Boro College Students To Help Harvest Crops

By RALPH C. BENEDICT
Professor of Biology at Brooklyn College and Director of the Farm Labor Project of that Institution

Brooklyn College is pioneering a new kind of educational program for students of a city subway college. Responding to the urgent call from the food production front for city students to replace harvesting workers, now in the army or industrial plants, the college is now enlisting student workers for this patriotic service. At the same time it is registering them in standard college courses planned for a special country Summer session in the vegetable-raising region of central New York, with headquarters at the State Agricultural Institute at Morrisville, N. Y.

The farm work and the country experience are an education in themselves and education in the understanding of the production end of the food line, and in appreciation of the circumstances which the farmer meets day in and day out, in rain and sunshine. Long days under the open sky picking peas and beans, with frequent drenching rains were the portion of the 1943 farm labor group. Such work was very different from hours behind counters, or in a shop which many had experienced. Rides for miles through rolling, hilly country were a pleasant contrast with rides of equal length in crowded subways. Living in dormitories, dancing square dances at Grange parties, hikes about the countryside on days off—our 1943 company of 150 student workers will remember these the rest of their lives.

More formally, the college provided these students with a chance to carry on regular college courses so that their patriotic endeavors might not mean complete retardation of college progress. English literature, especially the nature poets, came to mean much more than ever in a city environment. For English composition there were many new and vivid experiences to write about. Courses in political science, enriched by talks by State Controller Frank C. Moore, Assemblerman Wheeler Milmore of Madison County, and others, geology of stream behavior studied at brookside and by waterfalls, rural sociology—these and others were offered to the faculty engaged under Summer session auspices but doubling in many other tasks seven days a week.

The curriculum for 1944 will follow that of 1943 with some further additions in the way of courses and staff. Student volunteers are now being enrolled and registered. As in 1943, we shall have predominantly a Brooklyn College group, but registrants from other colleges are also acceptable under the usual conditions prescribed by the Board of Higher Education, and a contingent of older high school students, some just entering at Brooklyn, will be included. The college staff has the very valuable aid of the staff of the Morrisville Institute for both educational program and recreational activities.

"Farm produce picked by the students during 1943, you can be assured, was just that much produce saved. Local help and other outside labor was taxed to the limit. Additional harvest would not have been possible." (From a letter from County Agricultural Agent Lynn Bookout, Defense Committee Chairman Lawrence Smith and United States Employment Service County Supervisor Roderick Virgo.)

Brooklyn College students "saved" 22,000 bushels during 1943. We have our sights lined for a 40,000 bushel goal by 1944. Our first contingent will leave for up-State June 22.

We are encouraged to believe with Controller Moore that with the Morrisville Institute, "we are developing new fields of unlimited opportunity for educational service not only for the School of Agriculture at Morrisville but for all similar institutions. The training you are providing will produce self-reliant and better citizens. It will equip your boys and girls for more useful service."

---

'GUMPTION' CALLED MARK OF AMERICAN

Youth Wants Freedom Here, Dr. Stoddard Says

The well-educated American "is a formidable fellow because he can work well singly and, on occasion,