

At the Sign of the Maple

EDITED ESTELLE M. KERR

War Service on the Land

MUNITION-MAKING appears to be the most important industry at this moment, but it is even more necessary to feed men than guns. The women of Canada have been allowed to share in the manufacture of munitions only to a very limited extent, but the wide field of agriculture is calling loudly for their help. Many wish to respond, but don't know how to go about it, and there should be organized effort to train women and establish them in this most necessary work.

Recruiting

IN the first place, we can individually do our bit by making the land at our disposal more productive and by training ourselves for a better understanding of the work. In the second place, we can aid in recruiting women for farm work. Women must be appealed to work for patriotic reasons, as many are so well off that wages do not tempt them. The men have enlisted because they have learned that their country needed them and because their imaginations have been touched, and the women must be approached from the same point of view. They must be shown that in hoeing turnips they are doing work just as patriotic as in making fuses. The Board of Agriculture in England has ordered 50,000 armlets for women who work on the land. The armlet is green, ornamented with a red crown, and may only be worn by women who have registered for war service on the land and have actually done thirty days' work.

Registration

A REGISTER should be kept in every village in an agricultural district where women willing to do war service can inscribe their names with address, age, kind of work wanted, special qualifications, amount of free time, etc. Some woman, well-known and popular in the village, should keep this register

and no serious offer of help should be refused. The real object is to awaken the spirit of co-operation in doing men's work of food production during their absence, and very often the practical labourer's wife will make useful suggestions. One English woman who could not leave home, volunteered to wash and mend the milking overalls, to relieve an overworked farmer's wife, and another, too delicate for farm work of any sort, offered to mind the small children of those fit for outdoor work. Wherever a register is started, the fact should be made known as widely as possible through the local press. If women and girls of high social standing who live in a dairying district will learn to milk and will let the other inhabitants see them going in suitable working dress to and from their work day after day, others will soon follow their example.

Training

WE must mainly depend on the women of the country who will go and work from their own homes, but there are others who are not country women, but who are willing to work on the land during the war if the proper training and a position when that training is completed, are assured her. There are schools or colleges in every province in the Dominion where agricultural training is taught to women, and the trained worker is always in demand, especially as our farmers still look on the employment of women as a doubtful experiment. There is, however, a great deal of farm work that any woman of intelligence may do. One farmer who has employed a number of well educated girls who had no previous experience in farm work, says that three unskilled girls can do the work of two

ordinary farm men, although the girls did not begin work until 6.30 a.m., while the men started at 6.

Farmers Dubious

THE majority of farmers are reluctant about employing women, but when they can get trained workers they can be persuaded to try the experiment and their prejudices are gradually overcome by the efficiency of the girls themselves. Many important branches of farming have for years been largely in charge of the farmer's wife, such as poultry-raising, dairying, etc., and women have been found to be more efficient than men in the rearing of young animals, in keeping clean stables, hen-houses and pig-sties, and in many other branches they compare very favourably with men. It must be made plain to the farmers that equal work demands equal pay, regardless of the sex of the worker. Until the farmers suffer from the scarcity of labour they will not willingly employ women, but the need will be felt and greatly felt this autumn, and unless women are prepared our harvests will suffer.

Instructing children in milking and the lighter branches of farm work will prove most beneficial, but we hope that Canada will not adopt the emergency law passed in England, of releasing school children of 12 years for agricultural or munition work.

Casual Labour

MOST women living in the country have some spare time during the day, and with a little management could make more. Some could go milking once or twice a day. Some could help in hay or harvest field. Nearly all could help in picking fruit and making jam. Some could go weeding or hoeing for farmers, or start keeping fowls. If women would let the neighbouring farmers know that they are willing to work, they will soon be called upon to do so. Casual labourers are warned against the spirit of pic-nicing. There are many women of edu-

cation who live in towns and might offer themselves for such jobs as harvesting, fruit-picking, etc. If these women do not go about their work seriously the farmer engaging them will become prejudiced against female labour.

Suitable Clothes

CLOTHES are as important to the women engaged in farm life as in any other sphere, perhaps more so, for the motto "anything will do" is most disastrous. The majority of women farmers favour the short skirt or bloomers, with stout walking boots, gaiters and a knitted cap or sunbonnet. No hat-pins should ever be worn by those who have the care of animals. The well-bred lady displays more sense in adopting a suitable costume than the labourers' wives, and she is not so fastidious about the kind of work she will do. She handles horses with greater confidence, and people who can manage horses are always in demand, and she does not make a fuss about mucking-up pig-sties and other disagreeable tasks. It fact, she is a better sport, and it is these women who have lead



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in the patriotic movement in England for women to do war service on the land, and it is to them we look for aid in the problem that faces Canadian agriculture.

Student Volunteers

FIFTEEN thousand male students of 15 years and upwards from the schools and collegiate institutes of Ontario will be available this summer for farm work. The boys will work from May to October, losing two or three months of school work, but special arrangements will be made so that their academic training will not suffer.

Child Gardeners

EDUCATING children in the knowledge of growing things will be most beneficial to the race and the school garden is a most excellent institution. The Ontario Department of Agriculture has organized the children of the province who hold rural school fairs every year, and recently the Hon. J. S. Duff, on behalf of 2,500 school children, presented a motor ambulance to Col. Noel Marshall for the use of the Red Cross. The money was raised by the boys and girls by the sale of potatoes which they cultivated last year.

Daughters of the Empire

AT the annual meeting of the I. O. D. E., 25,000 paid-up members were reported, 130 new chapters have been formed during the past year, and in spite of the enormous sums dispersed by the society, who raised \$83,000 for patriotic purposes during the past year, a balance of over \$3,000 is on hand.

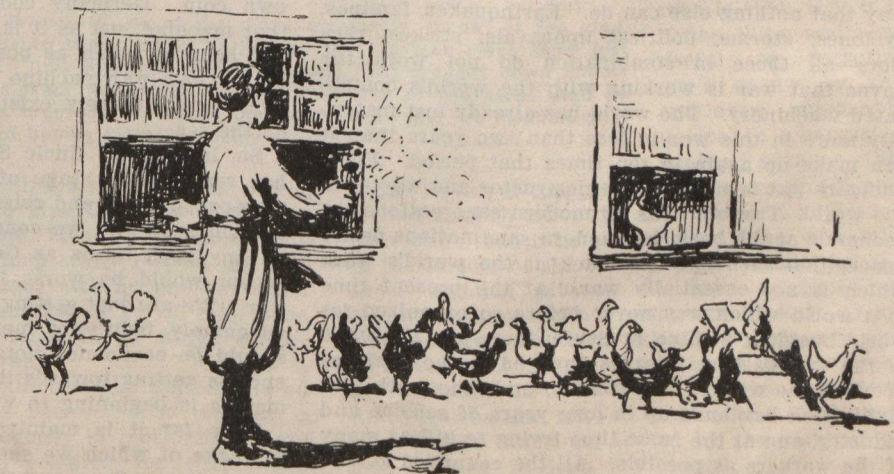
Million Dollar Bazaar

NOT only in Canada are the Daughters of the Empire active; the society flourishes in the United States as well. In the Borough of Manhattan, sixty-eight chapters, presided over by Mrs. J. Elliott Langstaff, are holding a mammoth bazaar in New York. The committee are pledged to raise at least a million for the relief of the blinded, starving and

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In the care of young animals women are more efficient than men.



Poultry farming is a pleasant and remunerative business.