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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
STATES RELATIONS SERVICE,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK IN THE SOUTH.
FARMERS' COOPERATIVE DEMONSTRATION WORK.

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

BK-HC-FEE.

No. 1240.

April 1, 1918.

"PUBLIC DUTY AND SELF-PROTECTION"

TO FARMERS, BANKERS AND
BUSINESS MEN IN COTTON TERRITORY.

This is the hour of our Nation's greatest trial. The German drive of the spring of 1918 is on. Our boys are not only in the trenches in France, but they are eagerly offering their lives in the great battle now on for our freedom and for the liberties of men and women everywhere. Our duty is plain. We must help in every way to win the fight.

In a recent bulletin of the Federal Department of Agriculture giving information to farmers regarding the crop needs of this country in 1918, the following language is used about cotton.

"Having taken steps to provide FOOD for its people and FEED for its livestock which is URGED AS A MATTER OF BOTH PUBLIC DUTY AND SELF PROTECTION, the South should plant as much cotton as can be well cultivated and harvested." It also points out that the best way to increase cotton production is to adopt the best possible practices in preparation, good seed and cultivation, rather than increase the acreage and get less in results through insufficient attention.

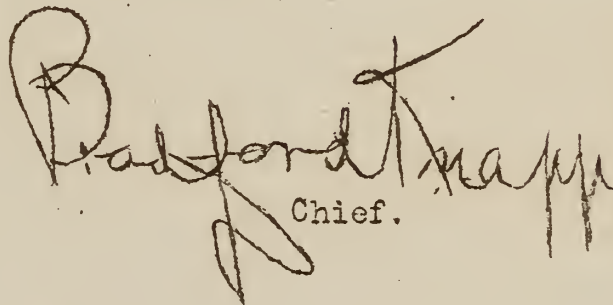
This letter is written to call your attention to the important words, "PUBLIC DUTY AND SELF-PROTECTION" in this declaration of the Department. Remember that these words were written with a full knowledge of the food needs of this country and of the entire world.

Each farm in the United States which fails to grow its own garden vegetables and potatoes, to put up enough during the summer for winter use, which fails in part or wholly to produce corn, hay, meat, eggs, milk, peas, peanuts, beans and other FOOD and FEED as far as possible for the people on the farm and for the livestock, and an extra portion for the nearby town, is asking another farm somewhere to furnish that FOOD and FEED and asking the railroads to haul it to them at a time when FOOD and TRANSPORTATION are two of the great needs of the Nation to win the war. Attached are two sheets showing the transportation burdens, which "PUBLIC DUTY" demands that we should not increase, and a simple and SAFE PROGRAM of home production of FOOD and FEED for cotton States, which should appeal to us as "SELF-PROTECTION".

Neither the Federal Department of Agriculture nor the State Agricultural Colleges are asking farmers to try experiments. This is no time for anything but a SAFE PROGRAM. All it means is an effort to supply our own FOOD. If any farmer or any State or section tries to grow its own food but fails through unforeseen disaster, the rest of America will willingly share its last crust and spare the last car service to feed such a section; but if we fail to produce food for ourselves because we do not try or because we seek profit alone, other sections can only give grudgingly when FOOD and CARS necessary to supply our lack draw from the two things most necessary to win the war, and even prolong the struggle and cost us precious American lives.

Money from the banks in the South is now going North for FOOD and FEED at prices equal to or better, comparatively, than the price of cotton. Are you one who is buying FOOD and FEED at retail and placing a burden on transportation to bring it? April is the month which will show results. No impossible program should be attempted. Let us remember "PUBLIC DUTY AND SELF-PROTECTION" and plant FOOD and FEED in abundance as well as cotton. It is a SAFE and PATRIOTIC PROGRAM.

Yours very truly,


Chief.

Enclosures.

