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HELP FEED THE PEOPLE

"If the South neglects this year to provide her own food and feed, she is likely to suffer serious privation, and she will put a burden upon the nation which may prolong the war and even imperil our victory," says Clarence Ousley, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

"I am aware that these are strong words," continues Secretary Ousley, "but they are none too strong. I am not expressing an alarmist personal opinion. I am seeing through the eyes of 48 agricultural colleges and of county agents in nearly every agricultural county. I have recently crossed the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I have studied the reports gathered by the department's 18,000 representatives and as many more employees of the agricultural colleges. I have considered the conclusions of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome which has reports from all the world.

"The plain, hard truth is that with 40 million people withdrawn from productive industries and engaged in the business of destruction, it is not humanly possible for production on the whole to exceed normal demand. The question is whether production can equal necessitous demand.

"England, France and Italy must be sustained or their population can not stand the strain. They have been on scanty rations for more than three years. The chief cause of Russia's collapse was hunger. Soldiers cannot fight when their wives and children are starving.

"Secretary McAdoo has given warning that transportation may be lacking in 1918, to haul food and feed to states and communities that do not provide for themselves. Many cattle have been sacrificed in the drought regions of the Northwest and the Southwest during the last few months, because railroad cars could not be obtained as needed. Military movements must have first consideration, and military movements will be greater in 1918 than in 1917. The prime question for the farmer is not what product will bring the highest price, but what products will insure food for his family and feed for his live stock, and the answer is: a vegetable garden, a milk cow, a brood sow, a poultry flock, ample corn, oats, peanuts, etc., and then as much cotton or tobacco as he can cultivate well.

"It is the highest demand of patriotism—it is the first requirement of living—that in 1918 every state, every county, every neighborhood, every farmer, be as nearly self-sustaining as possible.

"For the South to plunge on cotton or tobacco or any other speculative crop and to depend upon the corn belt for bread and meat will be for the South to engage in a gamble which may cause privation to its people and disaster to the Nation. For any man now to determine his business operations from the standpoint of profit alone, without regard to the nation's needs, is for him wilfully to profiteer in the blood of his fellows who are fighting in France for the preservation of the republic. No man can be excused for not taking his share of the responsibility.

"My whole life has been spent in the South. I know the Southern farmer. He will do his duty as he sees it. I am appealing to every man in the South to make known these facts—to consider it his business to make them known—and I shall have no doubt of the results. If they are not made known in a way to impress the crisis that confronts us, there may be hunger in this bounteous land or hunger over yonder in Europe, where it will spell ruin for all that is worth while in America."

DOMESTIC PEANUT OIL

Specialists Say That American Millers Should Secure Entire Market—Imports Now Cut Off

With improved American machinery for cleaning, shelling and pressing peanuts, American millers should be able to produce as high-grade oil as that made in foreign countries at a price which will secure the entire domestic market for United States mills.

This was the assertion of H. S. Bailey, of the Bureau of Chemistry, United States Department of Agriculture, in an address before southern oil-mill superintendents.

**Problem Must Be Studied**  
"While you can get oil from peanuts if you drive them into your cottonseed conveyors, clean them in the same reels and over the same screens, grind them in regulation hullers, cook them, and press them just as though they were cotton seed," said Mr. Bailey, "you will not get as good results as if you studied your new problem at every step and fitted each machine and operation to the new material."

**Imported Oils of High Grade**  
Before the war cut off practically all imports of French and Dutch peanut oils, the United States was importing nearly 900,000 gallons a year, a year, or about one-eighth as much as of olive oil, and at an average price for all grades, including soap stock, of more than half that of edible olive oil. In Hamburg in 1914 there was a difference of more than 2 cents a pound in favor of peanut oil as against cotton seed, and in Liverpool the edible grades will bring 1 to 1 1/2 cents more a pound in barrels than the best American butter oil. These peanut oils, however, were not made from cooked nuts, but were pressed cold without any shells. If they are to compete in this country with the foreign oils, the specialist said, the millers must make a grade of peanut oil which can be sold for salad and cooking purposes without any treatment other than that it receives at the crude mills.

Peanut oil mills, the specialist declared, should be located where the farmers can profitably grow the Spanish type of peanuts, which are higher in oil content and have less shell than the larger Virginia varieties. The mills should be equipped with peanut cleaners, and all the nuts, after going over screens to remove the sticks, stones and other trash, should be thoroughly scoured.

Market for By-products

In making use of by-products there is a growing market for peanut hulls

(which contain less than one-half of 1 per cent of oil) and it is just beginning to be realized how peanut cake can be used for feed. There is already a demand for hull-less peanut cake for human food, and no reason is known why peanut flour should not become a popular article in human sustenance, the millers were told.

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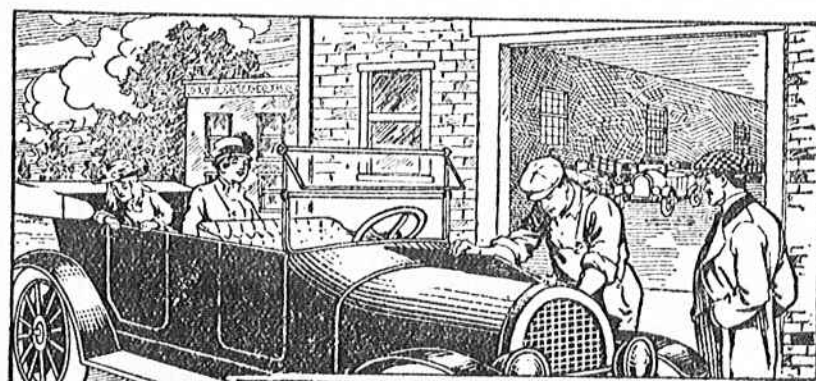
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