
EDITORIALY

IT'S NEVER BEEN DONE

Mass psychology is always a curious thing, but in recent months it seems to have been getting—as Alice would have said—curiouser and curiouser. Whole sections of society in this country, whole nations almost, in parts of the world, seem to have become seized with the idea that they can keep right on being consumers while at the same time ceasing to be producers.

This is true both of those who keep the wheels turning and the drill presses operating on production beltlines, and those who work as individuals. No one has yet found a way of having "goods" to consume, even such elemental ones as food and shelter, without first producing them.

What the world needs is more people who are willing to make good ten cent cigars instead of expecting to be paid thirty cents for making poor twenty-five cent cigars.

What has all this got to do with home gardening?

Nothing, directly. But during the present shifting about and relocation of so many persons, and the consequent acquiring of new homes, we feel it worth while to call attention again—as we have in the past—to the fact that even a small area of productive land in connection with a home offers a security that nothing else can give.

No one would have dreamed, a decade ago, that wide-spread famine would again become the world's greatest problem. But now it is here, a stark fact that stares us in the face. When there is a scarcity of food, only the person who can PRODUCE at least part of his own supply has any safe assurance that he can continue to be a CONSUMER.

The current food shortage may be overcome. But the problem of food, in the present unsettled state of economic affairs the world over, seems to be one that may, at any moment for many years ahead, become critically serious. Fortunate will be the family that possesses, in the form of a piece of fertile ground, a food factory of its own.

(F. F. Rockwell—THE HOME GARDEN—June, 1946)

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

The old year has gone. I see now how much more it could have brought me, how many chances I have wasted and failures I have made. Forgive me, Father, for I am deeply sorry. Help me to profit by last year's mistakes and to succeed this year and make up for the past.—Amen.

IN 1948

—I will endeavor to maintain a pleasant disposition, realizing that nobody likes a grouch.

—I will try to make myself of greater service to the community in which I live—to work unselfishly in the interests of our schools, churches, and other institutions.

—I will strive to support and take part in worthwhile activities that may help my fellow man wherever he might be.

—I will be patient with and considerate of others; keep my temper and count far beyond ten when tempted to "blow my top".

—I will seek a measure of happiness and strive to spread this spirit of good will and cooperation among others.

—I will do my job conscientiously and well, thus making a definite contribution to my own personal well-being as well as to the success of my company.

—I will endeavor to keep myself well-informed on the issues of the day, not being misled by any group with an axe to grind.

—I will bear in mind that broken resolutions accomplish very little for anyone, especially for myself.

AID BROUGHT DOWN TO OUR OWN LEVEL

In recent months, there has opened in America a spirit of helpfulness and friendliness toward foreign peoples.

To most of us, that vague term, "international relations" has a distant meaning. When it's brought down to us in a manner that we feel we are a part of the effort, we have an opportunity to see directly how our aid is applied to help a hungry and needy people.

First there was the Friendship Train, which liberal Americans filled with thousands of tons of food for Europe's needy. Then, on Christmas Day, folks in the Binghamton, N. Y. area opened their homes to many United Nations employees from other countries and what a grand fellowship that must have been.

The town of Dunkirk, N. Y. adopted the French town of the same name and sent it badly-needed food, clothing, etc. At present there's a worthwhile movement spreading to buy two pounds of seed for any European family. It is estimated that a yield of five tons will be realized.

From these examples, we hope you see our point. When we see our own contributions going directly to the needed areas, we have a warmer, more satisfied feeling about our contributions.