

A STATEMENT
TO THE
PEOPLE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BY
GOVERNOR JOHN J. CORNWELL

It will serve no good purpose to use many words with reference to the unfortunate world war now in progress. In spite of the efforts of our statesmen this country has become involved in the European struggle. There is as a result an extraordinary demand for men, money and munitions, also for clothing and food for the human race and feed for the live-stock upon which we so much depend. The first three of these (men, money and munitions), seem to be available in sufficient number or quantity, or are being made available, but there is a great world shortage of materials for clothing and food for human beings as well as feed for live-stock.

In many countries governments have been compelled to take control not only of the entire population of the country for military or industrial armies, of the financial institutions and of establishments making munitions and other supplies for the armies, but also of the entire supply of food and feed. In many cases governments have been called upon to distribute the food in such a way as to conserve it and thus decrease the danger of starvation. In spite of all steps taken to date the world situation grows more critical. The great wheat granaries of the world are already nearly empty and the usual surplus is exhausted. Ordinarily South American countries place large supplies of food for human beings on the market at this time. Our spring months correspond to their fall months. But their season has been a bad one and even Argentine has found it necessary to place an embargo on

wheat on account of their own shortage. The small crops in Australia are so remote and so small that their effect on world supply is less than usual. It is understood that the British Government already has contracted for the entire Canadian surplus of wheat if there should be any surplus during 1917. The prostrate countries of Europe fighting our common enemy must depend on the United States as never before if they are to escape starvation. What is said of the shortage in the wheat supply is about equally true of other crops. All of this means that the shortage of food will have a definite reaction in the United States and prices will be high for sometime, even though we do our utmost in production and save to the limit in consumption.

West Virginia Must Feed Herself.

How long will the war last? No one can tell. How will it affect the supply of food for the people of this nation? We know that each month of war will mean further shortage and this in turn will mean higher prices. West Virginia is not now doing her part. We purchase clothing and food for ourselves and feed for live stock each year to the extent of many millions of dollars. Each month of war will mean that our transportation systems will be needed to move men and munitions, fuel and supplies to the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf ports, for export abroad and West Virginia must be patriotic enough to produce her own supplies. She should not draw upon the already low supply and she should not cripple the transportation systems of the country by demanding that materials be shipped to us which we can ourselves produce. While West Virginia will furnish her quota of men, money and munitions, she should in addition resolve now to feed herself and a little more.

Appeal to the People of West Virginia to Produce More.

I feel it my bounden duty in view of the emergency to appeal to every family in West Virginia to do its part. Let the farmers both increase their acreage and improve their methods in every way possible. If you are doing your best now, call upon the College of Agriculture at Morgantown or the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, or the State Department of Agriculture at Charleston for help. They certainly will be able to help you. Let the country

boys and girls join in the garden, poultry, corn and pig club movement of the College of Agriculture, Morgantown, or let them aid their parents as they never did before. Millions of dollars worth of food may be produced in this way. And let the boys and girls in the cities, towns and villages begin at once to establish gardens on all vacant lots and in back yards. Let your motto be: "I am able and willing to produce enough for myself and one soldier at the front." Let the men and women of the cities, towns and villages do their part. Those at the College of Agriculture will help you if you let them know. If the back yards and vacant lots were thoroughly utilized, the millions of dollars you now expend for vegetables could be devoted to more useful purposes and the surplus of the farmers would be available to relieve the country in its present emergency.

Stop the Present Waste.

We are probably the most wasteful people on the face of the earth. Literally millions of dollars worth of fruits and vegetables are allowed to lie upon the ground and rot each season. At least during the period of this emergency we should resolve to put in storage or can or dry or preserve or pickle every product of the farm or garden. I appeal not only to the farmers and to the boys and girls, but to bankers, merchants and indeed every class of citizen to do his or her part.

Save in the Home.

But our wastefulness is not entirely along the line suggested above. We are as wasteful, or in some cases more wasteful, in our homes, in the excessive use of food. This appeal is made to every family in the State to respond to the call of the nation to conserve the food supply in every way possible. We would not injure ourselves, but indeed would be doing the best thing for ourselves as individuals and the most patriotic duty to the nation if we would even resolve upon one or more meatless days each week and certainly we should determine upon one or two meatless meals each day.

I feel it my duty to appeal equally to the banks, the supply merchants, the day laborers, the railway companies and all others to aid in this movement. Help if you can, to furnish

the seeds, the fertilizer, the machinery, the credit, the supplies or the labor necessary to carry out this program.

Other Forms of Waste.

Year after year in the United States there is a loss in the food supply amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars, because of unnecessary death of live stock on farms from such diseases as hog cholera, black leg, etc. The people of this State maintain the Department of Agriculture to assist every farmer in the State to keep the live-stock of the State in the best of health. The same might be said of our orchard products and our vegetables. Insect pests and plant diseases destroy the prospective food supply to the extent of millions of dollars. This can be largely eliminated by proper spraying, dusting, etc. Many other illustrations might be cited, but sufficient has been said to show that if the people of this State act upon this appeal it would be easily possible not only for West Virginia to feed herself, but she could contribute much fine produce to the general cause.

Use State Institutions to the Utmost.

The State of West Virginia maintains the College of Agriculture, the Experiment Station and the Extension Division, located at Morgantown, to help the farm men and women and the boys and girls of this State to farm better. It also maintains the State Department of Agriculture, located at Charleston, to assist in the task of keeping down live stock and plant diseases, to help the people of the State secure the best seeds, feeds, spray materials and fertilizers, to aid the farmers in securing labor and marketing their surplus produce, and in other ways to help build up the agriculture industry. In the same way the United States Government maintains the Department of Agriculture. May I not appeal to the people of this State to use these agencies to the utmost and may I not appeal particularly to the press of the State to give the widest publicity to all agricultural information which will be of service to the people of the State in attempting to solve the problems with which we are confronted during this emergency.

JOHN J. CORNWELL,
Governor.

A Proclamation by the Governor

To the People of West Virginia:

The Council of National Defense, through its Chairman, Honorable Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, having recommended to the Governors of the several States the creation "of Committees with broad powers, to be known as State Councils of Defense, to co-operate with the National Council," I have, in accordance with said request, designated the following persons to constitute such a State Council of Defense for West Virginia:

John Lee Coulter, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Morgantown.

James H. Stewart, Commissioner of Agriculture, Charleston.

T. C. Atkeson, Master of State Grange, Buffalo.

D. A. Arnold, President, State Horticultural Society, Keyser.

Howard Gore, President, State Live Stock Association, Clarksburg.

C. P. Snow, President, State Board of Trade, Huntington.

G. O. Nagle, President, Manufacturers' Association, Wheeling.

W. C. McConaughey, President, Wholesale Grocers' Association, Parkersburg.

William Rodgers, President, State Federation of Labor, Fairmont.

Lynn S. Horner, President, West Virginia Natural Gas Association, Clarksburg.

A. B. C. Bray, President, State Bankers' Association, Ronceverte.

C. A. Short, President, West Virginia Lumber and Supply Dealers' Association, Shinnston.

Dr. J. E. Rader, President, State Medical Association, Huntington.

T. E. Houston, Chairman, Coal Operators' Association, Elkhorn.

Mrs. Joseph G. Cochran, President, Federation of Womens' Clubs, Parkersburg.

Geo. W. Atkinson, Ex-Governor, Charleston.

A. B. Fleming, Ex-Governor, Fairmont.

Wm. A. MacCorkle, Ex-Governor, Charleston.

A. B. White, Ex-Governor, Parkersburg.

Wm. E. Glasscock, Ex-Governor, Morgantown.

Henry D. Hatfield, Ex-Governor, Huntington.

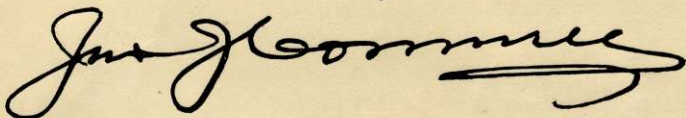
The above named persons are hereby declared to constitute a State Council of Defense for West Virginia, subject to changes or additions to be made by me as occasion may require. They are requested to assemble and organize, and to co-operate with the Council of National Defense in its work of mobilizing the energies, resources and labor of the country in the prosecution of the great War into which this country has been unfortunately and unwillingly drawn. The State Council of Defense will, as deemed best by it or by the National Council, organize sub-committees under the control or guidance of individual members representing the several industries and activities within the State, especially that of food production and conservation, which is the vital matter in this great struggle.

It is hoped that all the people will co-operate with this State Council of Defense and conform to all rules and regulations that it may establish under the direction and guidance of the Council of National Defense and thus obviate the necessity of an immediate extra session of the Legislature

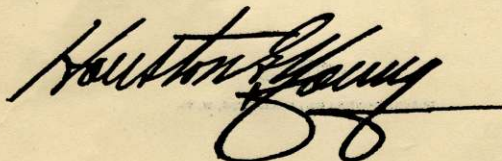
to pass special laws recommended by the National Council and which is being done in some other States.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Charleston, this the 12th day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and in the fifty-fourth year of the State.



By the Governor:



Secretary of State.

West Virginia University
Library



This book was presented
by
Mrs. C.R. Jones

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In testimony whereof I
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and caused the Great Seal
of the State to be affixed.
Done at the Capital, in
the City of Charleston, this
the 12th day of April, in the
year of our Lord one thou-
sand nine hundred and six-
ty-two, and in the 11th
fourth year of the State.

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By the Governor



TRIBUNE PRINTING CO., CHARLESTON, W. VA.

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Secretary of State