ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY

F. CRANEFIELD

Peace with Victory! After the mightiest conflict of all ages, after the sacrifice of ten millions of precious lives and the maiming of millions more, after fifty-two months of agony for all the nations of the civilized world, fifty-two months of warfare characterized by brutality and savagery on the part of our enemies such as never before recorded even among savages, peace has at last been declared and we enter on a new world.

In this conflict the horticulturists of Wisconsin took no small part. We raised no regiments of armed men, we built no ships, we captured no cities, but we did fight!

We raised and equipped a food army of 100,000 men, women and children who fought no less selfishly, no less nobly than any others of the “home guards”, “the army behind the army over there.”

The Civil war added many bright stars to Wisconsin’s flag. The Eagle Regiment and the Iron Brigade will not soon be forgotten and this great World War of liberation has brought to Wisconsin’s banner stars no less brilliant.

Cantigny, Chateau Thierry, Cerges, Fismes, Verdun, Belleau Wood and the Argonne Forest, although names of foreign places, will none-the-less live in history and take their places in our school books along with Lookout Mountain and Gettysburg while the brave deeds of the soldiers of the 32nd Division will be forever perpetuated.

We who stayed behind may also claim some small share of credit and without further flights of fancy I shall attempt to tell you in plain words and figures something of the work done by the State Horticultural Society in 1918 toward winning the war.

Realizing the need of an early start we began the work of organizing the War Garden Work in January.

It was early recognized by the Board of Managers that one great fault in the 1917 campaign was duplication of effort by
various official or semi-official bodies and as the State Council of Defense was recognized as the head of war activities in the state our Board of Managers offered our services to the Council to act as a sub-committee having direct charge of all war garden activities in the state. (A copy of the communication forms Appendix A of this Report.)

This offer was accepted and our Society proceeded to act. The first step was to invite the cooperation of the department of horticulture of the University which was readily obtained. The next to outline a plan to be followed by County Councils, civic bodies and others in organizing the garden movement in all cities of 4000 population and over.

This plan, a copy of which forms a part of this Report as Appendix B, was elaborated wholly from a foundation furnished by Prof. J. G. Moore and is known as the Madison plan:

Now at the conclusion of the year’s work it will interest you to know how fully this somewhat elaborate plan was carried out. This can be briefly answered by saying,—in full.

To begin with nothing and perfect an organization in 56 cities was no small task. The initial work was done through the county councils of defense and, to be brief, before the opening of the gardening season we were able to write out a list of Garden Committees and, most important of all, a list of Garden Heads or Chairmen in each of the following cities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Green Bay</th>
<th>Sparta</th>
<th>Washburn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chippewa Falls</td>
<td>Beloit</td>
<td>West Bend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watertown</td>
<td>Stevens Point</td>
<td>Menomonie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>La Crosse</td>
<td>Bayfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fond du Lac</td>
<td>Brodhead</td>
<td>Oconto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenosha</td>
<td>West Allis</td>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshfield</td>
<td>Waukesha</td>
<td>Ft. Atkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigo</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>Sturgeon Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neenah</td>
<td>Racine</td>
<td>Horicon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior</td>
<td>Cudahy</td>
<td>Oconomowoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appleton</td>
<td>Sheboygan</td>
<td>Berlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Pere</td>
<td>Burlington</td>
<td>Portage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladysmith</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>Wausau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaukauna</td>
<td>Manitowoc</td>
<td>Merrill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice Lake</td>
<td>Ashland</td>
<td>Tomahawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janesville</td>
<td>So. Milwaukee</td>
<td>Kilbourn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waupaca</td>
<td>Plymouth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the meantime the educational work was being carried forward:

Speaking dates were arranged in 46 cities and our worthy president with Prof. Geo. Potter and Mr. W. A. Toole undertook
to meet the prospective gardeners in these cities and talk to them. This work was most wonderfully successful as shown by the attendance at the meetings.

In the meantime seven circulars were prepared dealing with the elementary facts of gardening as follows:

No. 1. Getting Ready for the Garden.
No. 2. Seed Sense for Gardeners.
No. 3. Early Plants.
No. 4. Prepare—The Soil in the Seed Bed.
No. 5. Sowing the Seed in the Garden.
No. 6. Tillage is Harvest Insurance.
No. 7. Protect Your Garden.

Of these, Numbers 1, 3 and 6 were written by Prof. Moore, No. 7 by Prof. L. G. Gentner and 2, 4 and 5 by the Secretary.

These circulars were printed in editions of 70,000 copies each and sent to the garden heads for distribution. The expense of publication and distribution of the circulars was borne by the Extension Division of the College of Agriculture.

During the growing season our office was kept in touch with the garden heads through correspondence and circular letters of encouragement. Inspection of gardens in the different cities was attempted but accomplished only in part owing to the inability of the Secretary aided by the President to secure competent inspectors.

The members of the Gardener's Advisory Council rendered faithful and efficient service in many places.

A satisfactory summary of the work, expressed in terms of dollars and cents is impracticable if not impossible. Various reports have appeared from time to time estimating the value of crops grown in the home gardens of United States but from two years experience and the opportunity of seeing thousands of gardens I feel that all of these are merely crude estimates. It is not necessary, however, to reduce the results to figures to realize and know the value of the undertaking. Thousands of families in Wisconsin this year enjoyed for the first time fresh vegetables all season and are yet enjoying the fruits of their labors in stored and canned vegetables.

The indirect benefits derived from this work are beyond computation and it is unnecessary to dwell on them here. The benefits to horticulture in the state and nation and to our Society can be more readily seen. War Garden work has accomplished in
two short years what we have been laboring for as a society for fifty years.

We have talked and urged and pleaded for half a century for the home garden and met with but indifferent success. Now we should forget our disappointments and feeling of resentment against these people who would not let us help them to help themselves for did they not respond to the last man, woman and child to the call, 'Food Will Win the War'? While the garden work has absorbed a large part of the time and energies of our working force the established activities of the Society have not been neglected. Our trial orchards have been cared for as in other years and this work is progressing toward a successful conclusion as it appears to be the policy of the executive committee to complete, the trial orchard work now in progress without further enlargement.

Our State Fair exhibit has been reduced in size each year as the demand for it diminished until now we occupy only a booth.

The remaining activities of the Society have been pursued as in past years.

Acting upon the assumption that a report of this nature should consist of two parts, a looking forward as well as a look backward I respectfully offer the following:

Due to the untiring efforts of our organization commercial tree fruit growing in Wisconsin is now fairly well established.

Along certain well defined lines we can hold our own with any other apple or cherry growing region in the United States and this business with only gentle stimulus will expand.

In doing this, however, we have undoubtedly if unwittingly neglected another and not less important business, the growing of small fruits.

Slight investigation shows that the business of growing small fruits for market has declined steadily and rapidly during the past ten years. I do not mean to say this condition is due wholly to our lack of efforts in this direction. Other factors such as changed methods of farming, greater general prosperity both in cities as well as the country contributing to shortage of pickers, the reluctance of growers to engage in an undertaking involving much hand labor over a long period, have all been contributing factors.

Had we been wide awake, however, to this condition as to others which we have encountered we might have overcome these
conditions to a great extent. It is our duty now to proceed vigorously to remedy this condition.

There is also room in Wisconsin for the development of market gardening conducted on a broad and rational basis.

With these two lines of commercial horticulture developed equally with tree fruit growing we will have raised our horticultural standard to a point where we need not be ashamed of it.

TRIAL ORCHARD COMMITTEE

Wm. Toole, Sr.

Our party consisting of our Trial Orchards Superintendent F. Cranefield, and Orchard Committee L. G. Kellogg, William Toole and M. S. Kellogg met at Merrillan early Monday, August 12th. We visited the orchard at Whitehall on the County farm early in the forenoon and found the orchard well cared for and not suffering from dry weather, but the excessively wet spring time had interfered with spraying. Fruit did not show much injury from codling moth or scab. Several varieties were bearing well especially Duchess, Hibernal and Okobena. There was a surplus of Hibernal. The superintendent expressed a desire for late keeping apples as they prefer to use all they can on the poor farm. Cherries have proved a failure in this orchard so the committee recommended to fill out with Northwestern and Windsor. For some reason Wealthy has not done well in this orchard. It seems as if it would be well to plant Dudley to take the place of Wealthy as that variety seems to do better than Wealthy in some parts of the state and would fill its place for the same season. Spray material had been secured but the unfavorable weather had made the application impossible. We reached Eau Claire shortly after noon with the intention of going from there by auto to the trial orchard near Weston. Condition of country roads made it necessary to go by train to Menomonie, and from there we went to the Weston orchard by auto. This orchard had been sown to buckwheat for a cover crop. Orchard and buckwheat were in splendid order. We did not meet any one connected with the care of the orchard, but conditions told the same