**THE BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER**

**BRIDGEPORT CONNECTICUT, SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1917**

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**WEALTHY TO GIVE LAWNS FOR TILLING**

The beautiful lawns fronting Park Avenue, Waldemere Avenue and Park Place, as well as elsewhere in Bridgeport, are likely to become large potato raising grounds during the coming season.

Led by the owners of the big Bronson estate at Greenfield Hill, where the handsome lawns and meadows are to be plowed and fertilizer and seed potatoes distributed to the farmers about that section, and Denver H Warner, will perform like service in Fairfield, and even offers his spacious lawn in Bridgeport for crop planting if if necessity demands, owners of other big areas of ground are enthusiastic in the plan.

The Broadlawn club grounds may be turned over to the Council of national defense through Gov. Holcomb for planting purposes in the possible food exigency.

Among those homeowners in the park district who are reported today to be in absolute harmony with the spirit which actuated the foremost families in Cleveland Ohio to donate their well-kept lawns on Euclid Avenue to the inroads of the plow and the hoe are Nathan W Bishop, LB Curtis, Wilson Marshall and Dr. Virgil P Gibney. There are a score of others.

In the Greenfield District it was announced this morning that the Bronson estate, formerly occupied by the late minister to Japan, Lloyd C Griscom, will be opened for the first time in two years. 1000 bushels of seed potatoes and a car load of fertilizer have been purchased through Conrad Buckingham at Southport. It is the plan of the Bronson estate managers to divide the ground among farmers, the land to be worked on equable shares. The owner will furnish both seed and fertilizer.

Denver H Warner interviewed by…

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The Farmer today said that in this time of emergency the country homes of all city and country residents where tillable land was available, should be placed at the command of the authorities. He will aid in both the Fairfield District and in Bridgeport in any measure that may be desired.

In the absence of Charles G Waldo, newly elected president of the Brooklawn club, who is absent from the city today it could not be definitely learned whether official action had been taken in offering the spacious grounds of the club to the Council of national defense but members of the club asserted that the action was proposed.

Throughout Fairfield, Westport and the inward lying districts where the homes of many wealthy New York residents are located it was reported that instead of greensward this summer the fallow ground of cultivation would be seen. Among some of the big estate owners there are miss Anna Jennings, Oliver G Jennings, ET Bedford, Fred Bedford, Fred C and Henry Sturgis.

The greatest need of that community, according to farmers, is the distribution of seed and potatoes which are extremely high and beyond the means of agriculturalists of small means.

Although it has been intimated widely that Seaside Park will be offered to the state in its food conservation program no definite action has as yet been taken by the park board. Such action will come only after the needs of the Council of national defense are made public here.

**HOME GUARDS MAY BECOME FARMHANDS**

SPECIAL TO FARMER

Hartford, April 14- Upon the acknowledged principle that bread and bullets are equally essential and that victory in the present crisis will depend entirely upon the food supply, serious consideration is today being given by officers in command of the Home Guard to a proposition that the big organization be utilized during the summer months in the work of field tillage and later harvesting while the women of the state now being organized under the National League for women service, be employed in the lighter tasks.

Senators and representatives at the capital who have had the project in mind have submitted tentative plans for the consideration of the Home Guard commanders throughout the state.

With concurrent thought throughout the country, fully acquiesced in by suffrage leaders that the women of America should shoulder the hoe as well as the lighter burdens of business and industrial occupation which men may release that they can do the harder work of raising supplies for America, and that boys shall give up their vacation periods to become of similar service, the proposition has presented itself that the Home Guard, filled with able-bodied men, may be of greater service in the fields than as military.

What action the Home Guard commanders will suggest to Gov. Holcomb has not become known as yet, but that a strong appeal for use of the Home Guard in agricultural pursuits is known to be in a formulative process among the Granges and farmers of the state at this time.

It is asserted by farmers throughout this country that while many of the Home Guard may not have technical training in agricultural pursuits the members may readily take to the lighter tasks at first, help about the stables, barns, gardens and orchards thereby releasing the agriculturally trained owners of the farm for the more intricate work of planting and cultivating. During the harvest season expert knowledge is of small importance, but many hands are the chief requisite.

The Home Guard members might…

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be utilized first in the early morning and that early nightfall, attending to harness and driving cows to pasture, feeding pigs and what is generally termed chores on the farm. During the early potato planting season their services would be in great demand quartering the spuds, in drilling fertilizer in the trenches plowed by the farmers and their trained assistance and in the dropping of potatoes. From that occupation the planting of corn, both by the hoe and the automatic hand planter would come under the attention after the ground had been marked out by the owners of the fields. Following this planting would come the hand cultivation of the gardens, the back-breaking process of weeding, and the upkeep of the fences all of which would relieve the real agriculturalists of the country from much time taking but worthless labor in the time of national emergency. Those now in the Home Guard, whose early training upon farms gave them the knowledge of driving horses, milking cows and other semi-expert farm occupations can also greatly relieve the daily pressure upon the farmer of marketing his products.

During the haying season, when many hands make light labor, Home Guard services would be in great demand and Brawn would be at a premium. As the potato and corn crop is being harvested the services could again be utilized in a hand digging, picking and bagging potatoes and in the cutting and Husking operation that attaches to the cribbing of corn.

It is been shown to commanding officers that with a force of 5000 men which it is planned that shall be enlisted in the Home Guard, the food supplies of the state may be materially increased and the shortage of farm labor be proportionately overcome.

Bridgeport with approximately 1000 men or a regiment, used for this purpose, would be greatly aided and would have an opportunity of showing well against more fertile counties already under larger cultivation. The needs of Bridgeport in its table necessities today, if cut off from the outside supplies would almost demand such procedure, and able authority asserted here today.

Among prominent members of the Home Guard, who, if called for such service, might be seen in the fields, our ex-president William Howard Taft, Isaac Ullman of New Haven and in this city, Mayor Wilson, city clerk JAH Robinson and a host of persons prominent in the social, civic and political circles.