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VICTORY GARDENS FEED THE HUNGRY

The Needs of Peace Demand the Increased Production of Food
in America's Victory Gardens

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PREVENTION of wide spread starvation is the peace-time obligation of the United States. To say that peace hath its food problems no less than war faintly expresses the condition with which this country and Europe are now compelled to reckon. Grave as it was during four years of war, the food situation is now more serious still. The advent of peace not only brought nothing to help give relief but actually increased the dread danger of starvation for Europe's millions. Instead of being improved the world-food problem is now worse than at any time during the great conflict.

Chief among the nations which must look to America for food are

France and Belgium. It is true that we had to victual those countries during the war, but they were a France and Belgium greatly reduced in area because of German invasion. Much of their territory and millions of their people were held by the enemy, shut off from their own countries and therefore compelled to depend in part on the invaders for subsistence. Today these people are repatriated. Their restoration to citizenship has brought the obligation to feed them.

While the direct burden falls on France and Belgium, these countries

must look to America for ways and means. By all the ties of international friendship, by a sense of gratitude for the part these countries played in winning the war, by geographical location and by inherent capacity to provide food, America is the one country able to meet the call.

France and Belgium provide but a part of our responsibility. The food situation throughout

Europe is highly complicated. The territory capable of

being self-sustaining for the next few months is extremely small. Aside from Hungary, Denmark and South Russia, no nation in Europe can pass through the immediate future without imports on a large scale. At the close of the war we were already feeding France, Belgium, England and Italy, with their aggregate of 125,000,000 people. This must continue. We must also provide for the smaller allied nations which have been under German oppression — Serbia, Rumania, Greece, the Czechs, the Jugoslavs and others. In these groups and in repatriated Belgium and France we have an aggregate of 75,000,000 people for whom we are largely responsible. In the neutral states of Europe 40,000,000 people must be kept from hunger and in North Russia 50,000,000 more. The

*Millions
are Hungry*

Post-War Needs

northern part of Russia is in serious straits. The break-down of transportation facilities, combined with the reign of anarchy, makes this one of the most grievous problems of Europe. That these needs must be met is dictated by the American conscience. That they will be met is assured by the American spirit.

The food supply for all Europe must, to a large extent come from America for a considerable period. Increased food production during the first year of peace is impossible for Europe itself. Readjustment and some measure of reconstruction must take place before there can be any important contribution to the world's food

We Must Feed Europe



VICTORY GARDENS MUST HELP FEED
THE WORLD

supply on the part of the countries exhausted by four years of warfare.

America cannot forget the horrors of war as practiced by the Germans. We cannot forget the robbery of food from the helpless, the wholesale and piratical destruction of millions of tons at sea nor the wretched plight of

the millions of people who have suffered under German domination during the last few years.

America must meet the situation with the same spirit of determined support given the prosecution of the war. As the man best posted on the food problems of Europe, Food Administrator Hoover has made this significant statement of fact:

Must Prevent Anarchy

Our object in the overthrow of all autocracies in Europe and the establishment of government by the people is but part of our great burden, for beyond this, when these immediate objects are attained, we still have before us the greatest problem that our Government has ever faced if we are to prevent Europe's immolation in a conflagration of anarchy such as Russia is plunged in today.

To realize the needs of Europe it is not necessary to consider the immediate requirements of the enemy nations. With peace comes the letting down of war-made barriers which have for several years prevented shipments of food supplies to Rumania, Serbia, European Russia, Poland, Armenia and others who now lack adequate provisions. Some of these countries are near starvation. As food was vital to the winning of the war it is now vital to reconstruction. The starvation which prevailed during the conflict was secondary to the waging of battle. Today the world realizes that no real and lasting peace can be made until the food problem is solved. There will have to be a vast machinery of distribution to penetrate throughout Europe and this machinery must be backed up by increased organization for production and conservation. The need for the elimination of waste was never so great as today. This waste applies as much to the resources of the soil as to food stores themselves. The

stigma attached to idle land is greater now than it was in 1918. The untilled acre, the uncultivated vacant lot, the unemployed backyard was never so truly "Slacker Land" as at the present time.

This means that the War Garden of 1918 must become the Victory Garden of 1919. In

**War Gardens
Become
Victory
Gardens**

more literal sense than ever before, America is the "granary of the nations." No one of

our allies was self-supporting before the war, and each became less able to produce food as the war went on. Thousands of acres of the best farm lands in France and Italy, and practically all of Belgium, are war-devastated and unfit for cultivation. In addition, the areas which have not been touched by war have become steadily poorer through unskilled handling and the shortage of fertilizers. America alone can produce more food than it did before. Therefore the task of keeping Europe in bread is peculiarly our own.



UNCLE SAM HAS PUT OUT THE FIRE.
NOW CLINCH THE VICTORY

Our harvest season has come and gone and whatever food is exported must come from our surplus and from our savings, very largely the latter. Certain foods such as meats, fats and dairy products, it is true, are produced throughout the year, but even these depend largely on feeds and fodder, supplies of which are limited and cannot be replenished until another harvest.

The original pledge made by the United States was 17,500,000 tons of food to be shipped overseas by July 1, 1919. This amount of food is 50 per cent. greater than the year before. With Belgium and France liberated and millions in south central Europe clamoring for food, the United States is now undertaking to increase its exports from 17,500,000 to 20,000,000 tons. The Mediterranean route is now sufficiently safe for bringing wheat from India and Australia, hence our exports will consist largely of fats, meats and feed. Feed is essential for milk production of which the stricken nations are in dire need.

We can export, together with other surplus countries, an apparent sufficiency of the coarse

Increased Exports grains for feeding purposes, such as oats, barley and corn. On the

other hand there is a world shortage of high protein feeds, such as the wheat feeds and the seed and bean meals, upon which the dairy production of the world, particularly of Europe, so considerably depends.

This world fat shortage is due primarily to the fact that Europe has been steadily under-feeding its dairy herd and has made steady inroads

into its herd of hogs during the war and to the fact that there has been a great degeneration in the production of vegetable oils in certain regions, owing to the inability to secure shipping.

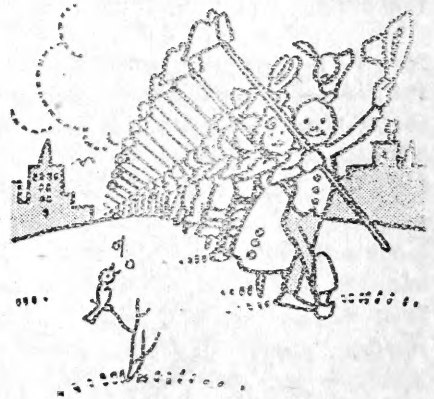
Of our export possibilities in fats, the largest item is pork products.

Production Must Grow

Here again we have a right to congratulate ourselves as to the policies pursued in the administration of food supplies in the United States by the Department of Agriculture and the Food Administration. If you consider that we have reasonable promise of ability, through increased production and conservation, to export seven times as much products as our pre-war contribution in fats in this new war against famine, we are justified today in our every act in the stimulation of production of this commodity. While we cannot supply the world's full deficiency we have ameliorated it enormously.

To send twenty million tons of food to Europe is a big order but it will be filled; there is no doubt of that. When the amount was fixed it was the result of careful study of the minimum needs of America's Allies and the neutrals who are dependent, necessarily, on this country for a large part of their food supply. Twenty million tons is not all they need but it is the least amount that will meet their requirements. It was figured out that the American people, without any undue restrictions, without denying themselves to the point of privation, could easily furnish this quantity. It would be well to make it greater if possible, for it would prevent that much more

hunger, suffering and starvation in Europe and Asia. It will be impossible to prevent a certain amount of starvation. This pitiful toll cannot be prevented. Before sufficient quantities of food can be supplied to them from the present diminished granaries of the world, thousands of wretched people who have been near the point of starvation for the past three or four years, will actually have died for lack of food.



LET EVERYBODY WORK TO MAKE VICTORY
GARDENS GROW

To meet the demands for food America has two sources of supply. Food can be raised only on the farms, by those who make a business of production, and on the lands of our cities, towns and villages. No other sources exist. The 40,000,000 acres of farm land under cultivation have already probably reached their maximum of possible production for the immediate present. It is obvious, therefore, that if we are to give the world more food the new supply which will make this possible must come from the only source—the small gardens in our urban and suburban communities.

The task of America is to reduce the world's suffering and death to a minimum. Conservation of food will help. But the big problem is to produce. There can be no conservation when there is no production. The war gardeners of the United States have made a wonderful record during the past two years. They can always look back proudly to what they did in the way of increasing the nation's food supplies.

Now they are called on for an even greater task. This phrase "an even greater task" is used advisedly. There are several reasons why it is true, why the Victory Gardeners of 1919, as the home food producers will be known, have their biggest year ahead. War gardening has been an evolution, a development. The War Garden was the chrysalis. The Victory Garden is the butterfly.



ALL FOR ONE—ONE FOR ALL
WORK TOGETHER TO PRODUCE FOOD

Of the 20,000,000 families in America probably half live in cities, towns and villages where the majority can have victory gardens. This may be carried even further, with the statement that practically every one of

these households may have a garden if full use is made of the vacant land in the various communities. With the home gardens producing to their maximum capacity and with this idle land converted into productive area, by the cultivation of individual and community gardens thereon, America has a potential capacity for food raising which must be made to show tremendous worth in 1919.

The area of these vacant lots in almost every city and town is amazing. Two years of successful campaign for war gardens, by the *Slacker Land Drafted* National War Garden Commission, have disclosed that this available land possesses vast possibilities for food production if properly mobilized. There is probably no community in the United States which did not have at least 50 acres of unused slacker land within its borders before the war garden began to thrive. Many communities had much more than 50 acres and of this idle land it was recognized that a large proportion would produce vegetables in generous yield. When the available land in a single community is taken into consideration and the average multiplied by the thousands of communities in the United States the aggregate is impressive as to the nation's further capacity for food production.

The year 1918 brought increasingly large response to the urgent demand that this slacker land be put to work. Backyard gardens and land previously untilled yielded a food supply estimated by the National War Garden Commission, after careful survey,

as having a market value of \$520,000,000. This yield was produced on 5,285,000 war gardens. By enabling American households to feed themselves this newly created source of supply was a real factor in making it possible for other food to be released for shipment to the American troops in Europe and to the people of the Allied nations.

In spite of the fact that there was such marvelous response by the home food growers of the United States last year and that they rounded up the "slacker land" in fine shape, letting very little of it escape, it is believed that there can be even greater results. This applies both to numbers and to average production. With the training and the experience they have gained during the past two years it is certain that a majority of the "city farmers" will be able to raise more beans and tomatoes and cabbage than they have heretofore. And as to the number of gardens, that figure, too, should be increased. All that is necessary is for the people of any particu-

lar locality to say, "We had 5,000 gardens last year; we'll make it 8,000 or 10,000 in 1919." Every community will doubtless find a certain number of lots which were not cultivated last year. There were some back yards and a few plots which escaped the general round-up. The thing to do is to get them all into the Victory Garden "draft" of 1919. If every city, town and village will make up its mind to work a little harder in 1919 than in 1918, the thing will be done; and after it is over, the ease with which it was accomplished will surprise everybody. For instance, Boston set out last year with the idea that it could reach a mark of at least 15,000 war gardens. When the count was made it was found that there were more than 30,000. There were many similar experiences. That shows that any place can "surpass itself" if it determines to do so.

It is obvious that 1919 must see not merely continuation but extension of the abolition of slacker land. Food supply F. O. B. the kitchen door means more today than it has at any time in the past. To save transportation strain is as important in its way as to increase the nation's food supply. All available transportation facilities within the country will be required to handle the traffic created by the return of peace. Merchandise needs in all lines have accumulated during the period of wartime concentration on munitions and food. To restore normal conditions and to replenish depleted stores and warehouses will tax the transportation



LET YOUR WAR GARDEN OF 1918 BECOME
A VICTORY GARDEN IN 1919

system to its utmost. This renders all the more imperative the need for food production at home, where it will not add to traffic congestion.

It would be very easy to permit a let down in the days of victory. In fact there will be one. When the "shouting and tumult die," when the cannon have ceased to roar and when victory is assured, it is so easy to say: "Now we can rest; we have fought and won; there is nothing more for us to do."

There must be no slackening. Relaxation may mean ruin. Much of the good that has been brought may be lost; indeed, worse days may come, days of world-wide pestilence, anarchy and social wreck if famine is allowed to sweep unchecked through the nations. That is why it is more important than ever to keep up the good work, to make the "Victory Gardens" of this year and the next and the next even more numerous, more flourishing, more helpful to this nation and to humanity as a whole,

**We Must
Not Relax**



SAY TO YOURSELF: "I'LL GROW A BEAN
OR KNOW THE REASON WHY"

than were the War Gardens of 1917 and 1918. It can be done. I firmly believe that the American people can do greater things than they have ever done before. I am not mistaken about their character and their determination. There were 5,285,000 War Gardens in 1918. Why not make it 10,000,000 in 1919? Let us show the world that we are no "quitters" and that we do not surrender to the truth that it is harder to work for something that seems to be accomplished than while the fight is on.

The practical arguments for food production at home are various. Besides the satisfaction of having a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables, and the health-giving properties of this feature of the daily diet, it is of great importance to remember the profit to be derived in actual money value of the home crops.

Compared to an acre of land worked by the usual farming methods the possibilities of land devoted to gardening are suprisingly large. It is a good acre, indeed, that will

**The Profit
is Very
Large**

yield forty dollars worth of wheat, even when wheat sells at two dollars a bushel. Yet \$600 is a small yield for land of equal fertility intensively cultivated and enriched. An acre of suitable vacant community land, divided into plots, and well cultivated, will easily produce this much. In the District of Columbia in 1918 official figures showed an average yield of \$700 to the acre in nearly 2000 acres occupied by 29,200 war gardens. One of America's great tasks, therefore, is to further organize the slacker land

of the nation and mobilize it into an active food producer.

No other single business born of the war has affected a greater number of people than has gardening. Starting from a mere nothing before the United States entered the war, this form of service grew in less than two years into a new occupation, which counted its followers by the millions and, in the number of people employed, exceeded any other branch of gainful occupation, with the single exception of actual farming.

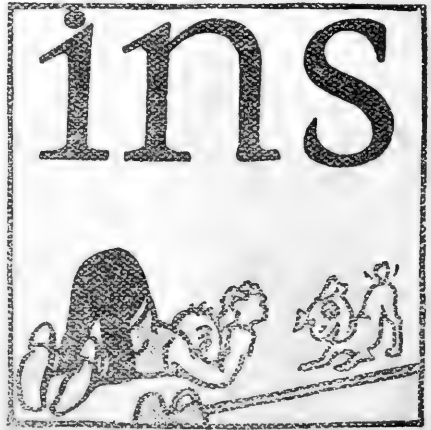
The fact that such a vast number of American citizens took up this work shows that they appreciated the merit of it, and is one of the reasons for the confident prediction that gardening has come to stay. It is something that the world will not willingly let die. Home food production will continue because it has been found worth while, and, like other things which this war has proved to be of value and benefit of mankind, it will last.

War gardening will permanently establish itself as Victory gardening because its peace-time value will fully equal its war-time worth. This will be true at all times, but more particularly so during the first five or ten years of the great reconstruction period, for during that period the matter of food production will be of the most pressing importance. It will be on a par with many of the other enormous reconstruction problems that face the world. It will require the continued application of broad thought and effort. There will be no decrease in the demand for food; in fact that de-

**Victory
Gardens
Needed**

mand will really be greater, much greater, than it was during the days of actual conflict.

Nor will this terrific demand for food be a matter of a season only. For years and years we must continue to supply unheard-of amounts of food. Indeed it would have been almost as easy to put Humpty Dumpty together again as it will be to restore the world's agriculture. The soil of thousands of acres has literally been blown away by high explosives. Practically all the lands in the embattled nations have decreased in producing power through poor handling, neglect, and lack of fertilizers during the war. Of the host of farmers that toiled to feed Europe before the war, millions now lie beneath the soil they tilled, and other millions, maimed and crippled, can never again turn a furrow or harness a horse. Assuredly, agricultural production is not, like Aladdin's palace, the growth of a night. Years must elapse before Europe's production is restored to normal.



PAY HOMAGE TO INSURANCE AND INSURE YOUR OWN FOOD SUPPLY

Particularly must the American gardener keep up his work because the return of our soldiers to civil life will not mean any great increase in the amount of farm labor available on American farms. The tendency away from the farms will not have been changed by military life, and it is not to be expected that there will be any great flocking back to the soil. It will not be possible therefore, to look

**Farm
Labor
Scarce**



NBODY IS TOO, FAT, TOO LEAN, TOO SHORT, TOO TALL, TO BE A VICTORY GARDENER

for any large increase in the quantity of the food produced on the farms.

On the other hand, broad plans are being made in the United States by the Department of the Interior to provide land which can be reclaimed for settlement and use by the soldiers. This back-to-the-land movement is probably the biggest that has ever been attempted and, if it is carried out successfully, will add to the wealth of the country by putting to work much of its idle swamp, arid, and other waste land. It is figured that there are considerably more than 230,000,000 acres of unappropriated land which could be

made to yield valuable crops; but years must elapse before this can become reality.

In the meantime, this other back-to-the-land movement—that of war gardening—is an accomplished fact. It was established simply and without any disturbance of existing social, political, or economic conditions. For a decade or two before the war, there was deep study and much discussion of the problem as to how to check the exodus from the farm to the city; but argument and discussion availed nothing, and the exodus continued. In the “city farmer” has been found a partial answer to the stay-on-the-farm idea. Ambitious young men and women will not remain in the country where comforts are denied and where advantages of education and social life are few; but they will be glad to farm in the city and the war garden has opened the way. By this means almost everyone becomes a food producer.

**Forward to
the Garden**

Furthermore, increasing prices will make it desirable to the individual, and the growing demand for food will make it desirable from the country's point of view, that everyone help to feed himself. The readjustment which must come out of the war will call for powers as Herculean as those it has been necessary to put forth during the terrible struggle. This reconstruction work will call for every bit of man power that can be found. It will be a question not of months but of years before this upbuilding has been completed. In France, Belgium, Poland, Italy, Russia and other European countries the rebuilding of cities and

churches, railroads and bridges, docks and roads, of houses and barns, the remaking of trench-scarred and shell-torn farms and many other big works, must be performed. So we can look for no huge immigration after the war to solve our labor problem, and that problem is acute. For, though there are no ruined cities to be rebuilt, or devastated farms to be restored in the United States, there are innumerable construction tasks to be done which have been put aside during the war.

Thousands of miles of road—to mention a single task—will have to be completely rebuilt. The heavy motor truck as a means of transportation between city and city has come to stay, and with it there must be a strengthening of roads. This is one of the great tasks awaiting the returning army of men from the battlefield. The construction of new buildings in our cities which has been checked on account of war time need of material and men must be resumed and lost time made up. Cities will need many improvements which will keep the workers of the world busy. In these and a hundred other ways there will be steady call for the men released from strictly war work. Men can hardly be spared for agriculture.

All these facts point to the increasing value of the Victory garden. It will be just as important a factor in the life of the nation and the community after the war as the War garden has been during the war. The need for gardens will last for many years; and by that time, the value of gardening will be so apparent that the movement will continue indefinitely. It will have become a fixed habit and

firmly implanted in the hearts and lives of the people of the country.

Furthermore, gardening has been found to be a health measure. It has

Gardening is Healthful

been used in the rehabilitation of convalescent soldiers. Around the hospitals in Europe, almost since the beginning of the war, vegetable plots have furnished the means for providing easy and pleasant outdoor work for convalescents, which acted as a tonic to their shattered nerves and bodies. At the hospitals and army camps in the United States this form of activity was employed to help in the rebuilding of disabled and convalescing soldiers.

In the great reconstruction work at the Walter Reed hospital, which lies in the outskirts of the Nation's capital, a fifteen acre war garden proved of much therapeutic value in the treatment of men suffering from various diseases. In addition to helping them to regain their health and strength, gardening is training these men for the future and equipping them to make their own living and become



"YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE. WHAT YOU NEED IS TO WORK IN THE GARDEN"

valuable citizens of any community after they are out of active service. Part of the large war garden at Camp Dix, N. J., adjoins the base hospital; and potatoes and other vegetables were growing during the season of 1918 up to the very porches on which some of the invalids sat in their wheel chairs.

Sailors as well as soldiers need fresh vegetables in their diet but they cannot grow vegetables at sea. To overcome this handicap a movement was started throughout the United Kingdom to give naval men a supply of fresh vegetables whenever they get to port. Navy vegetable rations formerly consisted of potatoes only and a few dried or canned products which can be kept a long time and stored in small space.

Feeding The Navy

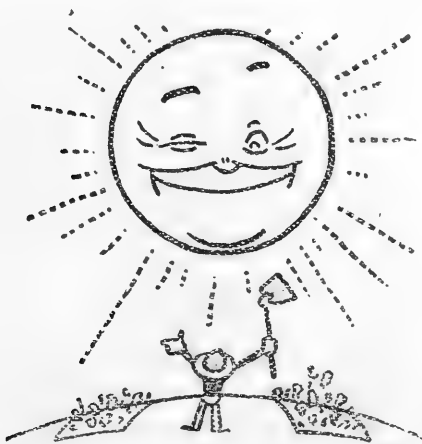
This British organization soon had eight hundred branches and collecting depots throughout the United Kingdom. Headquarters were established in London, with Admiral Lord Beresford as president. The patrons included many prominent people, but its

members range from the owners of large estates, who contribute regular supplies weekly, to the small school-boy with only a ten-foot plot to cultivate. Long after the work got under way, 300,000 pounds of fresh vegetables and fruits were being furnished weekly to the British navy. In speaking of this work and its value, Rear Admiral Lionel Halsey, third lord of the Admiralty, said:

"Those associated with the Vegetable Products Committee can happily feel that this work is of priceless value, for without a vegetable food the men of the fleet could not have so thoroughly performed their work in the past; nor will they be able to do so in the future, without a continuance of the splendid work as efficiently and as generously as in the past. Its value may be realized when it is stated that these supplies are an invaluable factor in keeping the men in good health and fitness."

What is true in the case of the stalwart men of the British navy, is true of all other members of society, of high and low degree. There is need for vegetable food. The body is kept in better condition if it does not depend too largely on a meat diet. Victory gardening will add greatly to the proportion of greens which will enter into the diet of the American people.

The future of Victory gardening, therefore, is assured. It is such an important economic gain, and its benefits in other ways are so numerous, that the army of home food producers themselves will be its own strongest and most ardent champions. Both by



MAKE THE MOST OF THE SUNSHINE AS
A GARDEN HELPER

Future Gardens Assured

practice and by precept they will continue to spread the gospel of food F. O. B. the kitchen door. Just as the army which has fought for justice, decency, and our civilization will see to it that these principles are maintained in every part of the world, so the soldiers of the soil in the city, town and village, millions of whom have tested the worth of war gardening, will be its future champions and defenders.

In planting our Victory Gardens we must be duly mindful of the national and international needs rather than having regard merely to our individual requirements. In our gardens we must try to produce substitutes for things which must be shipped abroad, such as wheat, meat, sugar and fats.

As substitutes for meat, peas and beans have especial worth. So great is the food value of beans that they have occupied prominent place in the dietary of the Allied armies. Potatoes are the big savers of cereals. Their use makes it possible to get along with less bread. Six ounces of potatoes enable the saving of one and one-half ounces of flour. The potato, therefore, occupies a position of great importance in the suitable cultivation of slacker land Victory Gardens. The town gardener will do well this year to try to raise a part or all of his own potatoes.

Sweet potatoes and fruits are the great sugar savers, and for this reason it is of especial importance that we raise all the sweet potatoes that can be grown in our gardens and that we make the best use of all our fruit.

When the war garden first began to take its place in the realm of food

production there was a tendency to look slightly upon this source of food supply. It was thought that what the city and town farmer could produce would be but a drop in the bucket. The critics, however, had not counted on the immense number in which the new army of the soil would mobilize. They had not figured on the vast unused acreage that would be put to work in the cities and towns.

In this day of big things the small things are not to be ignored. This has been splendidly exemplified in the contribution to the world's food supply by the home and community gardens of America. The financiers of the world now speak in billions where they formerly spoke in millions, while millions mean little more than thousands did a few years ago. The United States Government appropriated money by hundreds of

Small Things Count



OUT-HOE THE HOE TO MAKE THINGS GROW

millions for war purposes without a moment of hesitation, but it must not be forgotten that much of this was made possible by the innumerable little war-savings stamps, by pennies

collected at moving picture theatres and by other sources of income small in their individual items but massing large in their totals.

In our gardens in backyards and on vacant lots it is not by the amount that any one of them may produce but by the sum total of the millions of small gardens that we reach the stupendous aggregate of food production which made 1918 memorable. The home food production idea spread like a vast wave over the entire nation. That it was a mighty factor in the proper feeding of the world is universally recognized. The food producers have performed a service of inestimable value in holding off the war-time monster Famine and in removing his clutches from the throats of our European Allies. The American soldiers of the soil responded valiantly to the emergency call sent out by their country.

How They Answered

Answering the call to "Keep the Home Soil Turning," they got out their rakes and their hoes, put on old shoes and clothing and went forth into the back yards and vacant lot to "Sow the Seeds of Victory." They dug and raked and planted in deadly earnest, with determination to deal effective blows against the enemy with the "Machine Guns of the Garden," as the garden tools were popularly called by the National War Garden Commission. The slogan of this Commission played an important part in emphasizing the need for home food production. In addition to those just quoted there were many others which led to the enlistment of additional thousands in the ranks of the war garden army. "The Battle Cry

of Feed 'Em" was supported by "Food Must Follow the Flag," and these were given impetus by "Let There Be No Slacker Land" and "Hoe and Rakes versus Hohenzollerns."

Perhaps one of the most effective of the battle cries of the home garden army was "Every Garden a Munition Plant." This achieved widespread currency and became a popular phrase throughout the country after its circulation on the posters and in the publications and newspaper publicity of the Commission. Today its place

Battle Cries of the Garden

has been taken by "Every Garden a Peace Plant," conveying the subtle suggestion that the need for munition plants no longer exists but that the output of nature's workshops must in no wise be diminished because of changed conditions. Urgent behest is also given that the nation should make its war gardens become gardens of victory. Two of the new slogans for the season of 1919 are "War Gardens over the Top." and "War Gardens



MEMORIAL GARDENS FOR THE FALLEN
HEROES WILL PROVE THAT THEY
DID NOT DIE IN VAIN

Victorious," the purposes of which are obvious in this time when the victory of peace is as vital as the victory of war.

To give our Victory Gardens their full meaning let us make them also memorial gardens. In this way they will become a silent and creative tribute to our soldier and sailor dead. Let us put into our garden-making this touch of sentiment to afford recognition of the sacrifice made by the gallant fighters who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. By this tribute let us give tangible support to their efforts in defense of the flag and prove that in our home trenches we are inspired by the same patriotic determination that made them face the foe with unflinching courage. Through their gallantry international Democracy was made possible. It must be through our labors of reconstruction that this condition may be made to endure. To fittingly express our gratitude to our fallen fighters we can do nothing more useful, nothing of greater worth, nothing which manifests a finer sentiment, than to cause our memorial gardens to do their share toward feeding a famished world, and thus write into the record of world Democracy the eternal truth that our fighters did not die in vain.

Plans have been made by the National War Garden Commission for a

bigger and more intensive campaign this year than was carried on last season. In order that results be obtained it is necessary to continue the preaching the lesson of food need. It is only by keeping the thought constantly before the minds of the people that they can be impressed sufficiently with the importance of the work. They must be reminded again and again, "lest they forget." In the press of other work, in the welcoming back of our soldiers—who deserve every tribute that can be paid them—and in the vast business of reconstruction now occupying so much thought, it is essential to keep the home food production idea to the fore. This is being done. Everybody is urged to co-operate.

One of the finest and most inspiring slogans which helped the American Army in the carrying through of some apparently impossible war tasks was—"It can't be done but we'll do it." Put that into effect in the home food campaign of 1919.

All the world—that is, all the world worth mentioning—loves a winner. That is why it praises and honors the men who "do thing."

Is it worth trying to reach that goal of 10,000,000 Victory Gardens? "It can't be done? Let's do it."

VICTORY GARDENING BY COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

THE best way to stimulate the planting and cultivation of Victory Gardens is through organized effort.

The tracts of vacant land in every city, town and village should be used for growing vegetables. To cultivate these and make them add their contribution to the national food supply is a duty that no community can afford to overlook. People who have no vacant land of their own should be encouraged to grow gardens for their own protection from the high cost of living and to help the general situation. Land owners should be glad to contribute the use of their property for this patriotic purpose. Community organization should bring gardener and land together.

Co-operative gardening, through community organization, has many advantages. It enables gardeners to purchase supplies in large quantities and secure the benefit of wholesale rates. It makes it possible for expert supervision to be provided. Where organized work is done it is possible to employ teams for plowing, which it not always convenient in the single small garden worked independently. One team will plow several gardens in a day, at slight cost to each gardener.

Before a community can intelligently plan a garden campaign it must know how much land it has available for cultivation, the location and character of the land, the kind and quantity of manures and fertilizers avail-

able, the skilled directors it can secure and the probable number of gardeners. To ascertain

Organizing a Community these facts an inventory of the town's gardening resources for community work should be taken. Such a survey can be made by existing agencies, or a special force can be created.

If garden production is to be stimulated to its maximum possibility, it will be necessary to survey all the lands within the community, including private yards as well as vacant lots. Thus the project will become truly a-community affair. The Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade or the Civic Club is the nucleus for such an effort, but the School Board or a church or a political club, can just as effectively conduct the work.

The first step should be to secure the co-operation of the local newspapers. The community must be made acquainted with the plan to put every foot of idle land to work. The movement may also be advertised at moving picture shows and on bulletin boards.

A public meeting should be held to enlist interest and secure general co-operation. An effort should be made to secure the attendance of the ministers, the school superintendent, the local officials, prominent civic workers, and club leaders.

A survey force should be selected, with a leader and assistants, one for

each district in the community. The survey force itself can very well consist of the senior class in the high school, or a troop of the older Boy Scouts, or a Sunday School class.

Survey Force

Finally a survey day should be chosen and well advertised. In preparation for the survey, large scale maps of the community should be procured which will show the different parcels of land. The high school drawing classes can well prepare such maps as part of their work. In larger cities district maps may be necessary.

Whether the community is large or small, it will be necessary to divide it into districts for the survey. An assistant to the leader should be made responsible for each district.

On the survey day the force of canvassers should go out in twos, one to interview the land owner while the other examines the yard or lot. In preparation for the survey, cards should be printed, which the surveyors are to fill in. On these cards should be recorded the following:

- 1—Name, address, and telephone number of land owner.
- 2—Whether land is a back yard or a vacant lot.
- 3—Location of plot.
- 4—Approximate area in square feet.
- 5—Condition of the plot.
- 6—Whether owner will cultivate it or rent or lend it.
- 7—On what terms and conditions owner will rent or lend.

The surveyors should also record, on other cards, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all who have manure available for fertilizer, the quantities available and the terms on which it can be had. Inquiry should also be made as to the amount and varieties of seed, tools and all other supplies required. The committee may buy outright and sell to the users at cost or it may make

arrangements with dealers whereby the dealers will supply the individuals at reduced rates.

When all the cards have been filled out and filed alphabetically, the survey committee will be in possession of a complete card index of all the possible garden lands in the community. Meantime, the committee can receive applications from those desiring gardens, and assign convenient plots as soon as arrangements can be made with the owners.

Thus it should be possible to provide with comparatively little difficulty for the working of every foot of available garden land.

To insure maximum production there should be co-operation in the gardening itself. In every town may



SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF FOOD NEEDS

be found retired farmers or other experienced vegetable growers, or perhaps a county agricultural agent is available. Arrangements should be made to have some such person give supervision and instructions as to selecting the crops best suited to the soil and the details of planting and cultivation. If such supervision

is not available it is desirable to raise a fund to hire a school garden supervisor or other skilled gardener to devote such time as needed to overseeing the work. In many cases agricultural college students will doubtless volunteer their services.

Under supervision thus provided the lots should be plowed, manured and made ready for seeding. Many amateur gardeners do not know how to make a seed bed properly and such supervision will prevent many disappointments. Where possible the cost of supervision should be paid out of a general fund raised by the organization in charge. If this is not feasible the gardeners should pay in proportion to the size of their plots.

The supervision should extend over the entire gardening season. Timely advice will prevent gardeners from planting vegetables in soil unsuited to them, and show the gardeners how to cultivate the different crops properly and safeguard them from drought, insects and diseases.

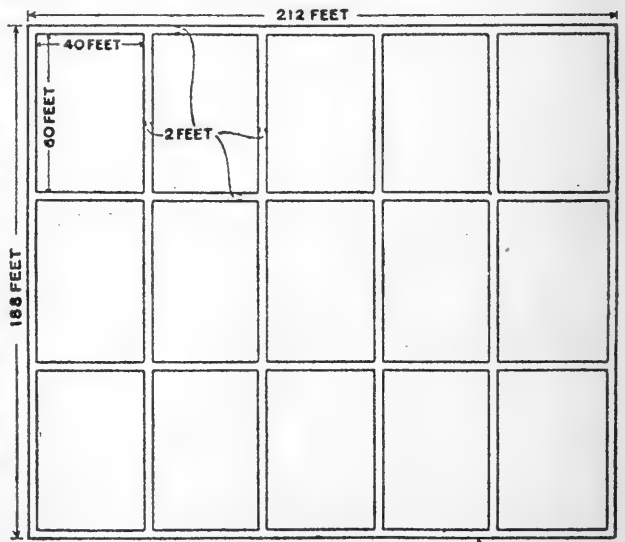
Neighbors in any section of a city, town or village may work together to excellent advantage, even if there is no central organization to direct their work. The first essential is that some person should arouse the interest of the various families and secure their co-operation. The number of families should be determined by the size of the available land. In al-

most, every neighborhood a vacant tract will be found which will serve the purpose of several households.

Neighborhood Gardens

Land owners should consider it their patriotic duty to allow idle property to be cultivated for the sake of increasing the national food supply and those who wish to cultivate gardens should not hesitate to ask the privilege. If the land cannot be secured free of charge a small rental may be paid without seriously interfering with the success of the project. In selecting land be sure that it has convenient water supply, as an abundance of water is essential to a good garden.

After enlisting the active interest of a number of gardeners, the leader should place the matter before the owner of the tract of land desired. A definite statement that the gardeners are ready to do their work will have its influence.



AN ARRANGEMENT FOR A COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD GARDEN. ALL ROWS SHOULD RUN IN ONE GENERAL DIRECTION.

A good plan is to divide the land into lots 60 feet long and 40 feet wide.

Suggested Type of Plot Each lot should be surrounded by a two-foot path, to give passage way for gardeners whose plots are away from the outer boundaries. In the diagram which appears on page 17 is illustrated a good type of arrangement for dividing the land. The plot there shown is 212 feet long and 188 feet wide. It contains 39,856 square feet, slightly less than an acre. It affords room for 15 garden plots. Each plot should be numbered. Plots may be assigned to individual gardeners by drawing numbers. When a plot has been assigned it must be remembered that for garden purposes it belongs to the person or family to whom allotted.

The group of gardeners should be organized just as any other association is organized, with its executive

head and directing committees. This organization should be effected as early as possible. The executive head should have general supervision of the work and should therefore, if possible, be some person who is familiar with gardening. Committees should arrange for purchasing seed, fertilizers and other necessary supplies. By handling this through a committee lower prices will be obtained than if the gardeners buy independently. The committee may buy outright after procuring from each gardener the funds for paying his share or an agreement to pay for it on delivery; or it may arrange with dealers to supply each member at reduced cost. The co-operative spirit in the purchase of tools and in using them will save money. The same sprayers and garden hose may be used by all.

SUMMARY OF ORGANIZED GARDENING.

Summed up some of the important steps in Community or Neighborhood gardening are these:

1. Enlist gardeners.

In community work this may be done through the central body having charge of the community work, with the co-operation of the newspapers and other publicity. In neighborhood work it should be done through personal effort.

One or more meetings should be held at a central place, to stimulate and maintain interest and to instruct the gardeners, through lectures, on the details of their work. In the public library all literature on gardening should be withdrawn from circulation and set aside for the use of the gardeners.

2. Procure land.

Learn what land is available and secure permission for its use.

3. Arrange for supplies of manure, commercial fertilizers, seed and implements.

A committee should get prices in large lots and buy for all or should arrange with dealers to supply to individual members at reduced price.

4. Prepare for planting.

Remove stones and burn rubbish. Spread manure over ground to be plowed.

5. Plow land, harrow and prepare for seeding.

Secure farmers or skilled plowmen and teams. Plowing will make a better seed-bed than can be made by hand and will save much labor with spade and rake. The cost should be paid proportionately by each gardener or from a general fund, if available.

6. Lay off land into gardens.

The city, town or village engineer may be willing to do this without charge.

7. Assign individual garden plots to gardeners.

On the day on which gardeners are present to receive assignments have fertilizers on hand, if bought by committee, and distribute them to the gardeners, collecting from each the cost of his share.

If the individuals buy their own they should have the supply on hand at this time. (For the use of fertilizers and manures consult this Commission's book "War Gardening.")

8. Plant seed.

Planting days should be arranged. Saturday afternoon is a good time for this. Have everybody on hand and have the planting done under instructions from experienced gardeners. The instructors should guide inexperienced gardeners in the selection of crops and as to the proper time for planting.

9. Cultivate.

Frequent cultivation is important to keep soil loose and free from weeds.

10. Take care to prevent theft and vandalism.

In community work the Boy Scouts have been found extremely useful in

protecting crops from persons who would take or destroy vegetables.

11. Harvest.

12. Clean up for next year.

Important and should not be neglected.

13. Secure reports as to cost and yield of each garden.

Each gardener should keep a record of his expenditures, the hours of work put in and the value of crops raised, figured at market prices.

For full instructions in Gardening consult this Commission's Book "War Gardening," which may be had on application.

VICTORY GARDENING BY CORPORATIONS

THE post-war need for enlarged garden production offers to the corporations of America an opportunity, through the encouragement of gardening among their employes, not only to be of help to the nation, but also to benefit themselves. The employe who can be induced to become a gardener becomes straightway a more worthwhile employe.

The contented worker is usually one who enjoys a comfortable living; and gardening, by virtually adding to the employe's income and providing him with better food than he can buy in the market, tends to make him contented. Money that would otherwise have to be spent for food can be used for the purchase of small luxuries. Of no less value is the recreational feature of gardening. The toiler in a noisy mill, or the worker in a smoky forge or foundry can find no avocation that will build him up physically and refresh his energies as gardening will. Duty to both the nation and his own corporation demands that every corporation manager should do his

utmost to stimulate gardening among his employes.

The Pennsylvania Railroad, for example, began its garden campaign as soon as America became a belligerent. Along its right of way lie great tracts of land suitable for vegetable production. These tracts were offered to employes in small plots at a purely nominal rental. Among those who embraced the opportunity thus offered were many men who had little or no knowledge of gardening. The railroad took a census of its prospective gardeners and secured several thousand of the the National War Garden Commission's manual on gardening, placing one in the hands of each gardener. So successful was the work that in 1918 the movement was widely extended and for 1919 it will be on a still greater scale.

Among those who will take an active part in stirring up Victory Gardening in 1919 are the agricultural agents of the United States Railroad Administration. J. L. Edwards, who is in general charge of this branch of the

service, has called on the regional directors and the supervisors of agriculture of the different lines, to give this work their careful attention; and as a result, the agents have notified the Commission of their desire and readiness to help in the work. Typical of replies received by the Commission is that from B. F. Bush, regional director, Southwestern Region, who says,

**Government
Railroad
Co-operation**



UNITED WE GROW AND FEED THE WORLD

"I wish to state that the railroads in the Southwestern Region will again do everything they possibly can in permitting their right-of-way and other station grounds to be used for farming and agricultural purposes;" and from N. D. Maher, regional director, Pochontas Region, who says: "We will have our agricultural agents co-operate with you in connection with spreading the message of Food F. O. B. the Kitchen Door. There is no doubt that, with all the people to be fed in Europe, the Victory Gardens are as important as the War Gardens." The railroads actively supported the War Garden

campaign; they will assist equally the Victory Garden campaign.

The worker in the steel mill or iron foundry will derive physical benefit from outdoor work. Many such workers are ignorant of the principles of gardening. Such a concern can with profit engage the services of a skilled agricultural agent or gardener to deliver a course of lectures to the men. A small library of gardening books can be provided and circulated among the prospective gardeners. Finally land can be provided and prepared for the actual gardening, for practically every large industrial corporation has great areas of land not in use.

The United States Steel Corporation has offered prizes to those of its men making the best showing as gardeners. These prizes were open to competition for employes in the various mills. The manager of the mill at Farrell, Pa., set aside a considerable tract of company land in order that his men might enter this competition, and the manager of another subsidiary mill secured vacant land easily accessible. The men were also assisted by having the land plowed and prepared for seeding.

The American Rolling Mill Company of Middletown, Ohio, promotes gardening among its employes through its "mutual interest department," and has provided the land for the gardens and held exhibits at which prizes were awarded for the best products. In similar fashion it has encouraged the wives of workers to conserve the garden excess, by offering generous prizes for the best canned products.

Probably no set of industrial workers will gain larger benefit from gardening than miners—

**Miners
as
Gardeners**

men who spend most of their working hours below the surface of the ground.

The Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company of Inspiration, Arizona, turned its workers into gardeners in the face of seemingly insurmountable difficulties. Its land was among the mountains at an elevation of 3,300 feet. The region was arid. Its employes were cosmopolitan. Few of them spoke English, while fewer still knew anything about gardening. Yet the company turned 217 acres into gardens for them, first drilling five artesian wells to supply the water necessary for the irrigation. Bulletins were printed in many languages and conspicuously posted, to inform the workers of the rules governing the gardening enterprise. A garden expert from the Arizona Agricultural Station was engaged by the company to make regular visits to the gardens to instruct the men. The double crop system was employed, so that as soon as one crop had been harvested another was started. Nothing was permitted to go to waste, and the food which could not be used at once was dried or canned or sold in the market established by the company for the sale of excess products. The company itself did the selling.

One of the well-known manufacturing corporations which have backed the garden movement of employes is the General Electric Company at Schenectady, N. Y. When its employes were questioned as to the gardening movement, 1,500 of

them expressed a desire to cultivate gardens. The company provided a sixty-acre tract of good river bottom land which it owned, and plowed and prepared it for seeding, apportioning the land in small parcels. At Meriden, Conn., the employes of Foster, Merriam & Company each had plots 50 x 100 feet in size, on which they produced 1,000 bushels of potatoes alone, not to mention quantities of other products. In this case the company secured the seeds and fertilizers in quantity and allowed the men to pay on easy terms.

Among other industrial concerns which have aided the gardening movement are the Oliver Chilled Plow Company, which has a large acreage of gardens near its plant at South Bend, Ind.; the Brown & Sharpe Company, more than 500 of whose employes are helping to feed themselves on the products of the community garden which the company leases and plows for them at Pleasant Valley, in Providence, R. I.; the New Departure Manufacturing Company, of Bristol, Conn.; the M. B. Schenck Company, of Meriden, Conn.; the Delaware & Hudson Coal Company and the N. E. Tillotson Manufacturing Company, the J. E. and C. H. Wilson Manufacturing Company, and Eaton, Crane & Company, all of Pittsfield, Mass.

Many banks, business houses, and other concerns have joined in the movement to put the "slacker" land to work. A few banks have organized bank gardens, which are to be operated by the employes and from every section of the United States banks are writing to the National War Garden Commission for its

manual on gardening with the intention of distributing this manual to their customers.

**Banks
Fight
Slacker
Land**

One obstacle to the complete success of the "plant a garden" movement has hitherto been the fact that many working men could not find the time to care for gardens. But the daylight saving law removes this obstacle. By starting work one hour earlier in the morning, the worker will now have an hour

more of leisure time in the afternoon; and this hour can be put to no better use than the production of food.

In a number of cases the managers or superintendents of corporations have become fellow workers with their employes in the company gardens. This contact with the men has been of great advantage. The sympathetic understanding so gained has helped in the solution of executive problems later on.

COMMUNITY CANNING AND DRYING

THE Community plan of work should also be applied to food conservation for winter use through canning and drying. In general the scheme of organization followed in garden work may be adapted to canning and drying operations by communities and neighborhoods. On a small scale two or more families may work together in the home of one of them, with equipment bought jointly. This reduces the cost to each household. On a larger scale a neighborhood may organize and establish a canning or drying center with equipment bought by voluntary contribution and with a committee to manage details of its use. An entire community may work to excellent advantage along this line, with one or more centers established in school houses, store rooms or other places having facilities for heat and water. For community organization the work can be best conducted through the Chamber of Commerce or other civic

organization, as in community gardening.



THE SUMMER AND FALL SHOULD BRING CANNING AND DRYING ACTIVITIES ON A LARGE SCALE

The National War Garden Commission issues bulletins explaining in detail the plans of organization. One of these bulletins deals with canning operations and the other with drying. These may be had free upon request.



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.

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