

It is Time to Grow More Food

When the first bombs fell on Pearl Harbor, defense effort which was already warping our national economy became overnight a war effort which is even more ruthless of normal civilian activities. Price increases already threatening a degree of inflation are still outside of governmental control. These matters are of immediate pertinence to the administrators of Indian schools, for they are forerunners of two developments which will affect their responsibilities greatly.

First, we can look forward to additional losses from our teaching staffs, for more men will be drawn into both the armed forces and industrial war effort. It will prove increasingly difficult to replace these men with men of equal training or ability. Increasingly we must look to women to take up the guidance of the continued vocational training—both in agricultural and the skill trades—which there is every need for today than heretofore.

Second, we must continue to operate our schools in an era of rising prices, with no additional funds—may ever at a later date face some curtailment of appropriations. The expansion of agriculture, gardening and animal husbandry which have been encouraged for educational purposes over the last five years must be expanded so that increased proportions of foods to be used in our schools are produced as part of school activities.

The "typical home gardens" referred to in an earlier issue must be expanded into school gardens which will supply the major part of the day school lunch, or the boarding school table. Livestock which were handled in day or boarding schools to teach the proper care of farm animals, must be retained and increased, so that the male issue will increasingly supply meat to our tables, and the females milk. Where gardens can economically include small grains, student project chickens may be added or increased in number to supply eggs and meat.

Orchards which for years have been neglected, need to be pruned, sprayed and cultivated, to encourage their full bearing. Plantings of native and improved fruitbearing trees, shrubs and vines need to be increased. Every pound of food produced for use within the school will release that much of our dwindling cash for the purchase of supplies which we cannot produce ourselves.

Fortunately, in doing all this, we will be setting the best possible practical example to our Indian boys and girls and their parents, for we will at last approximate the self-sufficiency in food stuff which we have been discussing and advocating for several years, but only remotely achieving in practice.

Now is the time to begin planning in winter class-

rooms for spring activities. Let us not forget that some of our schools are in regions where two or more cropping seasons follow each other in rapid succession, if we are wise in planning the sequence of plantings. Discussing and planning such activities are good classroom activities—good basic reading experience, good for basic arithmetic experience, good for science experience, and should lead directly into concrete action as soon as weather permits.

—INDIAN EDUCATION

Items of Interest

Mr. Doug Olds was inducted into the army as a physical education director on Monday, January 19. He took up his assignments at Portland, Oregon. Mr. Olds has coached football and basketball at Chemawa and has taught health.

The coaching position vacated by Mr. Olds was filled by Mr. Gene Stewart from Willamette University. Mr. Stewart was an important factor in the successful football season at Willamette during the past year. He is a senior and has taken the job of coaching the basketball team and teaching science.

Mr. Wm. Allen, who has been employed as a machine shop instructor at Chemawa for a number of years, left recently to take up a national defense post.

Mr. Bowman, a very capable instructor in farm mechanics and mathematics, has taken Mr. Allen's place. Mr. Bowman, with his wife and daughter, came from Rocky Boy, Montana.

The Red Cross is organizing a First Aid class for the employees and their families to meet for two hours each week. Over twenty-five attended the first meeting of the class.

In the group taking welding there are about 34 young men. A complete course in welding consists of putting 400 hours into the course. Of the many students, both white and Indians, there have been about 100 placed in jobs for national defense.

There are 33 men from many different reservations in the radio class. Their instructor is Mr. Parkhurst. These classes are held in the lower part of the Catholic Church, and will continue for at least three months.

DEFENSE BONDS & STAMPS

ARE AVAILABLE AT THE

CHEMAWA POST OFFICE