

ONTARIO WOMEN'S WORK.

The splendid assistance given by the Women's Auxiliary of the Ontario Organization of Resources Committee to the work of the Food Board is well expressed in the following summary:—

"For more than a year past the women of Ontario have displayed a fine spirit of co-operation in the work of conservation and greater food production. When the women were fully awakened to the fact that their saving in the kitchen was just as essential to the winning of the war as our men's work in the trenches, they were stimulated to do all in their power to conserve the necessary foods.

"Women's organizations in city and country held meetings and had speakers explain the situation, often visualizing for them, by means of charts and exhibits, just what the European countries had accomplished in the matter of food rationing. When the rations of Great Britain and France, and the empty plates of Belgium and Serbia were compared with the bountiful tables of Canada, the object lesson was most effective.

"The circulation of the Food Pledge cards was the first intimation that the women, and in fact the general public, had of the seriousness of the food situation throughout the world. Aside from the pledge cards the splendid publicity part was well worth the effort.

"'Starvation of the Garbage Pail' has become the slogan in most households. When compulsory methods were introduced for the saving of flour and sugar it met with the approval of the great majority of women. When the regulations regarding public eating places were enforced, this also met with the hearty commendation of women's organizations and women in general. Many expressed regret that they were not able to show, in concrete form, the actual amount of their savings. Hearty co-operation came from the women keeping large boarding-houses, also from girls' schools, etc. It speaks well that there has not been a prosecution of any institutions. Many societies that had been in the habit of serving tea and refreshments at their meetings, discontinued this practice. In some instances they erred on the side of saving rather than in serving too much.

"No opportunity was missed of addressing large gatherings of women, at their annual or executive meetings, on the need of food conservation, when these meetings were held within the province. In many

cities and towns the Women's Auxiliary have had window displays illustrative of food needs, and the women's share in bringing about the desired results. These window exhibits proved most educational. At the Toronto Exhibition in the Food Conservation Building, the auxiliary had a large and attractive booth under the personal supervision of the secretary. Here literature was distributed and queries and questions answered on the many phases of the work. The Commodore Hotel Company of New York held a War Savings Cooking Contest in the building, and the secretary of the Women's Auxiliary was asked to be one of the three judges on the committee. At her suggestion the pupils in Domestic Science at the Technical School were the contestants. The Auxiliary also had educational booths at the Windsor and Napanee fall fairs, as well as providing the material for several other like exhibits.

"In the month of July fish demonstrations were held for two weeks in Toronto, when Mrs. Gurnett was asked to take supervision of them. Great interest was evidenced. Hundreds of women attended the lectures which were held by the Canada Food Board in conjunction with the Department of Fisheries of Ontario.

"The Dominion Chautauquas very kindly placed their organization at our disposal, and we co-operated with them during the month of August. We provided a speaker on Food Conservation who gave talks on this important subject in twenty-five different towns. These proved most interesting and resulted in requests for demonstrators to be sent to the places to teach the women the use of substitutes, especially of flour.

"Quantities of literature, including Food Bulletins, Orders in Council, special articles and circular letters on important matters, have been sent out from the office of the Women's Auxiliary to the women of the province through the Auxiliaries, Women's Institutes, Local Council of Women, Red Cross and Patriotic Societies. All have co-operated magnificently."

Cable information from Europe is to the effect that the people of the liberated territories are daily and urgently calling for food. Pending the preparation of the complete world relief programme, ships carrying emergency cargoes are now on their way across the ocean. Food supplies have gone into Southern Europe where the food situation was most critical.