

FORBID DISTILLING GRAIN, SAYS COLONEL

Calls for Commandeering Labor, If Necessary, to Assure Food Supply.

DEFENDS HIS ARMY PLAN

Hopes to Bridge Gap, He Declares, Until Universal Service Takes Effect.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt came out yesterday strongly in favor of a law prohibiting the use of grain in the manufacture of liquor during war time. He told the members of the Long Island Farmers' Club and the Long Island Food Reserve Battalion at a meeting held on the Mineola, L. I., fair grounds that citizens must begin at once to eliminate extravagance and waste and accustom themselves to economy.

"When there is a shortage of food," he said, "I feel personally that we should see that grain is not diverted from food into intoxicants. In this war many nations in Europe have exercised rigid control over the grain production. It would be a fine idea for us to follow their lead.

"Every man can reduce the number of things he has been doing that do not count toward the vital efficiency of the country. We can avoid doing anything that is needless. For example, this would be a good time to cut down joy-rides and save gasoline."

Colonel Roosevelt urged the farmers to increase their acreage so that the United States might have an abundance of food to send to the Allies as well as to provide for home needs. He favored limiting the planting of flowers, and said the railroads should co-operate with the farmers so that those things which were necessary and did not savor of luxury could be given the right of way.

Great Needs Outside Army.

Colonel Roosevelt devoted a considerable part of his speech to explaining his views on personal and universal service.

"I believe in universal service," he said; "but that does not necessarily mean universal service in the army. I believe that every man, woman, and child when the country is at war should have his or her abilities utilized in the matter most essential. Therefore, if there should come a shortage of labor in connection with the crops, the Government could mobilize labor and use it in increasing the food production.

"The farmers ought to remember for the next few months that their work in tilling the soil and producing crops is just as important as any army work. If necessary, the authorities should commandeer labor in order to assure our allies and ourselves plenty of food.

"I want to see universal service adopted, not as a temporary policy, but as a permanent one. I want to see the young men between the ages of 18 and 19 have from six months' to a year's training in the field under conditions of ordinary army life.

"I want to see Mrs. Vanderbilt's son and Mrs. Astor's son, with Pat and Jim of Telegraph Hill, sleeping under the same dog tent and eating the same food. I want to see the officers selected from among them on the strict basis of merit, without regard to anything else. Then we will have a democratic system."

Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., who occupied a seat on the platform with other members of the North Shore and South Side colonies, led in the applause which greeted this part of the Colonel's remarks.

Continuing Colonel Roosevelt said it would take at least two years to get such a system of universal service started successfully. In the interim, he argued, those, who like himself were exempt under this system, should be allowed to take the flag to the firing line at the earliest possible moment.

"I'll Go If They'll Let Me."

Ralph Peters, President of the Long Island Railroad, was speaking when Colonel Roosevelt entered the hall. When the applause which greeted the distinguished guest had subsided Mr. Peters turned to him and asked:

"Colonel, are you going to France, or will you remain here and help us raise crops on Long Island?"

"By, George, I'll go to France if they'll let me," was the Colonel's quick reply.

Mr. Peters made a plea to the farmers to realize the importance of their work and to plant every inch of available land. Supreme Court Justice Townsend Scudder recommended putting the schoolboys of Long Island on the farms during vacation. Paul D. Cravath endorsed this plea and said the principal problem at present was to arouse people to a realization that success in the war depended upon every man doing his bit.

At the close of the meeting a committee was appointed to raise \$50,000 to assist in the cultivation of extra acreage throughout Long Island. W. K. Vanderbilt presented three tractors to the Food Battalion and promised to purchase four more.

Would Do as Britain Did.

Colonel Roosevelt also expressed some of his views of war problems in an interview which he gave out. He called

upon the country to stand behind the President regardless of partisanship, and explained his reason for asking to raise a division of volunteers for service in France, answering those who had used his request as an argument against the Administration's bill for universal military service.

"I do not want to be put in the position," he said, "of saying to my fellow-countrymen, 'Go to war.' I want to be in the position of saying, 'Come to the war; I am going with you.' I wish we already had universal military training in this country. But we are as Great Britain was when the war broke out. She had disregarded Lord Roberts's advice to have universal military service. She was wrong in doing that.

"But it would have been a capital mistake if, when the war broke out, she had declined to send a small military expedition at once to Belgium and had refused to accept volunteers from Canada and Australia on the plea that she then intended to do nothing except in accordance with the theory of obligatory military service. What she ought to have done was to send her expeditionary army exactly as she did—to use the volunteers exactly as she did—and instantly to introduce the system of obligatory service also. This is precisely what we should do.

"I am utterly against any 'Hymn of Hate' in this country as against any nationality. Let us have our 'Hymn of Hate' against that system of organized tyranny which has made Germany a menace to the world. We are fighting in the spirit of Andreas Hofer and those Germans who led the fight against the tyranny of Napoleonic France when we now rally the free peoples of the world against tyrannous militarism which would destroy all freedom. Once we have destroyed that tyranny we shall hail the Germans as our brothers and we shall eagerly hope to admit them to the fellowship of free peoples."

COLONEL SHOWS KAISER GIFTS.

Got Them When War Lord "Was a White Man," He Tells Callers.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt entertained the 200 members of the Oyster Bay Home Guard at his house yesterday. He showed them his trophies, and in speaking of his collection, said:

"Boys, I've received presents from everybody on the face of the globe, from kings to prizefighters."

With the final word just leaving his lips, he turned and apologized to two ministers, who he had also invited to be present and who seemed shocked at the prizefighter part of the remark. Continuing, he said: "Friends, I am going to tell you a secret: I have in my collection some souvenirs given to me by the Kaiser." At this the crowd laughed. "I would like," he added, "to make a bet that the Kaiser would be tickled to death to get these souvenirs back. Remember, boys, I got them when he was a white man."

The Colonel said his motto was "All for one and one for all." He said he was once introduced at a meeting as the "poor man's friend." He resented this remark by telling the Chairman of the meeting that he was neither the poor man's friend nor the rich man's friend, but the honest man's friend.

When asked by one of his callers about his plan of raising troops, he said:

"If for a minute I thought that this division I am trying to recruit would not be sent to Europe, but would be used instead for home defense, I'd quit. My purpose is to go to Europe, to the trenches, and not stay home and guard. I don't want a petticoat or a silk stocking army."