than those now prevailing, is approximately \$145,000,000.

(4) Immediate enlargement of the department's forces dealing with the conservation of perishables on farms and elsewhere to prevent losses of useful food crops which occur through insufficient supplies of cans and containers to meet the requirements.

(5) Safeguarding of seed stocks for 1918 in case untoward climatic or other conditions affecting important crops make such action necessary in restricted regions. It would be impracticable to undertake to supply seed in a nationwide way for all or any of the great staple crops. The most that could be done in any event through government agencies would be to supply seed in restricted areas where serious emergencies have presented themselves. If the congress should provide an emergency fund, the secretary should be authorized to furnish, in a limited way, relief as indicated, and, if deemed advisable, to take steps to locate, secure, and store for next year good seed for a least a portion of certain staple crops. Such seed would not be furnished free but at cost, and any funds expended for this purpose would, in large part, be returned to the treasury.

#### DISTRIBUTION

The plans outlined involve problems of food production only. No less important than increased production is the establishment of satisfactory and efficient arrangements for distribution. The producer of foodstuffs is entitled to assurances that the channels of distribution will be open and that a free, competitive, and unmanipulated market will exist, and the uneconomic speculation will be either controlled or prevented. To meet this situation the department of agriculture should be given the following authority and power:

(1) To make a complete survey of the food supply of the nation, with a view to secure full information as to its location, ownership, and where it is needed, and complete knowledge as to the instrumentalities and agencies that own, control, manufacture, and distribute food products.

(2) After investigation, and in co-operation with the trade interests involved, to establish market grades and classes of farm products, including seeds, and standards for receptacles for such products, together with authority to effect a suitable degree of supervision of their application through such inspection service as may be necessary.

(3) To license and supervise the operation of all plants, mills, packing houses, canneries, slaughterhouses, breweries, distilleries, storage houses, or other establishments or factories in which food or feeds, agricultural implements and machinery and materials therefor, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, serums, toxins, viruses, and any other articles required for agricultural purposes are prepared, manufactured, or kept for sale or distribution. This power should include authority to make rules and regulations governing the use and operation of such enterprises, including the taking over and operation of them whenever such course may be necessary in the public interest.

(4) To require the preference movement by the common carriers of the United States of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, and farm implements or machinery, or the materials required in their manufacture.

(5) To enlarge the existing telegraphic market news service of the department which now covers live stock and meats and certain foods, vegetables, and perishables, in order to assist, by securing comprehensive information from all shipping areas, in the distribution of prod-

ucts according to the proportionate requirements of the consuming centers. Enlargement of this service would also tend to prevent undue shortage in any consuming center and provide against wastes due to temporary oversupply of perishables in particular communities. The service would further assist in securing direct routings and thereby relieve, to some extent at least, congestion of transportation lines. It would also directly aid farmers by furnishing information which would put them on an equality with buyers and enable them to consign unsold products to points where there is the greatest need for them.

(6) In case of extreme emergency, the government should have power to purchase, store, and subsequently dispose of food products to groups of people or communities organized in some form, and to fix maximum or minimum prices. Perhaps the exercise of this power should be lodged in the Council of National Defense to be used only when directed by the President. It is possible that the mere existence of the power would make action unnecessary. The government should have full discretion in the matter. It might be wise to fix a minimum price to producers for only one important commodity, just as it might be wise to fix a maximum price which consumers might be expected to pay for only one or several products.

(7) I greatly need one, possibly two, more assistant secretaries, and such number of assistants to the secretary as the circumstances may demand. At present there is only one assistant secretary. The work of the department has increased enormously in the last few years. It had greatly extended before the European war broke out and within the last three years it has been charged with the duty of administering a number of very important laws, including the following: (1) Co-operative agricultural extension act; (2) cotton futures act; (3) United States grain standard act; (4) United States warehouse act; (5) Federal aid road act. I need not set forth the burdens which have been placed upon the central office because of the present emergency. They are vast and complex and it is urgently essential that additional assistance be provided. Furthermore the appeals from different sections of the Union for responsible representatives who can keep intimately in touch with them and furnish advice and suggestions are numerous and growing.

It is estimated that approximately \$25,000,000 will be required to carry out the plans outlined herein. In order that prompt steps may be taken to put them into effect it is urged that immediate action be taken to give the department the requisite authority and to make available the necessary funds.

Respectfully,  
D. F. HOUSTON, Secretary.

If the concerted effort being made to turn back to the farms the thousands whom the city has lured away is successful even in a small measure, war will not seem so bad. The high cost of living vexes every family in the land, but the principle of letting somebody else leave town and go to the farm and thus start to bring about a reduction in the number of consumers and a corresponding increase in the number of producers seems to govern this so-called movement.

War lights a fire of hatred that never goes out. Unlike the fires that ancient religious rites proscribed should be kept burning, the fire that war kindles needs no attendants with piles of fagots at hand. The clash of arms, the thrust and parry of the combatants, the bitter words of the publicists, leave an impress on men's minds that never fades so long as the pages of history remain undimmed.

It is always considered the safest strategy in time of war to intern all alien enemies who may be within the confines of a country. How congress can escape applying this principle to old John Barleycorn is a question that body will find difficult to answer if it does not take the obvious course.

Von Bethman Hollweg seems to have an irresistible inclination to blow down the barrel of the gun. He didn't think England would fight either.

#### "YOU MEN KNOW WHAT A SOLDIER WANTS"

[The following, by Major General John F. O'Ryan, commanding New York Division, is reprinted from "Association Men," April, 1917.—Ed.]

Good intentions do not go very far in time of war. Hell is paved with them. But the Young Men's Christian Association depends upon something more than good intentions. When our troops moved to the Mexican border, the Association knew just what to do and how to do it without any guesswork. So it has become an institution in the army.

In the first place, its efficiency was marked. When we reached the border, a secretary came asking for permission to erect an Association building. We gave permission — with mental reservations, knowing the difficulties to be met in securing lumber. Within a few days the building was up! I don't know to this day where that lumber came from—out of the clear sky, I guess.

Then, too, the Association's organization is supreme. Its leadership was accurate in its understanding of our soldiers' needs. I liked the way the rough man was made to feel at home. I liked the Christian-like manner in which the secretary met the diffident young man who was not over-awed.

No system will ever succeed without proper leadership. Certainly the Association had such local leaders. They were not holier-than-thou men, but good, red-blooded fellows who bore every evidence of being helpful without being obtrusive. They were a wonderful power for good!

I could tell by the attitude of the many men who went into the buildings that unconsciously and subconsciously they were being raised to higher levels, that they were quieter, that they had better mastery of themselves, better ideals—and were better soldiers.

When the order went out that houses of prostitution were to be put under guard, when we watched every woman who got off a train until her business was known, when, if necessary, she was put out of that vicinity, when we ordered disuse of whiskey and other liquors, the Association joined us in helping to make soldier sentiment in favor of that very action.

If America goes to war, money can be turned over to the Young Men's Christian Association with every confidence that it will be expended scientifically and along lines most acceptable to soldiers.

#### LET THE PEOPLE JUDGE BETWEEN THEM

There are two men in this country upon whom the eyes of the nation have looked and marveled for twenty years.

Public opinion has differed as to the type and character and the quality of the statesmanship of each.

They have been more cursed and discussed in the public press than any other two statesmen in this country.

It is because each stands for something.

Each has individuality.

Each has a strong following:

The one is a warrior.

The other a man of peace.

During all of the past two years of trying times, pending the troubles with Germany the one has insisted that we should go to war, no-lens volens.

During the same period, the other has insisted that honorable peace was possible and honorable peace should be secured.

Since the declaration of congress of the existence of a state of war between this country and Germany, both of these notable men have offered their services to the country.

Of the tender of his services to his country of the man of peace, the Commercial Appeal makes this significant editorial mention:

"Mr. Bryan fought for peace until there was no peace. Now he offers his services to his country as a private soldier—not as a major-general."

The Jacksonville Times-Union puts it more directly, rather straight from the shoulder. It says:

"Colonel Bryan offers his services to his country to be used in any capacity that is deemed best. Colonel Roosevelt volunteers to be a major-general." — Montgomery, (Ala.) Herald.