

FEEDING THE WORLD AGAIN THIS YEAR STILL A NATIONAL DUTY

Secretary of Agriculture Houston, in Special Article to The Times-Herald, Points Out The Necessity of Big Crops and Increase of Live Stock Products

CO-OPERATION WITH FARM BUREAUS IMPORTANT

BY D. F. HOUSTON,
United States Secretary of the Agriculture.
(Written Specially for The Times-Herald.)

During the period since we entered the war, the farmers of the nation have responded magnificently to the appeals for increased production and all the people have complied with the urgent requests for fuller conservation.

During this past fall season, our farmers planted an increased wheat acreage and a large acreage in rye. It is too early now to make detailed suggestions for the spring planting season. We do not know how the fall grains will come through the winter and we are not now able to fore cast the demands and the conditions which will prevail after the first of the year.

This department, the agricultural colleges, and other organizations will continue to give definite thought to all the problems, and, at the proper time, will lay the situation before you.

The Two Big Jobs Of The Hour.

Two things seem to be clear:

One is that, for a considerable period, the world will have need particularly of a larger supply than normal of live stock, and especially of fats. We should not fail, therefore, to adopt every feasible means of economically increasing our live stock products.

As a part of our program, we should give due thought to the securing of an adequate supply of feedstuffs and to the eradication and control of all forms of animal



D. F. Houston,
Secretary.

state departments of agriculture, and farmers' associations, but we should especially strengthen the local farm bureaus and other organizations which support so effectively the extension forces and assist them in their activities.

The perfecting of this organization is highly desirable not only during the present abnormal conditions but also for the future.

Build Now For Future Strength.

The local as well as the state and federal agencies are of supreme importance to the nation in all its activities designed to make rural life more profitable, healthful, and attractive, and, therefore to secure adequate economic production, efficient distribution, and necessary conservation.

The main purpose of this appeal is to direct attention to the necessity of continuing our state of preparedness and of strengthening the foundations of our agriculture.

POISON PLANTS GRUBBED OUT ON NATIONAL FORESTS.

The tall larkspur growing on twenty acres of grazing range on the Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon, was grubbed out by the cattlemen of the region in cooperation with the Forest Service, during the last grazing season, according to a report received by District Forester George H. Cecil. This little patch of poisonous larkspur is the first area to be eliminated by this method in Oregon. It has been responsible for a yearly loss of cattle valued at \$280. The grubbing out operation cost \$200. A similar area on the Minam

National Forest which, for the last seven years has caused an average annual loss of cattle valued at \$427, will be grubbed next season by the Forest Service at an estimated cost of \$300.

The value of cattle lost on the National Forests of the United States from tall larkspur poisoning during the past year was \$225,050, representing 2500 head of cattle. During the previous year losses were reduced \$15,850, by the grubbing out of larkspur from 380 acres. The average cost of eradication is about one-half the value of the average annual loss. Since the loss is continuous from year to year unless the poisonous plants are eradicated, it assumes an enormous value in a few years.

Tall larkspur is a plant similar in appearance to the larkspur or delphinium of the flower gardens. It is responsible for more loss to range stock than any other poisonous plant that grows on the western ranges. Where its presence in large areas is known on the National Forest ranges, the poison areas are sometimes fenced to keep stock away from it, but wherever the areas are smaller so that the total cost of eradication is not prohibitive the complete grubbing out of the plant is the more satisfactory treatment.

The grubbing out method for eradicating larkspur was developed by the Forest Service during 1913-14 on the Stanislaus National Forest in California. It is now being used extensively by the Forest Service and stockmen in several western states.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE WAR RELIEF WORK.

A recent issue of The Christian Science Monitor gives an account of the work of The Mother Church which has been made possible by the generous support contributed by Christian Scientists throughout the world, this work, as is generally known, being carried on without regard to the religious affiliations of those to whom comfort has been administered and relief extended.

The Christian Science war relief fund to date, the report says, has disbursed \$1,275,560. Most of this sum has been disbursed by committees of Christian Scientists in Great Britain and Ireland, France, Switzerland, Holland, Italy, Belgium, Armenia, Syria, Poland, Rumania, and Serbia.

The Christian Science war work has been carried on under three heads, namely; Camp Welfare, Comforts Forwarding, and War Relief, has been made possible, in both the military and naval establishments of the United States, through the efforts of Christian Science Chaplains, nine of whom have been commissioned in the army and one in the navy. Many letters from men in the service, and from sufferers who have been relieved bear testimony to the effectual work that has been accomplished.

Camp Welfare workers were placed in many of the camps and cantonments in the United States. Their mission was to help the men in uniform wherever possible. In carrying out this work Christian Science welfare houses and similar facilities have been provided. Welfare rooms are maintained in Portland in the Morgan building where all men in the service may have a quiet place to read, write or meet friends.

The activities of the Comforts Forwarding Committee have been carried on through 975 branches which are in operation in all states of the American union, also in Alaska, Hawaii, and the Canal Zone. A total of more than five hundred thousand articles of clothing and knitted goods has been distributed by this committee, among men in the war service and among refugees. This committee will continue to ship clothing to Europe each month while the demand for it continues.

The local branch of the Comforts Forwarding Committee in Portland has its headquarters in the Journal building. This local committee reports the disbursement of \$3,248.85 during the last nine months. It has forwarded during this same period 6302 articles of clothing and knitted goods. Notwithstanding the great volume of this distribution, it is reported that neither the local committee in Portland nor the headquarters in Boston has ever had sufficient quantities of garments to supply the existing need, and has been obliged to send out only a percentage of the articles asked for.

The Christian Scientists of Burns have sent: Camp Welfare and War Relief contributions \$79.00.

Comforts Forwarding Committee Christian Scientists of Burns, Ore., sent 150 articles of clothing to the Comforts Forwarding Committee Christian Scientists in Boston, Mass., to be shipped to Europe.

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