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HELPING THE NATION

Often we find that helping others is to help ourselves—transpose the sentence and it is equally true. Certain facts and conditions were strikingly brought to mind by a talk made in general assembly in the auditorium by Superintendent Hall last Sunday evening. The position of Chemawa, employees and pupils, the expectations and demands of our government, and our duties in the struggle upon which the nation is just entering, were so clearly and concisely set forth in the address that we are pleased to make it public. Following is the address as given:

A few days ago I received a telegram from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs stating that on account of the war in Europe, together with the part the United States will take in it, that there is likely to be a world-wide scarcity of food and he urges that we at Chemawa, including pupils and employees, put forth every effort in utilizing our splendid farm to plant and raise foodstuffs. The whole country is actuated with a desire to produce crops this year, not only to be sufficient for needs at home but to have a large surplus by which to feed the starving ones of Europe.

Patriotism means love of one's country; the passion which moves a person to serve his country either in defending it from invasion or in protecting its rights and maintaining its laws and institutions. All civic virtues, all the heroism and self-sacrifice of patriotism spring ultimately from the habit men acquire of regarding their nation as a great organic whole, identifying themselves with its fortunes in the past as in the present and looking forward anxiously to its future destinies.

In this war with Germany in which we are about to take a hand some millions of men of this country will be called upon to take up arms. Chemawa has already responded by sending over 20 young men to the army and navy, and no obstruction will be offered others to enlist. But we who do not go can act our full part right at the school by doing everything we can to assist in the planting and cultivating of the farm here, to the end that every acre of land is made to produce all of which it is capable. Right here is where we can show equally as much patriotism as those who take up arms.

The whole world is wrestling with the food question and legislation to control the supply and distribution is in process of enactment by Congress. It is said that the food situation presents one of the most serious problems the country will have to meet during the war. So we who stay at home have our work cut out in full measure. It will be necessary, therefore, to detail large forces of boys to assist on the farm and it will be necessary for the girls to assist in caring for the crops after being raised.

I am told that various departments of the Government have already notified employees that no leave of absence will be granted this year. Be that as it may, we expect the co-operation of everyone connected with our school to give a loyal helping hand in the policy as outlined by our President and show our patriotism by doing our full duty, whether it be on the firing line, in the shops, home-making, or on the farm or garden. It all has its place and is equally important.

Prices for food are already higher than ever known and are likely to go higher. President Wilson says our object is a mobilization of all the productive and active forces of the nation and their development to the highest point of co-operation and efficiency. So right here in this school we have our work to do, where we can devote our patriotic impulses and our best energy and capacity.

The President also says men enlist in the army or navy who come from farms who ought not to come, but should stand back of the armies in the field and see that they get everything that they need and that the people of the country are sustained in the meantime.

I desire that every department of the school be operated to secure the best results; that the full capacity of every student be extended so that an efficient whole will be the result, with a farm and garden department skillfully handled and if possible ten blades of grass be made to grow where only one has heretofore grown. We are planting every unused parcel of land and are confident that with the loyal and patriotic assistance of every-one at Chemawa we will prove not only that we have the capacity to do but the willingness and patriotism also.