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THE HOME TRENCHES:
THE PROGRAM TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION AND
CONSERVATION IN UTAH DURING WORLD WAR ONE.

by

Alene Estelle Alder

Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree

of

UNIVERSITY HONORS
WITH DEPARTMENT HONORS

in

History

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Logan, UT
1995

Wars are not just won on the battle field but on the home front as well. Soldiers cannot fight on empty stomachs or without weapons. "The Man who tills the soil and supports the soldier in the field and the family at home is rendering as noble and patriotic service as is the man who bears the blunt of the battle"¹ It was necessary to mobilize the entire country in support of the Great War. To feed our soldiers and those of our allies, a call rang forth encouraging American farmers to increase crop production, and housewives to conserve as much food as possible.

One of the most extensive World War I programs, in the state of Utah, was the effort to increase food production and conservation. Farmers and housewives were asked to become civilian soldiers, to fight the evil Hun with the hoe and pressure cooker. The wheat field and the kitchen table were as important to the war effort as the battle field. The citizens of Utah were called to action.

How did Utah answer the call? What did farmers and stock growers of Utah do to help win the war? Were the home trenches held with the same tenacity that our soldiers held the trenches on the western front? Yes, the trenches were held. More than that, an offensive was launched and our home soldiers drove the enemy before them in complete rout.²

How was the offensive launched at home in the rural state of Utah? Like the soldiers, the citizens of the state first needed convincing of the threat and necessity for action. The food production and conservation campaign was not waged through mandates but by rather by

¹Food Conservation Committee [Box Elder County], to Citizens of Box Elder County, May, 14 1917, [Typewritten leaflet] Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Citizens of Box Elder County."

²D.E. Robinson, "Utah Keeps Her Pledge," (Logan, Utah) The Journal, December, 21 1918. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Utah Keeps Her Pledge."

convincing the public to freely join the cause. As Mr. Armstrong, the Federal Food Administrator for Utah said "Today, the work of the Administration is 99 percent appeal and 1 percent law."³

Agriculture was recognized as one of the most critical industries in the state that needed mobilization for the war. The Utah State Council of Defense considered agricultural production as one of its highest priorities. The Committee on Food Production and Conservation, a subcommittee of the Council, worked to convince the farmer and housewife of the necessity to increase food production and conservation. It also helped achieve this goal by using its power to render aid.

State Councils of Defense were organized in most states of the Union during World War I. Although mostly autonomous agencies, they fell indirectly under the guidance of the National Council of Defense.⁴ The Department of Agriculture provided technical support. The Food Administration, after August of 1917, under the direction of Herbert Hoover supervised the food production and conservation campaign.⁵

The Utah Agricultural College in Logan lead the battle under the direction of Dr. E. G. Peterson who served as the chairman of the Committee on Food Production and Conservation and the president of the Agricultural College. J. Edward Taylor, the secretary of the committee and the Farm Help Specialist, guided the committee's affairs out of Salt Lake City, while Peterson managed business in Logan. These two men took primary responsibility for the state's campaign

³"U.A.C. Mobilized for Efficiency," (Logan, Utah) The Journal September, 19 1917. p. 2, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sight below as "U.A.C. Mobilized for Efficiency,"

⁴ "Report on Organization of Activities of State and Council of Defense," Washington D.C.:The Council of National Defense, Sections on Cooperation with States, June 18, 1917. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan, 33.

⁵ Vernon Kellogg, and Alonzo E Taylor. The Food Problem with a forward by Herbert Hoover. (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1918), 20.

to increase food production and conservation.

The Extension Division of the Agricultural College executed the program. County Agents operating throughout the state were able to bring the message directly to the farmer and housewife. Orson P. Marson, Emery County Agent reported spending approximately half his time on war emergency projects.⁶ The war did not bring about the Cooperative Extension Service but it greatly enhanced its influence. The Extension Service had been born in 1914 under the Smith Lever Act. Extension Agents were trained farm specialists who worked to bring scientific agricultural information, accumulated at the Agricultural College, to farmers throughout the state. John T. Caine III directed the Agricultural College's Extension Division during the First World War. Utah had twelve county agents before the war.⁷ The hiring of two more agents on June 1, 1917 made for fourteen county agents in seventeen of the twenty-nine counties.⁸ Six⁹ to twelve¹⁰ Home Demonstrators taught women of the state modern conservation and homemaking techniques by . Gertrude McCheyne managed the Home Economics Division. During the war the Extension service changed from a benevolent educational agency to an aggressive organization used to help increase food production and conservation.

⁶ Orson P Madson, "Special Supplementary Report, 1917: War Work of County Agent," Extension Service, Emery County, Emery, Utah, Dec 1917, p. 1, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan, 1.

⁷ "Report from the Committee on Food Supply and Conservation to the Utah State Council of Defense," E.G. Peterson chairman, May 23, 1917, TD. Salt Lake City, Utah, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁸ "A.C. Names County Agents: Cache is Among the Counties Favored by New Appointments," (Logan, Utah) The Journal June, 2 1917, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁹ "Report about women's war work," [c1918] TD. p. 3, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "women's war work."

¹⁰ "Report from the Committee on Food Supply and Conservation to the Utah State Council of Defense," E. G. Peterson, chairman, July 27, 1917. TD. p. 3, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "C.F.S.C July 27."

Communities throughout the state held public mass meetings.¹¹ County Councils of Defense were organized around the State. Some individual communities and institutions even organized their own defense councils. Utah Agricultural College had its own internal Council of Defense.¹² The Farm Bureaus worked in close association with these institutions. A call rang out though the state encouraging all citizens to help support the war effort, by purchasing liberty bonds and practicing economy. As Salt Lake County Agent, Heber J. Webb exclaimed: "The biggest war problem now is to get all the people to see and feel the seriousness of the situation and be willing to deny themselves luxuries of the past in order to help win the war."¹³ Americans needed to produce more but use less!

In Utah this message fell on ready ears. Utah's pioneer heritage imprinted thrift and conservation on the culture. The Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints's support of the campaign helped to ensure its success. Authorities at the Mormon Church's spring conference reminded the "Saints" of the importance of supporting the war.¹⁴ Churches through out the state read President Wilson's appeal to the farmers,¹⁵ which them that "This is our opportunity to demonstrate the efficiency of our great Democracy, and we shall not fall short of it!"¹⁶ The Mormon Church even offered its members monetary prizes for the best five acres of wheat and

¹¹ Ibid, 4.

¹² "How the U.A.C. is Serving the U.S.A.," (Logan, Utah) The Journal July, 20 1918. p.3. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹³ Heber J Webb, "Special Supplementary Report, 1917: War Work of County Agent," Extension Service, Salt Lake County, Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec 1917, p. 4, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Webb, Salt Lake County."

¹⁴ C.F.S.C July 27, 1.

¹⁵ Ibid, 4.

¹⁶ Woodrow Wilson, "Farmers: The President of the United States Appeals to the Men, Women and Children of the Farms," [published leaflet] Washington: Government Printing Office, 1917, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

potatoes.¹⁷ The war effort become the theme of many L.D.S. Sunday services.¹⁸ Since the majority of the citizens of Utah were Mormons, Church support was crucial. If the L.D.S. Church had not backed the campaign the message would have fallen on deafer ears.

Although the local Farm Bureaus were not official connected with the Mormon Church, most of the bureau members were L.D.S.. Ward Bishops helped with the organization of many bureaus and encouraged participation in its activities.¹⁹ The L.D.S. Relief Society, the Church's women's organization, was the primary organization through which the women's conservation work was arranged. Many canning demonstrations conducted throughout the state were presented to Relief Societies.²⁰ The Extension Service Home Demonstrators supplied the technical knowledge, and the Church the structural organization. In this very conservative state the close partnership between state and ecclesiastical institutions helped insure the success of the food conservation and production campaign.

The Council of Defense and the Extension Service, along with support of the L.D.S. Church, mobilized an agricultural army of patriotic farmers. On April 10, 1917 a state wide meeting of county agents and chairmen of local farm bureaus was held to consider ways to help agriculture meet the demands of the emergency.²¹ Farmers were called to be an "industrial soldier right here at home and shoulder your shovel and hoe and fight the greatest of foes-FAMINE."²²

¹⁷ "Webb, Salt Lake County," 2.

¹⁸ Marcia Black and Robert S. Mcpherson, "Soldiers, Saver, Slackers, and Spies: Southeastern Utah's Response to World War I," Utah Historical Quarterly 63:1 (Winter 1995): 9. Sighted below as "Southeastern Utah's Response to World War I."

¹⁹ Webb, Salt Lake County, 1.

²⁰ Women's war work, 2.

²¹ C.F.S.C., July 27, 2.

²² Sevier County Food Production and Conservation Committee to Fellow Citizens, "What is Your Answer?" May 3, 1917, Richfield, Utah, [Typewritten leaflet] Special Collections, Utah State University,

Some individuals questioned if this increased food production was possible. Could the United States simultaneously raise a large army and increase its agricultural output? Both required extensive labor. Propagandist reminded the American public that Canada already had succeeded. They had raised a large army as well as their agricultural production. If Canadians could do it so could Americans!²³

Families and communities within Utah strived to achieve self sufficiency.²⁴ This eliminated costly and wasteful transporting of food. The excess crops were then sold to agencies that would assure it went to feed the American soldiers, or those of our allies. Hoarding was seen as a crime which would help Germany.

Farmers needed to grow more crops and livestock. The output of foodstuffs must be quickly and efficiently increased. "Never before was there such demand for efficiency in agricultural production, as now, when each extra bushel or each extra animal may mean saving a human life."²⁵

Since spring planting was already underway when war was declared on April 6, 1917, immediate action was necessary to insure the increase of crop production. Propaganda, distributed throughout the state, encouraged farmers to increase their output. They were assured that because of the high demand for foodstuffs prices would reflect this. A patriotic farmer would make money while simultaneously helping his country win the war. Extension bulletins gave

Logan. Sighted below as "What is Your Answer?"

²³"All Crops Will Be Harvested," (Logan, Utah) The Journal April, 21 1918. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

²⁴"Citizens of Box Elder County."

²⁵"Education Meeting Needs," (Logan, Utah) The Journal July , 6 1917. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

farmers advice on how to achieve increased output.

Every usable acre should be planted. All arable land, must be cultivated. New previously unused acreage should be brought under cultivation, corn or potatoes grew best on brush lands. Dry farmers were encouraged to plant corn, potatoes or beans on their fallow land. Poor irrigated land could sustain lush crops of sweet clover or rye.²⁶ Land lying idle meant starving people!

The Extension Service encouraged farmers to plant as much wheat, corn, beans, and sugar beats as possible.²⁷ Wheat was the basic staple of most diets. Corn could be consumed by live stock as well as humans. Numerous products could be manufactured from corn stalks and seeds.²⁸ Beans, a previously unimportant crop, gained popularity. This crop required minimal labor and furnished similar nutrition to meat. The citizens of Utah needed to include more beans in their diet. Excess beans could then be sold to feed the solders.²⁹ Beans, however, required irrigation about every ten days, and must be planted in the later part of May.³⁰

Sugar Beats were the most essential crop which needed increasing.³¹ In 1917 over half of America's sugar production came from beets. Utah was one of the few states with a thriving sugar beet industry. The government encouraged farmers to grow as many beets as they had land

²⁶ "A Plan to Increase Crop Production," [1917] Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [published leaflet]. 2000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

²⁷ "Sugar a War Necessity," (Logan, Utah) The Journal January, 19 1918. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Sugar a War Necessity."

²⁸ Aaron F. Bracken, "Plant Corn" [1917] Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [published leaflet]. 2000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

²⁹ [Gertrude M. McCheyne,] "Do You Know Beans," [1917] Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [published leaflet]. 2000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Do You Know Beans."

³⁰ Howard J. Maughan, "Grow Beans For Food," [1917] Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [published leaflet]. 2000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

³¹ "Sugar a War Necessity."

and labor to maintain. Many farmers received extra labor during the harvest. Greater care in preparing seed beds, thinning, cultivation, and irrigation would increase the harvest. "Careful attention to these details will reward the farmer in money returns, and will enable him to render a patriotic service to his country and to the cause of Democracy."³²

The State Council of Defense also encouraged an increase in livestock production, especially swine and poultry.³³ Hog multiplied rapidly and produced human food very economically.³⁴ The entire pig could be consumed; nothing went to waist.

Poultry provided both meat and eggs. The farmers of Utah were encouraged to increase the number of laying hens. This, however, required a reversal of previous trends. High grain prices had forced farmers to sale many of their chickens because they could not afford to feed expensive wheat to their chickens. However, this decrease of production along with extra wartime demands raised the price of eggs. This made the poultry industry more economical. To increase egg production farmers and housewives should try to hatch and raise as many chicks as possible. After hatching season is over the male chickens should be slaughtered or confined. An abundance of infertile eggs could then be produced.³⁵

The increase of cattle and sheep herds would also increase meat output. Sheep produced both mutton and wool and easily grazed on poor grade rangeland. The increase of beef and milk

³² "Grow More Beets," (Logan, Utah) The Journal March 25, 1918. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

³³ "Utah's Food Supply," [1917] Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [published leaflet]. 2000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

³⁴ "Suggestions For Increasing Livestock Production," [1917] Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [published leaflet]. 2000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Suggestions For Increasing Livestock Production."

³⁵ Byron Alder, "Make a Better Business of Farm Poultry," [1917] Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [published leaflet]. 2000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

production did not require more animals but rather as a more discriminate selection of animals and feeds.³⁶ To facilitate the increase livestock production the Forest Service temporarily increased its grazing permits.³⁷

Although they were willing many farmers did not have the resources to utilize all their land. Just as soldiers cannot fight without weapons, farmers cannot till land without supplies and manpower. The plight of poor homesteaders became a national problem as the war required more food to be grown. The Utah Agricultural College and the State Council of Defense, therefore, found it necessary to assist these farmers by providing them with supplies and technical support.

Patriotic farmers desperate for assistance wrote Governor Bamberger or members of the Committee on Food Production and Conservation asking for assistance. Some, like B.D. Harshberger of Monticello, had more land than they could use. They kindly offered rent free land to anyone with the ability to utilize it.³⁸ County agents tried to help locate men to till this excess acreage.³⁹ Others asked for help in securing modern farm implements, such as tractors.⁴⁰ Land could be work faster and in greater plots with a tractor than with horses. Mr. J.O. Nielsen and his daughter Miss Hattie P. Nielsen of Thistle wrote the governor asking for help securing a loan to buy a tractor.^{41 42} Some tractors were distributed throughout the state to be used in common by

³⁶ "Suggestions For Increasing Livestock Production."

³⁷ "Summarized Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah State Council of Defense," L.H. Farnsworth, chairman, Salt Lake City, September 12, 1917, [typewritten] Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "U.S.C.D., Sept 1917."

³⁸ B.D. Harshberger to Governor. Simon Bamberger, [1917] Monticello, Utah, LT. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

³⁹ [E.G. Peterson] to Edward Taylor, July 5, 1917, LT. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁴⁰ A. J. Ryals, A.J. to Governor Bamberger, July 23, 1917, Lockerby, Utah, LT. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁴¹ J. O. Nielsen to Mr Bamberger, May 1, 1917, Thistle, Utah, LT. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

several farmers.⁴³ County Agents helped farmers by recommending the best machinery for the job, and by helping them obtain the tractors.⁴⁴ Loans were available to those farmers who needed funds to modernize their equipment.⁴⁵ However, the Council and Extension Service was not able to help all needy farmers acquire machinery. The State Council of Defense did improve the general situation by securing a priority shipment of steel for manufacturing of agricultural implements.⁴⁶

Farmers also faced labor shortages as many able-bodied men joined the military. Exemptions from military service could be granted to men whose work on farms were deemed necessary. County Agents took an active part in helping farm boys stay out of the service.⁴⁷ Despite the campaign waged to convince farmers that they were serving their country by remaining on the farm, many farm boys or those working in agricultural related industries left to join the military. One farmer insisted that he was not doing enough for the war effort and felt it necessary to join. E.G. Peterson reminded him that he was growing enough wheat to feed a thousand soldiers a month. Peterson told him to enlist if he must, "but for the sake of our soldier

⁴² Hattie P. Nielsen to Mr. Bamberger, May 1, 1917, Thistle, Utah, LT. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁴³ J. Edward Taylor to A.J. Ryals, [July, 1917], LTS. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁴⁴ T.W. Bennion, "Special Supplementary Report, 1917: War Work of County Agent," Utah Agricultural College Extension Service, Sampa County, Manti, Utah, Dec 1917, p. 5, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Special Supplementary Report, 1917, Sampa County"

⁴⁵ Orson P. Madsen, "Special Supplementary Report, 1918: War Work of County Agent," Extension Service, Emery County, Emery, Utah, Dec 1918. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁴⁶ "U.S.C.D., Sept 1917."

⁴⁷ T.W. Bennion, "Special Supplementary Report, 1918: Report on War Work Activities," Utah Agricultural College Extension Service, Sampa County, Manti, Utah, Dec 1918, p. 2, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

boys in France, plant your fall wheat first."⁴⁸

To make up for the lost workers, reserve labor forces were put to work in the fields. Schools throughout the state released children during harvest and planting seasons.⁴⁹ This "industrial week" was used to teach the children the meaning of hard work.⁵⁰ The Agricultural College offered its students leave with credit if it was deemed necessary that they return home to help on the farm.⁵¹ County Extension Agents served as a water shed for organizing labor.⁵² Under the direction of J. Edward Taylor approximate 300 boys too young to join the army were recruited to work in the sugar beet fields and elsewhere.⁵³ Suggestions were also made to use German Prisoners of war on large farms in southern Utah,⁵⁴ but nothing materialized of this idea. However, many Mexican laborers found work in the fields of the state.⁵⁵

Utah farmers faced another problem, the scarcity and cost of seeds. Guns do not work without bullets, and crops do not grow without seeds. The winter of 1916-17, a harsh one, killed

⁴⁸ "Utah Keeps Her Pledge," p. 2.

⁴⁹ "Special Supplementary Report, 1917, Sampaete County," 3.

⁵⁰ Robert H. Stewart, "Special Supplementary Report, 1917: War Work of County Agent," Utah Agricultural College Extension Service, Box Elder County, Brigham City, Utah, Dec 1917, p. 2, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Special Supplementary Report, 1917, Box Elder County." 1.

⁵¹ (Logan, Utah) The Journal April 16, 1917.

⁵² R.L. Wrigley, "Report on Emergency Work in Cache County," Utah Agricultural College Extension Service, Cache County, Logan, Utah, Dec 1917, p. 2. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁵³ "Summarized Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah State Council of Defense," L. H. Farnsworth, chairman, Salt Lake City, June 26, 1917. [typewritten] p. 3, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "U.S.C.D., June, 1917.

⁵⁴ R. W. Fletcher to Simon Bamberger, May 19, 1917, Salt Lake City, . LT. p. 1, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁵⁵ "Summarized Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah State Council of Defense." L. H. Farnsworth, chairman, Salt Lake City, October 1, 1917, [typewritten] p. 2, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "U.S.C.D., October 1917."

much of the winter wheat crop.^{56 57} Additional seed was needed to replant these lands and previously unplanted acreage. One of the first things accomplished by the Committee on Food Production and Conservation was to deal with the seed problem. County Agents distributed questionnaires to collect information on seed supplies and idle land.⁵⁸ Advertisements were published asking any farmers having excess seed to contact their Extension Agent.⁵⁹ The Subcommittee on Seeds secured \$31,000 worth of seed for the 1917 growing season to be sold to farmers, often on credit.⁶⁰ Most of this money was repaid and another lot of seed bought and distributed in 1918.⁶¹

The war made basic provisions necessary for the harvest difficult to secure. Fruit growers waited until almost harvest time to order boxes, at this time they found the supply scarce. The State Council of Defense stepped in and procured enough boxes for a successful harvest.⁶² The Council used their power to help farmers attain seventy-five carloads of coal for threshing machine engines so the 1917 grain harvest could be completed.⁶³

⁵⁶ "What is Your Answer?"

⁵⁷ "Special Supplementary Report, 1917, Box Elder County." 1.

⁵⁸ [R. J. Evans and M.H. Greene] "Seed and Acreage Survey," April 9, 1917, Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [published questionnaire], 2000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁵⁹ [D.E. Robinson] "The Utah Agricultural College Bi-Weekly News Letter," April, 3 1917, Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁶⁰ "Summarized Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah State Council of Defense," L. H. Farnsworth, chairman. Salt Lake City, November 20, 1917, [typewritten] p. 4, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁶¹ "Summarized Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah State Council of Defense," L. H. Farnsworth, chairman, Salt Lake City, February 2, 1918, [typewritten], p. 3, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as U.S.C.D, Feb, 1918.

⁶² W. Geddes, F.S. Murphy and A.S. Brewer to L.H. Farnsworth, Sept. 19, 1917 Ogden, Utah, LTS. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁶³ J. Edward Taylor to "Gentlemen," July 18, 1917, Salt Lake City, LT. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

The action of the Council was not always passive, however. They used their power with the press and the Mormon Church to stop agricultural practices deemed undesirable. When a Mr. James Howd began buying female cattle in southern Utah to be brought northward for fattening and slaughter, E.G. Peterson immediately put a stop to it.⁶⁴ Although the war demanded more beef, slaughtering good cows would eventually deplete the beef supply rather than increase it. Most Americans thought the war would last longer than it did. Therefore, increased production in the future should not be compromised by short term easy solutions such as slaughtering good breeding stock or overusing land.

The State Council of Defense worked to make farm practices more efficient. With labor and supplies minimal waste must be eliminated. The shipment of fertilizer was one place which this policy was put into practice. The previous practice had been for each farmer to order his own shipment of fertilizer. Each individual shipment usually filled up about 47 percent of the railroad car's capacity. If farmers would cooperate with their neighbors and order a full carload it would double the efficiency of the system. Farmers were, therefore, encouraged to order early so the shipments could be consolidated.⁶⁵ Small changes in previous practices could eliminate waste, and make agriculture and the nation run more efficiently.

Once harvested the State Council of Defense worked to help farmers find markets for their produce. When it was reported that the farmers of San Pete and Sevier Counties had excess

⁶⁴ [E.G. Peterson,] to J. Edward Taylor, June 28, 1917, LT. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁶⁵ W.S. Gifford to the Several State Councils of Defense. June 23, 1917. Washington D.C.: Council of National Defense. LT. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

unsold wheat the council immediate arranged for its purchase by the federal government.⁶⁶

Despite good intentions by the State Council of Defense their advise did not always pay off for the farmer. Markets could not always be found for some of the extra produce. In the spring of 1917, farmers were told to grow as many potatoes as possible. But when harvest arrived the market was overloaded.⁶⁷ With limited success the Council had tried to encourage railroads and farmer to build more storage facilities.⁶⁸ But the farmers could find neither a market nor storage facilities for their excess potatoes. Utah faced the opposite situation of the Irish potato famine, there were too many spuds. The farmer offered their potatoes cheaply, but still could not sell them. Most of the unpaid seed loans came from this disaster in the potato market.⁶⁹ When Don. B. Colton of Vernal wrote E.G. Peterson asking for help⁷⁰ Peterson could not render much assistance. "I regret that the agencies of the Government have not yet perfected themselves to a point where they can insure adequate returns for such a wonderful response as was made by the farmers of Utah this present year."⁷¹ Propaganda without practical backing is shallow. Luckily few of the programs initiated during the war resulted as the potato situation did.

The push to grow more gardens was one of the most successful programs. Even in cities people could till and plant vacant lots. Every citizen, not just the farmer, could help with a

⁶⁶ "Summarized Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah State Council of Defense." L. H. Farnsworth, chairman. Salt Lake City, May, 9 1918. p. 2. [typewritten] Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁶⁷ "U.S.C.D., October 1917," 1.

⁶⁸ "Summarized Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah State Council of Defense." L. H. Farnsworth, chairman, Salt Lake City, August 23, 1917, [typewritten] p. 3, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "U.S.C.D., August, 1917."

⁶⁹ U.S.C.D., Feb, 1918, 3.

⁷⁰ Don B. Colton to E.G. Peterson, October 19, 1917, Vernal, Utah, TLS. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁷¹ E. G. Peterson. to Senator Don B. Colton, November 5, 1917, TL. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

garden. "Plant a Garden" rang out. Boys and Girls garden projects were one of the earliest 4-H clubs. A nationally produced brochure on planting gardens was distributed to youth. It professed that the garden made an excellent family project, with men doing the heavier work and women the more delicate jobs. Boys as well as girls should be taught how to preserve the harvest.⁷² A garden project would teach youth responsibility and thrift, plus help America win the war. Utah schools and churches supported this effort. Most of the vacant lots in Utah were converted into garden plots.⁷³

Every citizen should conserve as much food as possible "It is just as important to conserve food, once it is produced, as to produce the food."⁷⁴ Half of the campaign to increase the food supply centered on the conservation of foodstuffs. A patriotic housewife did all she could to minimize waste in her household. The Agricultural College's Extension Home Demonstration Agents made suggestions of ways to replace these limited commodities.

A National campaign was waged to "Save the Wheat." One wheatless meal a day was advised.⁷⁵ Mondays and Wednesdays should be completely wheatless. Customers could only purchase white flour if the same amount of substitutes were also purchased.⁷⁶ Corn, potato, barley and oatmeal made good alternative flours. Jean Cox, Home Demonstration Agent,

⁷² [J.C. Hogerson,] "Plant a Garden." U.S. Department of Agriculture and State Agricultural Colleges. (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1917).[circular]. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁷³ C.F.S.C., July 27, 4.

⁷⁴ "Housewives Will Help Win War," (Logan, Utah) The Journal November, 20 1917. p. 4, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁷⁵ Noble Warrum, Utah in the Great War, (Salt Lake City: Utah State Council of Defense, 1924), 133. Sighted below as "Utah in the Great War"

⁷⁶ "Southeastern Utah's Response to World War I," 11.

proclaimed "The war with all its horrors is getting people out of their bread making ruts."⁷⁷

Using different flours added to the variety of breads baked in homes throughout the state.

Housewives should also conserve meat and fats,⁷⁸ limiting themselves to serving meat just once a day. Utah also observed meatless days. Pork and beef should not be served on Tuesdays.⁷⁹ Eggs, cheese and beans contain similar nutrition to meat, and could replace it in the diet. A small portion of meat served with rice, potatoes, or vegetables made a good main dish. Fish, game, poultry, and lamb were also more economical than red meats. But farms which raise stock may still find it more economical to eat red meat than substitutes which had to be transported.⁸⁰

Another commodity necessary to conserve was sugar.⁸¹ This campaign to limit the use of sugar consumption was the opposite of prior custom. Utah was a sugar producing state, so using sugar boosted the local economy. With the war waging in Europe, Utah could not longer just consider her own needs. The world was desperate for Utah's sugar. Honey made a good substitute for sugar.⁸²

Instead of using wheat, meat, fats, or sugar the diet should include more vegetables. Even then Americans did not eat as many vegetables as they should. With extra war gardens, fresh

⁷⁷ Jean Cox, "Flour and Wheat Bread," May, 1918, Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division, [published leaflet], p. 5, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁷⁸ Gertrude McCheyne and Hortense White, "Save the Fats," May, 1918, Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division, [published leaflet], p. 1, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁷⁹ "Southeastern Utah's Response to World War I," 11.

⁸⁰ Gertrude McCheyne and Hortense White, "The Meat Shortage," Feb, 1918, Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division, [published leaflet], p. 1, Special Collections, Utah State University

⁸¹ *Utah in the Great War*, 134.

⁸² Gertrude McCheyne, "Preparedness through Cooperation and Economy," May, 1917. Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division, [published leaflet], 3500 printed, p. 3, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Preparedness through Cooperation and Economy."

vegetables were abundant. Vegetables, however, are highly perishable goods. As much as possible should be consumed while in season, and the rest preserved.⁸³

Conservation did not mean starving or fasting. Growing children should not be deprived of important commodities such as milk and meat. The "Gospel of the Clean Plate" was preached.⁸⁴ Leftovers made good soups or stews. A frugal housewife could feed her family nutritious and delicious meals while simultaneously conserving food.⁸⁵

As well as teaching women replacements for limited commodities, the Demonstration Agents taught them how to preserve perishable foods. During 1917 one-hundred and thirteen canning demonstrations and sixty meetings were held throughout the state with approximately three-thousand women being reached.⁸⁶ To prevent spoilage of perishable crops, Anna Christiansten, Box Elder County's Home Demonstrator, organized a system to help housewives secure fresh produce from local farmers.⁸⁷ An expert from California on drying and evaporation toured the state, teaching Utah women how to preserve fruits.⁸⁸

To facilitate preservation work the State Council of Defense ordered two-hundred and fifty pressure cookers from the Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company, to be sold to individuals or groups through out the state.⁸⁹ Pressure cookers, a fairly new device, made canning

⁸³ Ibid., 3.

⁸⁴ Utah in the Great War, 134.

⁸⁵ "Preparedness through Cooperation and Economy," 2.

⁸⁶ "Woman of Utah Respond to Call." (Logan, Utah) The Journal August, 22 1917. p. 1. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Woman of Utah Respond to Call."

⁸⁷ Ibid., 1.

⁸⁸ "C.F.S.C. July 27," 3

⁸⁹ "U.S.C.D., June, 1917," 1.

safer and supposedly easier.⁹⁰ However, many women did not take readily to this new method. Although the sales initially looked bright, one hundred and seventy-five selling in the first month,⁹¹ the rest went slower.⁹² They did not all sell, the Council was left to pay for the remaining lot.⁹³

Part of the problem may have been that some cookers were found with faulty gauges.⁹⁴ This information was hidden from the public. When Miss Blanche Cooper of Salt Lake complained of the problem,⁹⁵ J. Edward Taylor and E.G. Peterson told her to keep it confidential.^{96 97} They did not want to believe that there were any major faults with the cookers. North West Steel and Iron Works, the manufactures, had a good reputation and would not have made shoddy goods.⁹⁸ Both men seemed to be more worried about their own reputation and the reputation of the State Council of Defense than the actual pressure cookers or the women who used them.

Despite the fiasco over the pressure cookers, the food conservation program was largely a success. Women throughout the state were asked to sign a pledge card promising they would do

⁹⁰ "Hoover Asks Aid of U.A.C. Extension: Food Conservation to be Though in Summer Schools," (Logan, Utah) The Journal June, 16 1917, p. 1. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Hoover Asks Aid of U.A.C. Extension."

⁹¹ "Summarized Minutes of the Meeting of the Utah State Council of Defense." L. H. Farnsworth, chairman, Salt Lake City, July 20, 1917, [typewritten], p. 1, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁹² U.S.C.D., August, 1917, 1

⁹³ J. Edward Taylor to E.G. Peterson, November 2, 1917. Salt Lake City, LTS. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁹⁴ Gertrude McCheyne to J. Edward Taylor, July 15, 1917, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ J. Edward Taylor to E.G. Peterson, July 16, 1917, TLS. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted below as "Taylor to Peterson, July 16, 1917."

⁹⁷ [E.G. Peterson] to Blanche Cooper, July 17, 1917, TL. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

⁹⁸ Taylor to Peterson, July 16, 1917.

all they could to conserve food. Of the 75,000 cards distributed 49,473 were returned.⁹⁹ Utah's program was one of the most successful in the nation.¹⁰⁰ However, one Logan woman did not agree with this campaign. She thought it shallow and did not like the final statement of the card: "I pledge to myself to carry out the directions and advice of the food administration in the conduct of my household insofar as my circumstances permit."¹⁰¹ Women were not slaves to their circumstances. Of course a patriotic woman would do all she could for the war. This pledge card propaganda was not necessary.¹⁰²

Another patriotic Utah woman showed her support to the cause by suggesting a card be distributed throughout the state to promote food conservation. She even wrote her own poem and sent it to Committee on Food Production and Conservation.

Warning!
Stop Wasting Food.

If to you this point was clear,
It would cost you a love one dear
Would you then pay, so great a price;
Your -dearly beloved- a human sacrifice.
And still persist in wasting?¹⁰³

J. Edward Taylor's thought her idea was worth considering but "her idea was much better than her poetry."¹⁰⁴ A card was, however, printed up and distributed throughout the state. Although it did not use Mrs. E.J. Tremelling's poem, it did have a similar message of the importance of

⁹⁹ U.S.C.D., Sept 1917, 4.

¹⁰⁰ U.S.C.D., Feb, 1918, 4.

¹⁰¹ (Logan, Utah) *The Journal*, July, 13 1917.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Mrs. E.J. Tremelling to E.G. Peterson, July 16, 1917, Hoytsville, Utah. LS. [with poem included.] Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹⁰⁴ J. Edward Taylor to E.G. Peterson, July 23, 1917, TLS. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

producing and conserving foodstuffs.¹⁰⁵ The Agricultural College also produced a poster telling citizens to "Let waste be a crime."¹⁰⁶ The Extension Service printed a total of twenty-two publications on production and conservation.¹⁰⁷

Existing programs were adjusted to serve as propaganda tools. The Agricultural College's display at the 1917 Utah State Fair centered on ways to increase food conservation and production. This reflected the Fair's theme: "We Must Mobilize For Food Efficiency." It featured exhibits which showed what the Agricultural College had been doing to increase available foodstuffs, and taught people what they could do to facilitate this campaign.¹⁰⁸ These same displays were used at the Cache County Fair in 1918.¹⁰⁹

The entire emphasis of the Agricultural College became the war. The traditional motto of the College "Labor is Life" was combined with "Win the War."¹¹⁰ The whole institution was dedicated to this work. The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) was expanded and a Students Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.) became affiliated with the College during 1918.¹¹¹ Agriculture and home economics, however, remained the primary emphasis of the College. Credit and non-credit classes were conducted throughout the state teaching food conservation and

¹⁰⁵ [D.E. Robinson] "Produce More and Use Less," Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [card], 1000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹⁰⁶ [D.E. Robinson] "Produce and Conserve," Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division. [poster]. 1000 printed. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹⁰⁷ "Publication issued for increased food production," [1917] Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division [Typewritten] Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹⁰⁸ "U.A.C. Mobilized for Efficiency," 1.

¹⁰⁹ (Logan, Utah) The Journal September 24, 1917.

¹¹⁰ "'Labor is Life' 'Win the War' Mottose of U.A.C.," (Logan, Utah) The Journal September, 25 1918. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹¹¹ D.E. Robinson, "What The U.A.C. Did to Help Win the War," (Logan, Utah) The Journal January, 19 1918. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

production.¹¹² The graduates of the Agricultural College lead the battle for food efficiency.

Forty-two male graduates found extension jobs in eight western states. Seven women became home economic workers and twelve graduates were hired to direct boys' and girls' clubs.¹¹³

The 1918 annual Farmers Round-ups and House-Keepers Conferences centered on the war effort. Richfield, Logan, and Cedar City held week long conferences.¹¹⁴ These annual winter gatherings served as major teaching opportunities for the Extension Service, as well as social occasions for regional farmers and housewives. Approximately eight hundred people attended the Logan conference alone.¹¹⁵ Farmers discussed subjects such as irrigation, range management and horticultural practices. Women's courses included foodways, gardening and poultry management. Besides these basic topics the 1918 conference also included many sessions on the war effort. Subjects such as dairying or egg production were given a wartime slant. Most of the conjoining sessions, those attended by both men and women, emphasized what agriculture could do for the boys in France.¹¹⁶ The final afternoon included a military review and speeches addressing war.¹¹⁷ Mr. Armstrong, the Federal Food Administrator for Utah declared "that historians of the future

¹¹² "Hoover Asks Aid of U.A.C. Extension."

¹¹³ "What U.A.C. Has Done to Aid War," (Logan, Utah) The Journal April, 12 1918. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹¹⁴ "Great Round-ups Planed by U.A.C.," (Logan, Utah) The Journal December, 6 1917. p. 1, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹¹⁵ "Discussions at the Big U.A.C. Round-up: War Will Be on the Farms Declares Federal Food Administrator W.W. Are Strong," (Logan, Utah) The Journal January, 24 1918. p. 1, Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan. Sighted bellow as "Discussions at the Big U.A.C. Round-up."

¹¹⁶ "Farmers' Round-Up and Housekeepers' Conference Program, Logan," January, 1918, Utah State Agricultural Collage, Extension Division, [published leaflet], Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

¹¹⁷ "Patriotic Day at the U.A.C.," (Logan, Utah) The Journal January, 28 1918, p. 1. Special Collections, Utah State University, Logan.

will assert that this war was won on the farms and in the homes of America."¹¹⁸

Although this may be too strong of a statement, the support of the farmer and housewife did help with America's victory in the Great War. Most farms and ranches saw a dramatic increase during 1917 and 1918. Wheat production went up 35 percent, sugar 34 percent, and the poultry production nearly doubled.¹¹⁹ The Extension Service became a flourishing agency, which farmers and housewives supported and trusted. The relationship between the State Council of Defense and agriculture was mostly a positive one. The Council achieved its goal of helping the war by exporting more foodstuffs. The farmers received aid to alleviate some of their problems and they made money on their crops. Housewives gained skills to better managed their homes and care for their families. The state's agriculture emerged from the war stronger then ever. The home trenches held firm, the evil foe was vanquished.

¹¹⁸ "Discussions at the Big U.A.C. Round-up," 1.

¹¹⁹ "Utah Keeps Her Pledge," 1.

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