

PROCLAMATION.



The matter of food production is one of supreme importance to our people, our troops and our allies. We must produce not only our usual supplies of food but we must feed a large part of the world. Just as we entered this War from no selfish motive, but for the benefit of all mankind, so, also, we must be unselfish in the homely tasks of every day life and take care to make productive in the highest degree our broad acres and fertile lands. The task of the farmer is the oldest in the history of mankind; it is at the very foundation of our national life and civilization.

At the beginning of our second year of the War we find ourselves sorely strained to find an available and sufficient supply of labor to work properly our farms and to assure the harvest which we so greatly need. The military and naval forces have drawn many away from the farms, while still other thousands have gone to the cities to work in those great industries which have been so tremendously stimulated and enlarged by the demand for war supplies of all kinds. There is still available, however, a great supply of labor for work on the farms. It is to be found in the boys and young men of the country who are as yet too young to shoulder the rifle, but who readily can be trained to fight for their country with the hoe and plough. Much of the success of our next harvest must depend upon these boys.

Accordingly, there has been formed under the New York State Food Commission, the New York State Boys Working Reserve, which is co-operating with the United States Boys Working Reserve to organize and enroll the boys of the State for work on the farms, to see that they are suitably employed and to supervise and observe the conditions under which they are permitted to work.