Horticultural Society should appoint himself as a committee of one to persuade his neighbor to do likewise. Help to organize or visit the community organizations already in existence and put before them the need of greater production.

During the coming year perhaps the growing of vegetables ranks foremost in Horticulture. In the past, the market gardens have produced the greater part of all the vegetables consumed, but conditions have changed and the city garden has become a necessity and must do its share toward winning the fight. Here again our members may lend a helping hand by assisting the amateur about the tillage of the soil, selection of seeds, care of growing crops, etc., and here also may every woman and child, as well as man, have an opportunity to do a share.

Although we are only a small body of men and women, most of us perhaps not eligible to go to the front, let us combine every unit of our strength, and build a wall upon which our boys in foreign lands may lean.

REPORT OF SECRETARY

F. CRANEFIELD.

When we met in December, 1916, one short year ago, we met with cheer and good will, with congratulations in our hearts and on our lips, for then the spirit of our meeting, although tinged with sorrow for the suffering peoples of all the warring nations, was but as a repetition of conventions which had preceded it.

We talked of apple scab, blight, roses, trial orchards, the best ways to kill bugs and Professor Moore lectured us on our shortcomings. We discussed our profits and our losses, our hopes and our disappointments, how best to make more money and how we might better serve all the people of the commonwealth in our chosen life work.

Today we meet under different circumstances, for our nation has been inevitably drawn into the war, the greatest and most terrible conflict of all ages.
This means that every citizen of the United States must assume his part in that conflict, every one, in some capacity must serve his country.

It means also that every public or semi-public organization, particularly those concerned in the production of food, must postpone for a time such activities as relate only indirectly to that problem and direct all of their energies to increasing the food supply.

To our Society this call comes with a force and an appeal that cannot be resisted even if we would, for are not we the guardians of the gardens? To us in the past has been entrusted the task of creating in the minds and the hearts of the people a desire for better fruits, better gardens and better homes. So accustomed are we to dealing with big problems, so used to speaking in terms of carloads and of acres, so absorbed in developing the commercial fruit and vegetable industries of the state that sometimes we, or at least some of us, have overlooked the fact that the sum total of production of 100,000 gardens of 1-10 of an acre each is of greater economic importance than 10,000 acres devoted to market gardens. It is doubtful if we have in Wisconsin 10,000 acres devoted to commercial vegetable gardening and it is not too much to say that in the whole state 200,000 gardens of an average of 1-20 of an acre each were cultivated last season amounting to 10,000 acres. This is a very conservative estimate and there are some who have set the figure three times higher than this.

There is little need, then, for us at this time to canvass the broad field of horticulture for that which is best for us to do; The task is at hand.

This does not mean that we should neglect or even slight those things which have absorbed our attentions in the past, better fruit and more of it, the marketing of our produce, brightening the home by raising flowers, it only means that we must do more than we have ever done before, that we who are best equipped for the task must serve as leaders.

It is gratifying to me, your secretary, to be able to stand here today and say to you, and through you to all the people of the state, that the State Horticultural Society has taken a leading part in this work since April 6th.

We were the first in the field with a publication intended
to aid the amateur, viz., the special edition of our magazine mailed April 17th, just two weeks earlier than any other similar publication.

The succeeding issues of our paper for several months were devoted almost wholly to the home garden and given as wide a circulation as possible.

Several meetings were arranged in communities where the need for help seemed greatest, each attended by one or more of our officers.

Predictions were not lacking by the Gloom Squad that interest would lag as the season advanced and in order to overcome this the Gardener’s Advisory Council was organized. An account of the splendid work done by this group of volunteers appeared in the December number of WISCONSIN HORTICULTURE. Without belittling in any measure work done by members of our association in the past I find nothing in my fourteen years of service quite comparable in spirit and results accomplished equal to the work of this voluntary body, the Gardener’s Advisory Council.

In these days the State Horticultural Society has aimed to serve as soldiers in the Great War.

We have not neglected to do the things which we set out to do before this other and greater opportunity to serve came to us.

In the field of legislation we have not been idle. Through the efforts of this Society the first important step has been taken toward the solution of the vexed problem of marketing by the enactment of the Apple Grading Law.

Through our efforts also the game laws have been so amended as to give reasonable protection to owners of apple trees from the attacks of that dear little furry quadruped, the cottontail.

Our relations with the College of Agriculture continue on the same cordial basis as in the past and on this account our members are coming to realize more fully than ever not only the need but the great value of every department of this splendid institution, and I am sure every member will join with me in expressing to the department of horticulture, entomology and plant pathology our grateful appreciation of the most excellent work done by these departments in the advancement of
horticulture in Wisconsin. We are immensely grateful that we have as leaders in the work of instruction and investigation in horticulture and therefore co-workers, men like Jones, Moore, Wilson, Keitt, Vaughn, Roberts, Milward, Potter and Aust. There is, there cannot be anything but the heartiest cooperation between these two departments.

In like manner our relations with the State department of agriculture draw closer each year, until now that department has entrusted to our Society the conduct and management of the horticultural department at the State Fair.

The Trial Orchards have been conducted as in past years. The Trial Orchard Committee will report on the conduct and management of these.

The orchard census work begun so auspiciously in 1916 was suspended in 1917 owing to lack of funds. Your secretary has unlimited faith in this work and hopes that means and the man may be available the coming year to continue it. A complete orchard census of the commercial orchards of Wisconsin will serve as a foundation from which to build a system of crop reports which will be reliable and valuable not only to the grower but to the dealer and the consumer.

A Jew, David Lubin, who a few years ago was a farmer in California and probably unknown outside of his own community, has become a figure of international importance through his successful efforts in finally establishing an international system of crop reports, especially of breadstuffs.

The whole world now looks to the International Agricultural Institute of Rome for reliable information on the wheat crop.

Through the efforts of our executive committee we have for several years been able to have one or more special lectures on horticultural subjects on the farm institute force.

Last year Superintendent Luther complied with our request to hold 22 special fruit institutes during the season of 1916-1917. These institutes, conducted by Messrs. Bingham and Rasmussen, were well attended and highly successful.

During the past two years we have been able to take part in horticultural affairs of more than state wide importance. Our representatives have taken a leading part in the organization of the National Apple Growers Association and the National Congress of Horticulture; the first named, an organi-
zation which has for its object the collection of reliable data on the apple crop throughout the whole country. This is work which is done very carefully and thoroughly each year by the National Apple Shippers Association which is an organization of buyers, and if the growers can secure similar reliable data they should be in a position to make very good terms with the buyers.

The National Congress of Horticulture is much broader in scope than any other horticultural organization in the country.

The following preamble, adopted at the recent meeting held in Boston, states clearly the objects and aims of the Congress:

WHEREAS: The horticultural interests of the United States comprise one of its basic industries and approximate commercial value of the product derived therefrom being one billion dollars annually; and

WHEREAS: The welfare of the whole people of the United States depends largely upon the fostering and developing of these interests; and as there exist throughout the United States many state and other organizations for fostering and developing the various allied interests comprising the general field of horticulture; and as the work of all of these organizations and societies is carried on without unity of purpose and proper cooperation and coordination; and

WHEREAS: It is believed by many leading members of these organizations, state and otherwise, that the general welfare of the whole horticultural industry throughout the United States can be best conserved and developed by one general body comprising in its membership all of the separate organizations; and

WHEREAS: The National Congress of Horticulture, a delegate body organized at Washington, D. C., Nov., 1916, up to the present time the only national organization endorsing these principles and having for its object their promulgation.

The Congress is strictly a delegate body to be composed of state horticultural societies, national societies and organizations both commercial and others. Our Society, as usual, heads the list of members.

We have then in this time of the trial of our strength and resources as a society aimed to meet our obligation.

The task is not finished. We have set our hands to the plow and we must not look backward.

This terrible world war, which at times has threatened to engulf humanity, even to extinguish civilization, continues.
It will require all the mighty strength of this, the mightiest of nations, to decide it, to end it. It will demand the united strength of the nation, the best efforts of every one of us. Let us as, horticulturists, do our part and do it freely and willingly.

TRIAL ORCHARD INSPECTION TRIPS, 1917

First Trip.

Our party, consisting of two members of the Trial Orchard Committee, M. S. Kellogg and William Toole, with Dr. Ball, Wisconsin State Entomologist, left Oshkosh in Dr. Ball's ear the morning of August 24th.

We arrived at Manitowoc about 10:30 a.m. and called at the County Asylum buildings for the superintendent who went with us to inspect the orchard on separate land more than a mile away.

We found the orchard in thriving condition and well cared for. There had been some blighting on the McMahan trees but not enough to cause permanent injury. There was but very little fruit in the orchard.

We arrived in Milwaukee in the evening and early next morning started for Pewaukee. This we found was quite a young orchard and had been sown to alfalfa. The condition of the trees was not as should be, but if well cared for from now on a good orchard could be established there. The proprietor, Mr. Steele, complained that he cannot get the help needed to care for the orchard and carry on his farming. There is danger of this becoming what Secretary Cranefield condemns as a farm orchard.

We continued in Dr. Ball's ear to Lake Geneva. We found this orchard had been well cared for, but like the one at Manitowoc, was shy of apples. There had been some blighting on McMahan trees but not enough to be considered serious. The trees in this orchard are large enough to permit occasional seeding down if not for too long a time. The people of this part of the county take an interest in the orchard and it probably has been well worth the expense of being established and