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FOOD CROPS MUST BE INCREASED TO MEET SHORTAGE

Secretary Houston, of Department of Agriculture, Issues Warning to Farmers.

Facts that World at Large As Well as Own Consumers Must Rely More Strongly on American Farmer Should Encourage U. S. Agriculturist to Greater Efforts.

Washington, April 8.—Secretary Houston, of the Department of Agriculture, has issued a warning to the farmer that food crops must be increased in order to meet the demands and world wide shortage. He asserts that farmers can best serve their country by growing crops for the food of man and beast.

Mr. Houston said: "The importance to the nation of a generously adequate food supply for the coming year cannot be over emphasized, in view of the economic problems which may arise as a result of the entrance of the United States into war. Every effort should be made to produce more crops than are needed for our own requirements. Many million of our own people, must rely in large part upon the products of our fields and ranges. This situation will continue to exist, even though hostilities should end unexpectedly soon, since European production cannot be restored immediately to its normal basis. Recognition of the fact that the world at large, as well as our own consumers, must rely more strongly on American farmers this year than ever before, should encourage them to strive to the utmost to meet this urgent need."

Increased Yield of Staple Crops.

"It is obvious that the greatest and most important service that is required of our agriculture under existing conditions in an enlarged production of the staple food crops. Because of the shortage of such crops practically throughout the world, there is no risk in the near future of excessive production such as sometimes has resulted in unremunerative prices to producers. This is particularly true of the cereals and of peas, beans, cowpeas, soy

beans and buckwheat. In view of the world scarcity of food, there is hardly a possibility that the production of these crops by the farmers of the United States can be too great this year, and there is abundant reason to expect generous price returns for all available surplus.

"Corn is the leading food and feed crop of the United States in geographic range of production, acreage and quantity of product. The vital importance of a large acreage of this crop properly cared for, therefore, is obvious. Because of the prices obtained for this grain, its profitability to the American farmer during the approaching season is clear. The 105,954,000 acres planted to corn 1916 yielded 2,583,000,000 bushels or more than 400,000,000 bushels less than the large crop of 1915—2,994,793,000 bushels—and considerably less than the five years average—2,732,457,000 bushels. Conditions now warrant the planting of the largest acreage of this crop which it is possible to handle effectively.

"The production of soybeans and soy beans or human food has been recognized only recently in this country. Existing conditions warrant the planting of all the available seed of varieties known to do well in the several sections.

"The high food value of field beans and the shortage of supply, due to the light yields of 1915 and 1916, render them of great importance in the regions to which they are adapted.

Reserve Sufficient Hay, Forage and Pasture Land

"A deficiency of hay and forage for the next winter would jeopardize the future meat and dairy supplies of the country, and the result in a shortage of

roughage for military draft and saddle animals. In regions where dairying dominates the full acreage of clover, alfalfa, and the grasses that is in productive condition should be maintained. "Seed potatoes should be conserved by planting on the best lands available for them and planning for thorough tillage and protection of the crop against disease and insect pests.

"Such vegetable crops as carrots, rutabaga, turnips, onions, and cabbage are worthy of much more attention than they generally receive, especially in the eastern United States. Existing conditions warrant heavier planting than usual of staple winter vegetables in the sections where canneries and fruit evaporators exist and probably in some sections where the provision of such facilities later in the season may be justified.

"In the southern half of the country perhaps no crop has larger possibilities for quick increase of production of food for both men and animals than the sweet potato. Methods of handling and storing this product demonstrated and advocated by the department workers for several years make possible much fuller utilization of this crop than has occurred generally in the past.

"The peanut in many sections of the South also is capable of greatly enlarged production with little risk of over supply, as a result of demand for oil and peanut butter manufacture as well as direct use as food both for man and horse.

"The high prices for foodstuffs that have prevailed during the last few months have stimulated interest in the increase of home supplies of vegetables, poultry, and dairy products on farms. This interest has been quickened

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112 PERSONS MEET DEATH BY EXPLOSION

One Hundred and Twelve Persons Mostly Women and Girls Lose Lives in Terrific Explosions at Chester, Pa.

Chester, Pa., April 10.—One hundred and twelve persons of which were mostly women and girls, are known to have lost their lives, and 121 were injured by a series of terrific explosions today in the shrapnel building of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation at Eddystone, one mile from this city. Many of the injured were mortally hurt, and it is feared the final death list will reach 150, while others probably will be claimed for life.

There was scarcely a fragment of the structure left intact. Fire added to the horror, and most of the bodies were so badly charred that identification was impossible.

In the absence of any official statement, many theories as to the cause of the disaster were advanced. Rumors of plots and arrests of persons, both inside and outside of the plant, were numerous, but all lined confirmation.

Two Suspects Arrested

Two suspects were arrested in connection with the explosion. One is a 25 year old man who gave an address in Philadelphia, and his father, who is described as being 50 and 55 years old. It is said the older man was well supplied with money, and that neither is an American citizen.

Officials asserted that papers found on one of the men were "incriminating and very important."

Twenty Philadelphia detectives were sent to Eddystone soon after the explosion on a rumor that it was the result of a plot. After spending several hours investigating they reported that they had learned from officials of the corporation who had made

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FLY TIME HERE SWATTING IN ORDER

Cleanliness That Starves Best Preventive for Early Flies.

"Not only fly time is here, but the flies themselves," says the State Board of Health, "and unless these first arrivals are met with swatters, traps and other means of extinction, there will be millions to swat next week or in a few more warm days. Now is decidedly the right time to swat flies," says the Board, "when they can be counted on the fingers and not when they become countless hordes. Swatters get individual flies, those that come early and stay late, and those slip in at the screened doors, but swatters are useless where there are no screens and where there are no efforts made to fight flies."

"By far the best means of fighting early flies and preventing them from coming and staying," emphasizes the Board, "is cleanliness that is absolute cleanliness that is starvation to the fly. What is sometimes passable and harmless in the way of filth or lack of cleanliness in cold weather, in other words, filth of any kind is decidedly more filthy and dangerous in summer than in winter. One of the first thoughts of the careful house-

wife is to clean up the house that may be food for flies. She knows that whatever becomes a feeding place for flies becomes also a breeding place, and that flies are attracted only where is something to eat.

"Get out fly swatters and use them now," is the advice of the Board. "If you haven't good ones left over from last year, buy new ones now and don't wait till your house is full of flies to be reminded that you haven't any. The next step is to clean up and keep so perfectly clean that when flies come they will either starve or refuse to tarry."

Prof. H. H. McLean spent Easter in Norfolk, Va.

MASS MEETING HELD AT FARMVILLE

Board of Commissioners Meet In Town Hall Tuesday Night For the Purpose of Electing New Officers. Walter G. Sheppard Is Nominated for Mayor.

At the regular Democratic Mass Meeting held in the town hall Tuesday night for the purpose of nominating the candidate for the offices of Mayor and Town Commissioners Walter G. Sheppard was nominated for Mayor and the following citizens were named for Commissioners: Messrs R. L. Davis, R. E. Belcher, B. S. Smith, T. E. Joyner and G. M. Shirley. The entire old board was renominated with the exception of Mr. J. I. Morgan who had announced that he would not be a candidate on account of business affairs. Mr. Shirley was nominated to succeed him.

The regular election will be held on the second Tuesday in May, it being the first Tuesday after the first Monday. At present these are the only candidates in the field with the exception of Mr. R. T. Martin who has announced that he will run for Mayor on an independent ticket. Mr. Martin was a regular candidate ten days before the regular Mass Meeting when he announced by circulars that he would take no part in the Mass Meeting and would accept no nomination tendered him at that time, but he would run on an independent ticket.

Mr. Sheppard, the nominee, is a native Pitt County boy, and is a young lawyer.

During the progress of the meeting a resolution was offered and adopted endorsing the stand taken by President Wilson and his efficient Administration in the world crisis, and as a mark of patriotism it was decided to float the American flag from all the public buildings in Farmville

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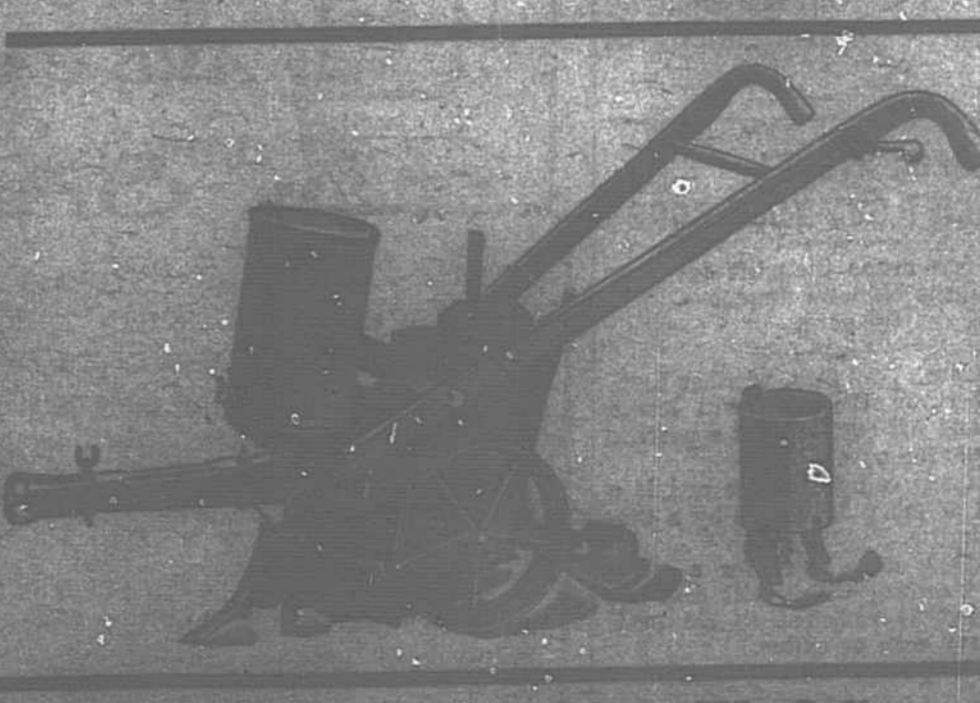


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