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THE FURROWS OF FREEDOM

BY

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President of the National War Garden Commission

WASHINGTON, D. C.



Berryman, in Washington Star.

*Victory Gardeners Enforcing
Their Demands*

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IN THE FURROWS OF FREEDOM

By Charles Lathrop Pack, President

NATIONAL WAR GARDEN COMMISSION

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A NATION is as strong as its homes. The purpose of the various community efforts, which today are occupying the thought of many leaders in civic betterment work, is to knit together and make more secure the home ties.

The greatest of all community efforts is that of home food production. The garden is the cement which helps to hold in place the foundation of the home. There is scarcely a city or a town in the United States where the question of bringing the producer and the consumer closer together has not been discussed and where some sort of plan has not been devised for bringing this about. But the method which has accomplished the most and which has proved most successful is that of the home and community garden. No other instruments have been found so helpful to the individual, the unit of community life.

“We Americans ought to be a nation of gardeners,” says W. E. Babb, a Chicago newspaper man and apartment-house “cliff-dweller,” who cultivated a garden last year for the first time in his life, and found it not only

profitable from an economic point of view, but interesting and educational as well. “Nature intended that we should be a nation of gardeners,” he adds, “and this applies to the man in the city as well as to the rural districts.

A CLIFF-DWELLER'S EXPERIENCE

He tells how, after clearing all the “weeds, tin cans and brickbats from the vacant lot which I ‘borrowed,’ and digging up a carload of junk,” he succeeded in raising “enough to supply a score of people with vegetables all summer, while in addition my wife canned a lot for winter use.” Thus did he show himself both producer and conservationist.

“And there was something more,” he declares. “I learned that vegetables are interesting things to live with. I tried raising chickens once and got a lot of real pleasure out of it, but it didn’t compare with the joy and knowledge I got out of my war garden.” He was awarded first prize by the State Council of Defense for his war garden.

Many thousands of other people have learned that war gardening is not only valuable but

interesting. City officials and business men have learned that it is a movement worth cultivating permanently. That is why, in **MAKING** addition to their knowl- **IT PER-** edge of the present **MANENT** world need for food, they are backing the Victory Garden campaign this year. The community with the largest number of gardens in proportion to its population, other things being equal, is the most prosperous and the best community. One has only to look at value figures of what some of the cities raised last year, running into many thousands and in numerous cases into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, to realize what this movement means.

Closely connected with this home food production effort is the big "own-a-home" campaign which is being conducted this year throughout the nation. This is being stimulated by the United States Department of Labor, the National Federation of Construction Industries, real estate boards and chambers of commerce and **v a r i o u s** other organizations which have at heart the lasting betterment of the people. The Council of National Defense is now utilizing the vast machinery which it built up to help organize the nation for the pressing business of war, and turning it into the **ch a n n e l s** of peace and working out community welfare schemes. This includes the planting of gardens. All these forces

realize the binding strength of the home. Love of home reflects love of country and inspires the spirit that produces real patriotism. Lincoln said: "Let not him who is homeless pull down the house of another, but let him labor diligently to build one for himself."

America, the land of homes; America, the land of gardens! That is a "consummation devoutly to be wished," a goal worth striving for. The nearer we come to that aim, the richer in things spiritual as well as physical will be the nation.

Large industrial concerns which have encouraged and assisted their employes to plant gardens and to raise part of their **VALUE OF** own food testify to **SHOP** the value of the work **GARDENS** as a stabilizer of labor and as making more contented and better workmen and citizens. The National War Garden Commission has received numerous reports which bear out this statement. Here, for instance, is what is said by the Norton Company, of Worcester, Massachusetts, whose employes last year cultivated 100 acres of company land, on which they raised between \$40,000 and \$50,000 worth of food, in addition to that which more than 2,000 workers grew in their home gardens:

"The Norton Community Shop gardening activities are no longer an experiment. On the contrary, they are an unqualified

success, and the Norton Agricultural Society is looked upon by the company and its employés as a permanent institution. Many who have never handled the spading fork and the hoe are becoming enthusiastic amateur gardeners. Far from turning a good workman into a poor farmer, one of the most important results of the Norton garden activities has been the making of good workmen into better workmen. The procession of men who at the end of a summer afternoon in the shop tramp over the hill to enjoy an hour of vigorous exercise out of doors is matched the following morning by the returning ranks of clear-eyed, vigorous men, ready to engage with equal enthusiasm in the regular vocational work which they have chosen. The harvest time, which brings to the man the tangible evidence of what intelligent effort, persistence and industry will produce in the garden, gives him a clear realization that the exercise of the same qualities in the shop is as certain to bring its reward. Better still, as the officers of the company and its men busy themselves in their gardens side by side, there arises the spirit of comradeship among all who embark together on some great adventure."

This idea is spreading around the world and other nations are coming to the United States to learn of the benefits which have

come to this country as a result of the community and shop garden movement. The inhabitants of the Philippines have entered into **SPREADING OVER THE WORLD** this work with an enthusiastic determination to improve their own condition at the same time that they are performing a broad humanitarian service.

A report to the National War Garden Commission from the Secretary of Agriculture of the Philippines tells something of the way in which they are planting gardens there. This work has been well organized and is being stimulated through district and municipal campaigns, so that everybody is reached and encouraged to help in the food-production effort. Demonstration gardens are being planted throughout the islands in the public squares and plazas of the different municipalities to serve as a standing call to the Filipino peoples to help in the world food war. The instance is cited of a fourth-grade school boy in one of the islands in the Philippines who has taught a big lesson in food production to the natives of the whole island. He entered the contest which was held there and was given a small piece of land to cultivate. On it he raised a variety of vegetables. He was told, however, that it would not be possible for him to grow a second crop of corn, as it never had been done and that the weather and other conditions would not per-

mit. But he did grow a second crop of corn, and it was larger than his first crop. In this way he converted the sceptics to the possibility and the value of rotation in garden crops.

The Japanese government is studying the methods which have been carried out successfully in this country by the National War Garden Commission. S. S. Honda, trade commissioner of Japan and an official in the Department of Agriculture, who was recently in the United States, took back with him to Japan all the information he could gather about home and community food production, with the purpose of organizing a similar campaign in his country. In discussing the subject he said that a survey of idle land was then being made and that his people, who knew virtually nothing about home gardening, would be urged to cultivate all the land available. Japan, of course, prides itself upon its gardens, he said; but it is because of the beautiful flowers and landscape effects for which they are famous, not because of the vegetables which these gardens produce.

The Victory Garden campaign in the United States this year is in full swing, and in the widespread interest shown and the

AMERICA'S ACTIVITY

number of gardens planted bids fair to surpass the wonderful work done in 1918. Hundreds of organizations which were active in the movement last year are

again in the field, while new ones are taking up the slogan of "Food F. O. B. the Kitchen Door" and urging everybody to get into the furrows of freedom to drive back the new enemy, General Hunger. Manufacturing concerns have prepared to assist their employes again this year by providing land for them to cultivate. There is increased interest among railroad employes in the work. State and city officials and garden committees are busy. Banks and libraries will assist again by the distribution to their patrons of thousands of garden books furnished them by the Commission. The newspapers of the country again are backing the movement and lending it their hearty support. Big campaigns are on in many cities, and motion pictures are being used to show what the "city farmers" can do. As an illustration of what they are doing in some of the cities, here is what C. E. Smith, garden director of the Detroit department of parks and boulevards, says in a letter to the Commission:

"The work for the present year is well on its way and we are anticipating a much bigger and better work than the year previous. With a large number of gardeners already enrolled with us and the present amount of available land for garden purposes more than double that of last year, we feel assured that the victory gardening for this year

will be well worth the most strenuous efforts." In Detroit they are using the Commission's posters on the street cars, particularly to call the attention of the factory workers to the need of home food production.

Advertising clubs are assisting and here is the text of a resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the Advertising Club of Washington:

KNOWING THAT the production of food is the paramount problem before the world today, and

KNOWING THAT the President of the United States has called upon us to help feed the people in the stricken areas of Europe, and

KNOWING THAT everything possible must be done to produce food as close to the place of consumption as possible, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Advertising Club of Washington that its members cooperate with the National War Garden Commission in its campaign for Victory Gardens by using window displays and garden copy wherever possible in order to carry the message of Food F.O.B. the Kitchen Door to the people, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Associated Advertising Clubs of the world to cooperate, and that this resolution be sent to them.

The opening of the home garden drive this year and every

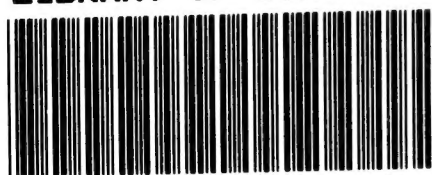
succeeding year should be celebrated by a national holiday. It

NATIONAL HOLIDAY FOR GARDENERS is a new independence day for the nation; and the

home soldiers of the soil should have some way of expressing the freedom which they have found in the garden. Of course, there is no fixed first planting day throughout the United States or even throughout a restricted territory; but some day might be fixed which would answer the purpose of calling attention in a nationwide way to this great institution—the home and community garden. Pageants and parades can be arranged in the various cities.

On the last Sunday in March the daylight-saving law goes into effect again, just in time to give the victory gardener the advantage of the extra hour of daylight every afternoon, which meant so much to him last year and which meant the addition of millions of dollars to the nation's garden products.

Are you going to have a part in the harvest of victory? Will you help to conquer the new enemy, Hunger, which is killing thousands of people in lands across the seas? If you have not yet planted a Victory Garden, plan to do it today.



After J. N. Darling, in New York Tribune.

NATIONAL WAR GARDEN COMMISSION

A Patriotic Organization Affiliated with the Conservation
Department of the American Forestry Association
WASHINGTON, D. C.

CHARLES LATHROP PACK, *President.*

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