

fall wheat in the Southwest are in championship condition.

Where to put it all is one of the things that is giving gray hairs to farmers, wheat buyers, millers and Government officials. If all storage space still unused is filled up, and grain is stored in bags in old warehouses hastily made weather-tight, and wheat poured into bins vacated by some of the corn now being rapidly turned into pork and milk and eggs for our own defense workers and for shipment to Britain, it may turn the trick. But it isn't certain yet that Western farmers will not have to do what Canadian wheat growers did last year—just pile it up in enormous hills out of doors, for sheer lack of enclosed storage space. Canada, by the way, is drastically reducing wheat acreage this year by one-fourth, despite the war. Times have certainly changed since 1917!

This enormous reserve of unused wheat, which will keep in good condition for several years if properly sheltered, will stand America and the world in good stead if the war should end in a general collapse of Nazi-dominated Europe, crumbling into starvation-scourged anarchy. Then wheat-crammed ships can rush to the unblockaded ports, bringing to the peoples of the Old World the one best medicine for the malady called despair.

Food was sloganed to win the last war. This time, food can win the peace.

Science News Letter, June 7, 1941

AGRICULTURE

Sphagnum Moss Protects Seedlings Against Fungus

VEGETABLE and flower plants that have to be started indoors, such as tomatoes, cabbage, salvia and China aster, can be protected against damping-off, a deadly fungus disease, by planting the seed in flats filled with sphagnum moss instead of the customary garden soil. This recommendation is made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, after long and successful experience with sphagnum as a germination medium, at the plant introduction garden at Glenn Dale, Md.

Damping-off is caused by a fungus that lurks in the soil, attacking the roots of young plants. This necessitates the extensive and expensive steam or chemical sterilization of soils that is such a burden to greenhouse men and gardeners.

Science News Letter, June 7, 1941

NUTRITION

Conference Declares War Against Malnutrition in U. S.

Employment of Minority Groups, No Taxes on Low Incomes, No Waste of Skimmed Milk Among Plans Urged

WAR is declared against malnutrition among the less well-off portion of the American population, low-income families as well as relievers, in recommendations that have come out of the National Nutrition Conference for Defense.

No reduction in relief allowances under the emergency conditions is an important point. A scarcity of consumer goods that threatens to drive down the real income through price advances warrants putting unemployed to work to make more consumer goods.

Employment of Negroes and other minority groups, no taxes on incomes insufficient to provide an adequate family diet, coverage of domestic and agricultural workers under social security are among the other recommendations.

Soybean, peanut and milk products that are low in cost and nutritious would be encouraged. Milk would be made cheaper and no skim milk would be

wasted. Taxes that discriminate against margarine are protested.

Technically trained producers and students would be given selective service deferment in accordance with another recommendation.

Better feeding of defense workers is another recommendation, since added meals during the work period have been found to increase efficiency, reduce accidents and decrease absences.

Need for the training of cooks and other members of food staffs in restaurants, institutions, etc., was stressed.

There will be state, county, city and local nutrition conferences and committees if several recommendations are carried out.

The suggestions and reports of the nine sections of the conference that will go to President Roosevelt as the results of the three-day conference total more than 12,000 words.

Science News Letter, June 7, 1941

PUBLIC HEALTH

Rehabilitation of Selectees Predicted at Conference

Men Unqualified Physically for Military Service Will Be Put Into Camps To Be Doctored and Fed

PREDICTIONS based on hints picked up at the National Nutrition Conference for Defense:

The selectees that don't make the grade physically now (and thus get out of army service) will soon be put into rehabilitation camps, perhaps under some civilian agency like NYA, CCC or some new one, to be repaired medically and fed remedially to make them fit for service.

Poor people in the cities not eligible for the food stamp plan and not on relief will be helped in some way to bring their diet up to the new food yardstick announced at the Conference.

More and more of our surplus foods, starting with skim milk which is now thrown away in large volume annually, will be dried to preserve it and reduce storage and shipping costs and facilities and thus have it available where and when needed.

These stores of dried foods will be the blue chips with which the United States sits down to the peace conference table after the war. Or, according to American ideals of humanitarianism, they will be the giant Community Chest Fund for feeding the people of the world after the present emergency.

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