### THE ATHENS REPORTER, APR 24, 1918

#### LOAFERS

Tramps, loafers, sports, and genpoolrooms, picture shows, cabarets. railway station's, steamboat landings, street corners, and other places with nothing particular to do, and a reasonable amount of health and strength to do it with, please take recent useful occupations."

Quite rightly, the Government has with the chores around a barn. made it illegal for these persons to The new law, while not going so

ments; tango teas, and pinochle in the barn. They are now ordered to tlemen of leisure who hang around get to work, and if they do not work as free men, they will have to work as prisoners, and work at "hard labor.

In this connection it is interesting to compare the useful work pernotice. Loafing is now illegal. The formed by shoe-shiners, soda-foun-Order-in-Council declares tain dispensers, theater ushers, rib-"all persons domiciled in Canada bon salesmen and such useful citishall, in absence of . reasonable zens as compared with the tramps grounds to the contrary, engage in and the sport who lives on his wits. It is doubtful if there is much to

At this stage in the world's his- really choose between these two tory, when every man available is classes, so far as economical results necessary to the safety of the coun- to Society are concerned. The man try, it seems a remarkable thing that cleans your boots might well that there are any of the class above be employed at hoeing potatoes, referred to left in Canada, but ap- leaving his customer to spare five parently there are. Poolroms, cab- minutes of his valuable time to clean arets, picture shows, report a thriv- his own boots. The man who has so ing business. The hobo is still a little manhood in him as to be confrequent visitor on his aimless way tent to spend his days selling babyback and forth. There are still ribbon in a departmental store, sports at large with nothing to do would achieve an improved manhood but smoke cigaréttes and go to driving a team on a farm, if he ball games and places of amusement. could be trusted to do so, or helping

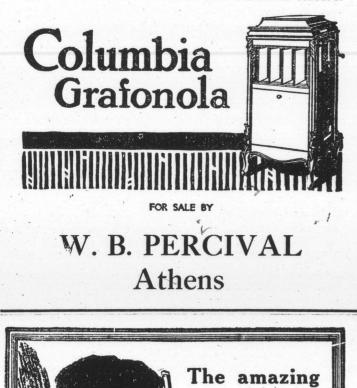
waste their time and their strength far as to displace men from non-es on cigarettes and gentle amuse- sential or silly employments which



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girls, still makes it difficult for a be some one who is out of a job temman to really loaf. The age limit porarily owing to difficulties with is from 16 to 60, during which a his employer, common to similar man is supposed to be capable of difficulties with his fellow employees some kind of useful work, and if and the same employer. Or he must he is not so engaged, he must have be reasonably unable to find a job. certain reasonable excuses. First, Other excuses do not go. he must be a bona fide student in training for some useful occupation, this new Anti-Loafing law before a

Convictions for an offense under

could better be filled by young ucational institution. Or he must magistrate renders the offender lia- viction is obtained by a municipal ble to a penalty not exceeding \$100, ity, the municipal treasurer will reand costs, and in default of the loaf- ceive the fine. Where proceedings er's ability to pay, he must go to are instituted by a provincial ofprison for a period not exceeding ficer, the provincial treasurer shall six months in a common jail or any receive the money. Where proceedinstitution or any farm owned by a ings are instituted within a muni-nunicipality or province established cipality by any other person, the for such a purpose, and put in the fine is divided equally between the time at hard labor. Where a con- municipality and the province.

# An Open Letter---To the Reeve and Councillors of Athens

# Have your citizens organized to increase food production?

If they have not yet done so, We, the Organization of Resources Committee, earnestly ask you to call them together in a Mass Meeting, and lay before them the necessity of immediate and vigorous efforts-the food situation is critical.

It may astonish you to learn that in 1917 Ontario did not grow enough wheat for its own needs. Consequently every Ontario farmer whose land is suitable, has been urged to sow 5 acres more spring wheat this year so that Ontario's demand for wheat shall not be met at the expense of that portion of the Western crop that should more rightfully be shipped overseas.

For this same reason every householder who has a garden or a piece of vacant land is being urged to grow vegetables, because the more vegetables that are grown and eaten in Ontario the less wheat and meat there will be consumed, and, that being so, the Ontario wheat crop should then be sufficient to feed our own people, and leave more Western wheat and other foods available for export.

By intelligent effort, in the cultivation of his own back garden, or from the cultivation of a nearby picce of land, the average citizen can grow, this summer, enough vegetables to support his family through the next winter. And remember, if food restrictions are enforced next winter, a supply of vegetables in the cellar will be very desirable.

If you already have an unofficial or semi-official organization to stimulate food production, so much the better. That will give you the basis for a comprehensive committee.

A plan that has been adopted in many places is here outlined. You should adapt it to the needs of your own community.

- A General Committee should be 1. formed, representing every important interest of the community.
- The work should be done by sub-2. committees. The following list is sufficiently comprehensive for the largest places. You should adapt it to your own community.
- (a) A sub-committee on Finance. The Organization of Resources Committee is willing to help local branches financially with publicity, public meetings and organization.
- (b) A Publicity Committee to place local problems properly before the people, supplementing the larger work of the province-wide publicity, by securing pledges, sending out circular letters, arranging for addresses in churches, schools, motion-picture houses, etc., and by supplying local papers with news items.
- A sub-committee on Vacant Lot and Back-Yard Gardening to include representatives from horticultural socitics, school teachers, etc.
- (d) A sub-committee on Farm Labour, composed of employers of labour,

placed on farms locally through the Agricultural Representatives or the Government Employment Bureaux.

- (e) A Farm Lands sub-committee, composed of groups of men to cultivate larger tracts of vacant land in the vicinity of cities, towns and villages, Flax growing is profitable and suitable-flax seed and fibre are much needed.
- A sub-committee on Schools, to en-(f) list all school-children of sufficient age to work either in home gardens, community gardens, school gardens, or on farms.
- (g) A sub-committee of women on Conservation to deal with the problems of food-saving in the homes; the more broadly representative it is of women's activities the better. Existing women's organizations should not be interfered with, but since conservation is one of the greatest problems, there should be a women's committee in each community to deal with this problem alone.
- An Executive Committee should be 3. appointed, to include the chairman



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BE SURE TO HEAR THEM

E. C. TRIBUTE, Agent

representatives of organized labour, war veterans, etc. Labour is the key to the food production problem. All boy, girl, part-time and vacation labour should be enlisted. Make sure that sufficient labour is ready to meet any demands made by your farming community. This labour should be

of the general committee and the chairmen of the sub-committees. This committee should meet frequently.

A Secretary to the committee should 4. be chosen, for his knowledge of the situation, who would be free to devote considerable time to the work.

Lack of food threatens the battle-line and we must deal with the situation.

## TO THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN

If you have not yet decided to plant a vegetable garden make up your mind to do so now. You will not regret it. There is still lots of time. Potatoes and beans may be planted up to June 1st and these are the best substitutes for wheat and meat.

For good, practical advice upon how to lay out and cultivate a Vegetable Garden, write for a free copy of the booklet entitled: "A Vegetable Garden for Every Home." This has been prepared by the Ontario Department of Agricalture for the guidance of citizens who will respond to this call for increased production.

Send for copy now. Mail the coupon below:

Mail This Coupon NOW	Organization of Resources Committee, Parliament Buildings, Toronto Dear Sirs: Please send me a copy of your booklet "A Vegetable Garden for Every Home."
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