

ation problems, government agencies should do all in their power to bring about a relatively adequate supply of cars for moving food and other necessities.

Communities, counties, and cities should be urged to take steps that will lead toward a larger degree of local and district self-support, especially in perishable products, by making inventories of food needs and surveys of neighboring possibilities of production and in general by closer co-operation of the local consuming and producing interests, and by the provision of local marketing facilities.

PRICE PUBLICITY

To bring about a greater equality of distribution considering the consumptive demands of population centers, the market information facilities of the United States department of agriculture should be extended and made as effective as possible. It should include the publishing, as widely as possible for the information of producers and consumers of farm products, of average prices of foods, feeds, and live stock, and particularly those paid by the war department, if purchases are made direct in the open market instead of by the usual contract method.

If not incompatible with wise policy, the war department should determine and state where training camps are to be located, so that local production can be expanded to care in some degree for the increased consumption as a measure of general economy, and to effect a further relief of transportation facilities.

Appropriate steps should be taken through suitable federal authorities, such as the council of national defense, the department of agriculture, the department of commerce, and the federal trade commission, to facilitate the supplying of agricultural implements and machinery, particularly for seeding and harvesting, by bringing about reasonable deliveries of the necessary materials, in preference to filling orders for such products as are not required in the existing emergency.

Steps should be taken at once to secure the preference movement of freight shipments of farm machinery, seeds, fertilizers, and spraying materials.

PRICE FIXING, IF NECESSARY

The very low food reserves of the world, due to last year's short crops, the increased demands due to the consumption and waste of war, and the disappointing condition of the winter grain crop give ample assurance of profitable prices to producers this year. Therefore, the fixing of maximum or minimum prices need not be undertaken at this time, but the fact that such a course may become necessary in the future advises the creation of agencies which will enable the government to act wisely when the necessity may arise. To this end, it would be well for the congress of the United States to authorize the council of national defense, if deemed necessary, to purchase, store, and subsequently distribute food products, or to fix prices in any national emergency caused by a temporary or local overproduction, or by a sudden ending of the war, or by restraints of trade, manipulations or uneconomic speculation, in order that producers may not be required to suffer loss on account of the extraordinary efforts they are now asked to make, and in order that consumers may not be required to pay oppressive prices in case of disorganized or inadequate transportation. Information should be continually maintained by the department of agriculture that will afford the council intelligent data upon which to act wisely and fairly in any emergency.

INCREASED HOME ECONOMY

We are the most wasteful people in the world in our ways of living. Our tastes and desires have been educated beyond our incomes.

Almost as great a saving may be made through the more economical manufacture, purchase, and use of food as can be made through processes of production which are immediately feasible.

Our breadstuff supply may be increased by one-twelfth, or 18,000,000 barrels of flour a year, by milling our wheat so as to make 81 per cent of the kernel into flour, instead of 73 per cent as at present. This flour would have as high nutritive value as that which we now use.

An important saving may be effected by making the diet as largely vegetarian as possible, without lowering food efficiency, by a partial substitution of such foods as beans and peas

and of milk and its products, including skimmed milk, for the more expensive meats.

At present prices a larger use of corn and rice products as partial substitutes for the more expensive wheat products is suggested.

The substitution of the home-grown and home-prepared grain products for the much more expensive refined commercial foods, known as breakfast foods, will make a large saving. Adequate gardens should provide the home supply of vegetables, which are expensive foods when purchased at existing prices. The home storage and preservation of foods, such as eggs, vegetables, fruits, and meats, should be increased.

The serious food wastes that occur in many households through a lack of culinary knowledge and skill may be minimized through instruction in better methods.

These economies will be secured chiefly, if not fully, through the further education of housewives. It is highly important that all educational agencies available for this purpose engage in widespread propaganda and instruction concerning the economical use of human foods.

NATIONAL AND STATE ORGANIZATION NEEDED

The council of national defense is charged with the duty of mobilizing the resources of the nation, having as one of its members the secretary of agriculture. We recommend additional machinery, as follows:

A relatively small central agricultural body, whose services and presence might be required in Washington constantly, to be composed of men who have wide knowledge of agricultural matters and executive experience. In selecting those men, attention should be paid to geographical distribution.

A large national advisory body composed of representatives of the leading agricultural agencies and associations, concerned not only in production but in distributing and handling commodities.

A small central agricultural body in each state representing various agricultural interests, including agricultural officials, representatives of agricultural colleges, bankers', business, farmers', and women's organizations, etc., concerned in the production, distribution, and utilization of food supplies and agricultural raw materials. This body should be designated by the governor and, if the state has a central council of safety or defense, should be co-ordinated with it.

Such county, urban, and other local bodies as the state authorities, including this state central agency, may see fit to suggest.

The national central body and the state central bodies will be expected to keep in intimate contact and to work in close co-operation.

AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION

To meet the extraordinary needs of agriculture in this emergency we recommend an appropriation of \$25,000,000, or so much thereof as may be needed, to be available immediately for the use of the secretary of agriculture in such a manner as he may deem best.

The situation which now confronts our country is a great emergency—the greatest, perhaps, in its history. Emergency measures are needed to meet unusual conditions. The recommendations made in this statement have been formulated because it is believed they are necessary in order to meet present conditions. They are war measures. It is strongly urged that congress and state legislatures, in passing laws or in making appropriations intended to carry out these or other plans for assuring an adequate food and clothing supply, should, so far as possible be governed by the principle that when the emergency ceases much permanent reconstruction in agricultural policies and plans may be necessary.

The recommendations in the main call for federal action, but state governments can and should co-operate to the fullest degree in considering and executing plans of co-operation and of supplemental legislation and appropriation for the great common purpose herein enunciated.

Let us hope that no concerted effort will be made to interfere with the shoving, bolsterous crowd of men who, it is reasonable to expect, will be as eager to pay the war taxes as they were that we should enter the war.

NEW COMMONER READERS

Below is a partial list of the new clubs sent to The Commoner since the last issue. On another page may be found a blank which our readers are using in pushing the circulation of The Commoner in their localities. Will you not join Mr. Bryan in his efforts to drive the liquor interests out of the democratic party and out of the nation? The club raisers and the number of subscriptions secured follows:

Huc, Phil W., Va., 5; Ely, C. E., Kans., 2; Hunting, A. L., Colo., 3; Starr, Jas. A., Ind., 2; Tichenor, Geo., Ind., 2; Burke, A. L., Ia., 3; Luginbill, A. J., Colo., 5; McCarty, Thos., Ia., 2; Coughlan, D., Minn., 6; Copeland, J. C., Ohio, 3; McCorkle, T. M., W. Va., 3; Cherry, W. F., Ky., 2; Hartsell, E., Ia., 2; Healy, Geo. P., N. H., 4; Sandford, T. J., Colo., 5; Kutzb, F. A., Ill., 2; Hackenberg, H. W., Ohio, 2; Holloway, Jno. R., Tex., 3; Lorey, F. W., Tex., 5; Stuart, Frank L., Wis., 2; Hawk, Theo., Ohio, 5; Childs, J. H., Okla., 5; Glover, C. M., Tenn., 2; Smith, Isaac H., Wash., 5; Osterhout, Geo. E., Colo., 8; Cook, Geo. W., Mo., 3; Luther, Peter T., Ind., 2; Halverstadt, D. S., Kans., 3; Lowrey, C. W., Okla., 5; Peters, P. H., Mich., 5; Terry, Geo. S., Tex., 2; Milwee, F., Okla., 2; Johnson, J. L., W. Va., 5; Rose, Wm. H., Oreg., 5; Hickernell, C. B., Fla., 5; Browning, J. P., Ill., 5; Burbacher, C. P., Ohio, 8; Wildt, C. G., Ind., 3; Ridenour, M. W., Ohio, 3; Way, A. M., Wash., 5; Carrington, C. E., Ohio, 2; Stallings, J. L., Tex., 6; Welsh, Wm., Wis., 3; Johnson, Laura E., Pa., 2; Moore, W. B., Wash., 3; Freeman, Robt., Wis., 6; Saunders, P. B., Ill., 5; Davis, J. M., Mo., 5; Myers, T. L., Ia., 4; Hanna, O. P., Calif., 5; Sheets, Elizabeth, Ohio, 2; Lester, L. B., Miss., 2; Duncan, A. T., Mo., 7; Mabens, H. A., Ia., 6; Williamson, F. E., Ill., 5; Kuhn, J. W., Kans., 5; Henley, J. H., Ga., 8; Taylor, H. B., S. D., 4; Hopkins, H. B., Calif., 5; Field, Albert, Ill., 3; Stinson, J. H., Mo., 5; Pryce, J. R., Mont., 4; Weichering, F., N. Y., 2; Lesser, E. J., W. Va., 5; Mollenhoff, J. P., Ia., 2; Lane, Mrs. T. A., Mo., 3; Ayers, E. G., Calif., 4; Jordan, Walter M., Mont., 5; Hobbs, Frank P., N. H., 10; Shadel, Chas. F., Ind., 3; Hoge, H. M., Va., 5; Swaney, Jacob H., Pa., 5; Baxter, G. S., W. Va., 2; Van Boskirk, D. R., Kans., 2; Smith, N. H., Wis., 2; Brown, T. O., Mo., 5; Lowrey, S. L., Pa., 2; Mann, O. S., Va., 2; Prantz, D. J., Pa., 5; Garrett, T. H., Oreg., 4; Hedges, J. W., Mo., 5; Hamlett, Wm. H., W. Va., 2; Sever, W. L., N. Mex., 2; Porter, J. C., Tex., 3; Cummins, Mrs. David B., Cal., 2; Gainor, Jas. A., N. Y., 3; Stafford, F. A., Ia., 4; Safford, E. W., Pa., 6; Olson, M., Mich., 7; Herpenheide, J. C., Pa., 3; Sutherland, Thos. B., Neb., 5; Joslin, Geo. O., N. H., 5; Senior, J. G., Mo., 6; Lambert, G. H., Ill., 2; Schlemmer, A., Minn., 5; Mounce, A. V., Ida., 2; Jarvis, T. J., Kans., 5; Miles, B. F., Ark., 2; Bickley, Mrs. L. V., Neb., 5; Hess, Wm., Ill., 9; Swinehart, Rev. A. O., Wash., 2; Sinton, Dr. W. K., Colo., 5; Koltz, M. W., Ia., 2; Farner, S. W., Neb., 3; Wittaker, Harry, Ohio, 2; Barnard, Chas., G., N. H., 5; Kline, Allen, Ind., 6;

The chaps who made it a business in ancient times in a large city to cry out "stop thief" in order that they might pick the pockets of the citizens thereby aroused to excitement and confusion were worthy forerunners of the food speculators of America who berated everybody for not joining in a demand for war while they were getting ready the machinery for plundering the pockets of the people.

While it may prove a matter of embarrassment, we trust that no one will ascribe improper motives behind the inquiry as to whether the silence of Colonel Harvey is because he is busy thinking up some harsh things to say of William Hohenzollern or whether he is earnestly trying to discover what happened last fall to that old reliable presidential predicting machine of his.

While on the subject of significant things, it may be pertinent to inquire when the metropolitan newspapers, having successfully engineered the nation through the task of conscripting men to fight the nation's battles, will begin backing the equally necessary and absolutely fair proposition of conscripting wealth to pay the men for fighting in its defense?