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FOOD CONSERVATION AND FIRE WASTE

What The Preservation of Food Supplies Means to The U. S.

Anyone with average powers of observation who travels at the present time over any portion of the Pacific Coast, will note young men clad in the now familiar khaki uniform, with rifles over their shoulders, watching the approaches to every bridge and tunnel of any importance or strategical value. These troops are on duty day and night for the purpose of safeguarding the Nation's railway communications, so important in the present crisis. The same precaution will also be seen at all prominent shipbuilding and manufacturing plants which are working in the interests of the United States. All of these steps are taken to prevent any interruption in the campaign of preparedness in which the country is engaged in the meeting the stern issues of the war.

The guarding of these various premises has been brought about through the National Board of Defense, which has also under consideration the thorough extension of this system of protection to all warehouses and other depots where the food supplies of the country are kept in storage. Many of these warehouses, however, particularly in the States of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, are situated at isolated points, and as the National Board and various State Councils of Defense cannot perfect plans for the guarding of these premises, it becomes the patriotic duty of every American citizen to lend his aid and to "do his bit" towards rendering the food supplies in his neighborhood immune from danger.

Fire Waste and Food Supplies.

One of the great problems presented to the Board of National Defense in the care and preservation of the food supplies of the United States is the fact that the fire waste of this country is so greatly in excess of that of any other nation. Statistics covering a 20-year period conclusively show that the per capita fire cost in the United States is over seven times that of the nation with which we are at present engaged in war, and that to every man, woman and child in this country there is a tax of \$2.51 each year as compared with a per capita cost of only 35 cents in Germany. The statement has been made, and it remains incapable of successful contradiction, that if the same wastage by fire existed in Germany as in this country, the consequent loss and destruction of food supplies would have been so great that Germany long since would have been compelled to sue for peace.

With this fact before us, it is easy to realize that unless we change our methods and overcome our habits of carelessness this great Nation faces the serious danger of defeat through a fault which common sense and caution on the part of each individual citizen could easily prevent.

Pacific Coast Especially Favored.

Nature has been peculiarly kind to those who reside on this Coast. We have few adverse weather conditions to contend with, and all our people live under such comparatively easy and favorable surroundings as to beget habits of carelessness and indifference towards the ordinary hazards of fire. Under normal conditions these habits might be fraught with a danger easily ignored and with few results of vital significance, but in the present crisis and need for the preservation of all food supplies, these same habits of carelessness and indifference can quickly assume the importance of a National catastrophe.

That Federal and State officials are beginning to realize the magnitude of this danger is evidenced by the fact that in many of the States a special course of education is being given to the school children by fire prevention experts, who point out the dangers resulting from the careless handling of matches, the accumulation of litter and rubbish in basements, woodhouses, attics and storerooms, lack of care in the use of coal oil and gasoline, the hanging of electric cords over nails, and the numerous other habits of carelessness that almost universally prevail in every household. Even one of the school superintendents had the need of cleanliness forcibly brought to his attention by his young daughters who had listened to a lecture on fire prevention at the afternoon session of the school and who took him down into their basement and stood watch over him while he cleaned up the rubbish which he had carelessly allowed to accumulate, while a perfect wave of chimney cleaning swept over one of the cities of the State caused by a statement to the school children that their "houses were in danger of catching fire if the chimneys had not been cleaned within a year."

The Farmer's Responsibility.

Above practically all other occupations, the eyes of the Nation turn towards the farmer, the great producer of food supplies, and to the farmer and

fruit grower the necessity is urgent of using every means to protect and preserve their products. It is a serious misfortune, from the personal point of view, to see the fruits of years of labor swept away by fire, but when to this is coupled the greater and more dominant loss to the country in the destruction of food supplies, the responsibility of taking every precaution against fire becomes doubly imperative.

In the great grain growing sections of the Pacific States the menace of fire during the summer time always exists and this menace is intensified in the majority of rural districts by the absence of regular fire departments and other fire fighting organizations. The farmer, therefore, is necessarily thrown upon his own resources for the means of preservation, and upon him rests the double responsibility of first eliminating all possible fire hazards and also of having fire extinguishing apparatus ready for immediate use should a fire occur.

Precautions Against Fire.

Dry grass along the roadsides and in the pasture fields is a serious menace to a ripe crop of grain. A spark from a match or passing train or emitted from the exhaust of an automobile engine, or a lighted cigarette or cigar stub thrown carelessly aside, can easily start a fire which, with surroundings favoring its spreading, will result in incalculable loss and destroy a quantity of grain sufficient to furnish an entire community with food. Where conditions permit, furrows should be plowed between the grass and the grain. If this is not possible, the grass should be mowed close enough to afford a check to the spreading of fire.

A New Hazard.

A comparatively new danger to grain fields is white-hot carbon discharged from the exhausts of tractors when pulling up-hill or through a heavy part of the crop. Every exhaust should be protected by a fine wire screen, which should be renewed at least once a month, as the heat becomes so intense as to quickly destroy its effectiveness. When the grain has been threshed and piled in the field, it should be protected by a sufficient number of furrows to prevent its destruction from the burning of stubble.

Danger From Threshers.

The time of one of the great dangers to grain and grain fields in the Northwest is during the threshing season and is caused by careless methods in threshing and piling the threshed grain too near to the straw stacks. Every threshing machine by the very reason of its operations collects a certain amount of smut or dust, which is highly inflammable and subject to explosion, and the farmer should insist that before a threshing machine commences operations on his settings the machine be thoroughly cleaned out, flues examined and water tanks kept full. If possible, the straw stacks should be removed every night, but where this is not possible then under no circumstances should the threshed grain be piled so close to the thresher or the straw stacks that the burning of either would endanger the grain. Every threshing machine owner or operator should be required to have a good sized chemical tank with its equipment to immediately extinguish small fires.

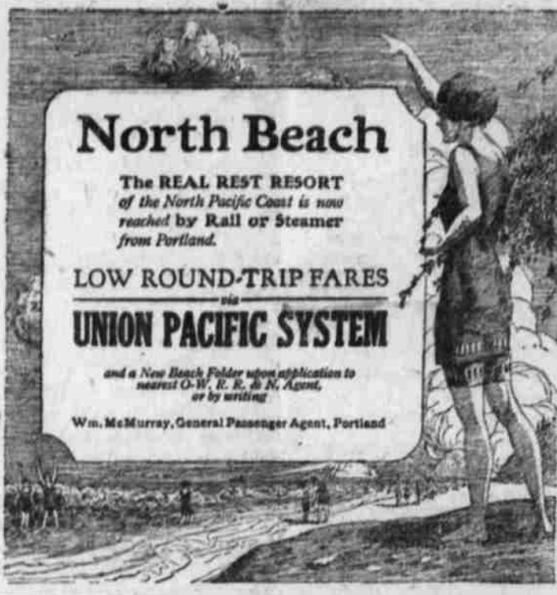
If not sufficiently cured, and whether baled or loose, hay will generate gases which are susceptible of spontaneous combustion unless the barn is sufficiently ventilated to carry off these gases. Every particle of dry grass and all litter and rubbish should be removed from barnyards and from all buildings on the farm. Under no circumstances should smoking or the use of matches be permitted around barn buildings, while candles or any other open flame should be strictly prohibited and only closed lanterns or electric pocket flashlights allowed in or around barns carrying any quantity of hay.

Fighting Fires.

The great difference between the trained fire department and the volunteer organization is the fact that an experienced fireman knows exactly what to do in answering an alarm of fire and has his apparatus and equipment in such condition as to give the best service in the shortest possible time. Even a volunteer organization, however, is better than none at all, and the farmers in every community should immediately organize and secure fire fighting apparatus for the purpose of fire protection and to extinguish any fire that may happen in their section. Every such community should select the necessary number of men to act as chiefs and to take charge of the forces fighting a fire. These chiefs could arrange for certain signals and alarms to be given to denote fire in any locality, and also where shovels, wet sacks, chemical extinguishers and other apparatus and stencils are to be obtained at the shortest notice.

Water in many cases is not available, but a chemical fire extinguisher, with which each farmer should be provided, will accomplish more in putting out a fire which has not assumed large proportions, than any other means.

Where the district will permit, an automobile or motor truck can be equipped with chemical tanks, and these will prove more effective than river



North Beach
The REAL REST RESORT
of the North Pacific Coast is now
reached by Rail or Steamer
from Portland.

LOW ROUND-TRIP FARES
via
UNION PACIFIC SYSTEM

and a New Beach Folder upon application to
nearest O. W. R. E. & N. Agent,
or by writing

Wm. McMurray, General Passenger Agent, Portland

water improperly or unskillfully applied. In several sections of the State this has already been done, and these machines, so equipped, have demonstrated great efficiency.

The Vital Hour.

This is the hour of patriotism, in which the entire strength of the Nation is needed to ward off the danger which threatens our home and country. Never in history has the grave question of the waste and loss arising from preventable fires assumed such serious importance as at the present time. Every pound of fruit, and every ounce of foodstuff saved from the ravages of fire becomes an added source of strength and support for those who are so gallantly fighting to restore the peace of the world. It is, therefore, the urgent and imperative duty of every citizen to contribute his utmost effort, both in his individual and communal capacity, towards the elimination of the fire hazard and conservation of the Nation's food supplies.

WAR INDUSTRIES BOARD IS CREATED

Washington.—Reorganization of the government's war purchasing system through creation of a war industries board to supervise buying and to decide priority of manufacture and shipment was announced by the Council of National Defense.

The new board will be the connecting link between the government and industry. It will be charged with the great responsibility for quantity production, will determine the question of creating or extending industries demanded by the war and will pass on prices to be paid by the government.

Its membership is as follows: Frank Scott, of Cleveland, O., chairman; Bernard M. Baruch, of New York, of the council's advisory commission; Hugh Frazer, of New York, representing labor; Robert S. Brookings, a St. Louis merchant; Robert S. Lovett, of the Union Pacific system; Lieutenant-Colonel Palmer E. Pierce, representing the army, and Rear-Admiral Frank E. Fletcher, representing the navy.

Three members of the board and Herbert Hoover are designated to constitute a government purchasing commission serving under the board's direction.

COURTPLASTERS INFECTED

Tetanus Germs Found by Government Experts in Chemical Analysis.

Washington.—Courtplaster, said to have been distributed by German sympathizers, has been found by chemical analysis by the department of justice to contain tetanus germs. Attorney General Gregory has warned the public to use only courtplaster from reliable sources.

The department of justice authorized the following statement relative to its investigation of sales of poisoned plaster in various sections of the United States:

"The department of justice, without sharing in any sensational view as to the manner in which sticking plasters or courtplasters became infected, states that some of the samples submitted and analyzed have been thereby shown to contain tetanus germs. The public is consequently cautioned against purchasing this remedy except from approved sources. The warning is particularly directed against purchases in small packages from street peddlers and vendors."

EUROPEAN WAR NEWS

The decision to continue the war until the aims of the allies have been attained is announced by the conference of powers held in Paris.

On the Moldavian front the Russians and Roumanians are carrying out an effective operation which has bent back the defensive line opposite Kozd-Vasarhely, Transylvania, and farther north.

French troops in the Alsine region have turned in vicious counter attacks against the army of the German crown prince, put down an offensive he had started between Hurbach and La Bodelle and made good gains against him all along the line.

In a speech in Paris Mr. Lloyd George said that Great Britain now had between 5,000,000 and 5,500,000 soldiers enrolled without counting between 400,000 and 500,000 belonging to the navy or nearly 1,000,000 men from the dominion and colonies.

The Russians have retreated a distance of approximately 100 miles from where their drive carried them early in July, the army center of the line in east Galicia is again on Russian soil on both sides of Husiatyn and is still being followed by the forces of the teutonic allies. Likewise the armies to the north and south continue to fall back before the enemy.

Kerensky's Power is Unlimited.

London.—The provisional government of Russia has virtually invested Premier Kerensky with the unlimited power which the workmen's and soldiers' and peasants' congresses recently voted to the ministry, according to a dispatch from Petrograd.

Federal Troops to Stay in Northwest.

Olympia, Wash.—Governor Lister was notified by the secretary of war that federal troops now on duty in the state would continue at their present duties until other local protective arrangements had been made.

General Otis Victim of Heart Disease.

Los Angeles, Cal.—General Harrison Gray Otis, noted newspaper publisher and soldier and editor of the Los Angeles Times, died suddenly here at the age of 80, of heart disease.

366 Killed in London Air Raids.

London.—Since the war began 366 persons have been killed and 1992 injured by air raids in the London metropolitan area.

Liberty Bread Replaces War Bread.

Washington.—It is not "war bread" any more. The food administration has applied the name "Liberty Bread" to substitutes for wheat flour.

"Exempt" Buttons Sent Local Boards.

Washington.—The little bronze buttons that will be worn by those exempted from service in the new national army were being sent out to the local boards. Every man rejected will get one.

THE MARKETS

Portland.

Wheat—Club \$2.14; bluestem \$2.20; red Russian, \$2.12; forty-fold, \$2.15. Hay—Timothy, \$26 per ton; alfalfa, \$18.

Butter—Creamery, 40c. Eggs—Ranch, 34c. Wool—Eastern Oregon, 61c; valley, 75c.

Seattle.

Wheat—Bluestem \$2.17; turkey red, \$2.17; forty-fold, \$2.14; club, \$2.14; fifty, \$2.14; red Russian, \$2.12. Barley—\$43.50 per ton. Butter—42c. Eggs—Ranch, 42c.

Bank Robbers Get \$13,000 and Escape.

Spokane.—Two masked men entered the First National bank of Medical Lake, 16 miles west of here, shortly after noon Tuesday, held up two men in the bank at the point of revolvers and later made their escape, after scooping \$13,000 in coin and currency into sacks and driving away in an automobile.

Utah Now Bone Dry.

Salt Lake City.—The bone dry prohibition law went into effect in Utah at midnight Wednesday. The new law is one of the most drastic adopted by any state in the United States.

More Troops Are Landed in France.

An European Port.—Another American contingent has safely arrived and disembarked.

Price of Love.

Prospective jurors in breach of promise suits may be interested in this "personal" from the London Express: "Mary—Wanted three hours at appointed spot until questioned by suspicious policeman. If this is the price of love, it is too heavy a one for me to pay. Farewell, Potts."

GERMANS DEFEATED ON 20-MILE FRONT

Second Line of Defenses is Reached in Many Places by Allied Troops.

London.—British troops in conjunction with the French forces on their left attacked the German positions along a wide front north of the river Lys. The entente allied forces have advanced well beyond the shell shattered front line German trenches. In many places they have reached the second line defenses on a 20-mile front of attack, according to the reports.

The official statement from British headquarters in France reported the capture by the entente allies in their drive of the following villages: La Basseville, Steenstraets, Bixchoote, Kerlorenkoek, Frezenberg, Saint Julian, Pilken, Hoogs, Westhoek and Hollebeke, and more than 3500 prisoners.

At many points on a front of 20 miles the allies took three lines of German trenches.

It is said the Germans are employing a new scheme of defense which apparently depends principally upon organization for counter attack.

They now diminish their garrisons and by the same amount increase the strength of their supports and reserves who hold rear lines in force and who are organized for immediate attack.

As an instance of the terrible pounding by the British artillery, it is said to be known that the crew of one German battery had to be replaced nine times and the guns thereof five times.

RUSSIAN ARMY IN CRITICAL POSITION

London.—A dispatch to the Post from Petrograd referring to the Russian retreat in Galicia says it is conservatively estimated that more than two million Russian troops are steadily marching rearward. These constitute the 11th and 7th armies with their reserves.

The 8th army, which is largely cavalry and not included in the foregoing figures, also is retreating, and its position, says the correspondent, is extremely critical. The Germans are straining every effort to capture it while following up the Eleventh and Seventh armies.

A dispatch to the Times from the headquarters of the Russian army says the situation is more hopeful. Panics among the retreaters are suppressed ruthlessly. Three divisions of cavalry have taken positions across the whole front of retreat.

Deserters are shot and attempts to spread panic are suppressed by prompt executions.

"LEGION OF DEATH" HEROIC

Only 50 of 200 Russian Girls Who Went to Front Return.

London.—Women are fighting women on the battle front in the east. This news comes from Petrograd in dispatches which state that when Vera Botchkoreva's "Legion of Death" entered its first action last week, it found that German women were fighting side by side with the men in the hostile trenches. A number of these Amazons were captured.

Of the original 200 Russian women in the "Command of Death" only 50 are left. The commander, Mme. Botchkoreva, and her chief aide, Maria Skrydloff, daughter of the former minister of marine, are both wounded. Twenty were killed, eight captured and the rest are wounded.

Potato Crop May Be Short.

Washington.—Warning that this year's potato crop might not reach the 452,000,000 bushels record production forecast for it because of poor seed, scanty use of fertilizer because of high prices, and possibility of diseased plants, was issued by Lou D. Sweet, the Colorado potato expert commandeered by the food administration.

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In New York 165 persons have died of heat and 550 are prostrated.

The second Liberty Loan drive will start November 15.