

tion is generally difficult, it is probable that the work can with care be better spread out. There are few useful men quite out of work, but there is a considerable number of women and girls on short time or seeking employment, and a further great number of women in all classes who are usually not producing anything of real utility. It is for women to organize this force to supplement men's work or allow men to join the forces, if any further needs are apparent.

There seems no reason to be over-anxious as to employment when the war is over. The return from the colours and the closing down of production of war necessities can hardly be much more abrupt than the disturbance of the last year. The nation will still need to be fed ; many of those contracts and purchases which have been postponed for want of credit or income or inclination for enjoyment, or have not been carried out for want of material or labour, will take effect. While we shall find the purchasing power of the belligerent countries greatly diminished and exports to them slow to recover, we shall also find some slackening in their competition both at home and abroad ; and, as regards our export trade to neutral countries, it seems probable that quite soon they will be desiring more than we, with our curtailed labour force, can supply, and if such a state of things exists at the conclusion of the war there will be a brisk foreign and colonial demand. No doubt there will be temporary trouble and individual hardship, but the wonderful elasticity in production, which has been so useful for the purposes of war, will be equally available for the service of peace.