

WOMEN AND THE WAR



By MRS. HENRY P. DAVISON

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National Board Y. W. C. A.

Within six months after the United States entered the war, the Y. W. C. A. War Work Council had established



Mrs. Davison

to a sense of their responsibility in this time of great excitement and confusion.

No scolding of girls for unwise actions and no solemn finger-shaking occurs in the clubs. Instead of dwelling on what not to do, these wise leaders urge real patriotism. All sorts of projects are suggested that are more interesting than the dubious and dangerous pleasures which appeal to the ignorant and the thoughtless. At parties, for instance, these wily chaperones, whom no one ever thinks of as supervisors, arrange that there shall always be twice as many soldiers as girls. "Twosing" is utterly impossible where there are not enough girls to go around!

Club leaders do not attempt to banish the gallant soldier entirely from the girls' world; they wish only to bring him down from glorified heights of glamour to take his place as an every-day hero, subject to the same scrutiny as other men.

Instruction and relief work are not neglected. Among the activities offered are dressmaking, cooking, knitting, French, athletics, dancing, singing, Red Cross work, Belgian relief, and work for the fatherless children of France. The world contains a number of things besides soldiers for a girl's imagination to dwell upon. Hundreds of clubs for school and business girls all over the country are offering pleasanter recreation than the gaily lighted streets and the shadowy parks.

"I have a place now to spend my evenings," said a telephone girl in Waukegan, Illinois, to the club leader. "I was so lonely before you came." Emergency housing for employed girls is closely connected with the more general welfare work. Centers, selected on the basis of immediate need, have been chosen as demonstration grounds to show employers how girl employees should be housed.

"Why not have milkmaids now a days?" someone asks. There is a cry that the labor conditions are in a bad way as far as the dairies are concerned. The men have gone to war or into other work and the cows are being killed off because there is no one to milk them. "What is going to become of the children of this country if that goes on?" is the question asked. Some of the girls who are not exactly

These centers are near the cantonments.

The Bureau of Social Morality is an important feature of the War Work Council's program under the present abnormal conditions. That ignorance is no shield to a girl is well known to its members. Instead, it is her gravest peril. Any situation shrouded in mystery is dangerous. Women can deal only with what they understand. A true social morality must be built on a foundation of knowledge, and be inspired by high aims.

Fourteen women physicians are talking to groups of parents, school-girls, and industrial women. These lecturers bend their best efforts to spreading information on social ideals. Colored women at this time must meet all the problems confronting white women. Their situation is further complicated by industrial and social conditions. Special clubs are being formed among colored girls in the neighborhood of cantonments. Workers are being placed in industrial centers like Louisville, Kentucky, and Hopewell, Virginia.

Immigrant men who formerly labored in mines, on farms, and in factories, and now serve in our army are, themselves, in need of assistance. Foreign men marry young and many, even of the young ones, have large families dependent upon them. Because of these helpless families, the War Work Council has translators who go into the camps.

The activities of the War Work Council could not be confined to our own country. Our American nurses in France need the Y. W. C. A. social workers. Even the most self-reliant women must have help at the front where women's welfare is a matter of minor importance. A central club in Paris gives hard-worked, courageous nurses a home in a strange land. Branch clubs at all of the base hospitals provide relaxation and recreation for hours off.

When the French women cabled to the War Work Council, pleading for experts to advise them in establishing foyers-canteens for women workers in munitions and other war industries, experts were sent over to have oversight of the building and equipping of some of the canteens and act as adviser to French committees.

A professionally solemn-faced butler in one of the beautiful homes where a drawing-room meeting was being held stood where he heard the stories of the War Work Council's plans and accomplishments. After he guests had gone he approached the speaker with two one-dollar bills. "I give them for my daughter," he said. "I am subject to the next draft. When I am gone someone must look after my little girl. I feel the War Work Council will do it."

Discouraged by the thought of washing windows, running elevators and carrying mail are looking toward the dairies. They won't wear the costumes seen in light opera but they'll be quite sensible in heavy boots and coveralls and they'll save the day. Here's to the milkmaid of modern days.

The 1918 food reserve is the only safe insurance for 1919 food supplies.

DAIRY PROBLEMS ARE COMPLEX

Consumers Are Counseled Not To Decrease Use of Milk Nor Complain of Prices.

"Unless means are quickly found to remedy conditions existing in the dairy industry as well as in other classes of livestock, serious menace to both industries—which are allied—may be forecast."

This is the statement of Assistant Federal Food Administrator, W. K. Newell.

"With the dairymen selling their businesses as fast as they are able to find purchasers," said Mr. Newell, "with an increasing volume of sales of heavy calves, both male and female, and with already a world's shortage of beef, the outlook for future supplies is not as rosy as one might wish."

"It has been charged in some quarters that the price of milk and other products of the dairy have been elevated to such an extent at all Pacific northwest points that the dairy interests should be making a profit and well satisfied with their lot."

"Taking only the retail price as a basis—that which most vitally affects the consumer—the price of milk today in Portland is 15c per quart."

"Even with normal prices milk is generally sold retail at 10 cents a quart here, therefore the advance is not nearly as marked as in many other lines of foodstuffs."

"The dairyman today is paying more than double the wages of normal years for his hired help. He is paying more than double for his requirements of hay and a very considerable advance over the normal for his bran and shorts."

"The cost of milk cans and other dairy utensils is practically double the normal. The cost of bottles has soared to such heights as to make one dizzy to think of it. The cost of producing milk today is therefore more than double that of normal periods even without considering the fact that this has been a very abnormal season and the production of milk and cream per cow is far below the normal."

"Laws enacted during the last few years force the dairyman to add to his costs as a matter of cleanliness. The public is no longer willing to tolerate the quality of milk generally marketed a few years ago. All of this costs money and the dairyman has been paying it while the full charges have not been passed back to the consumer."

"It has oftentimes been said that a man very seldom quits a business where liberal profits are available. The fact that so many dairymen are quitting that they are not making adequate profits—they are not making adequate profits—if any at all."

"The killing of dairy calves during the present season has broken all records simply because the country producer could not afford to feed them to maturity. Suggestion has been made in some quarters that the killing of female calves be prohibited by law. This would indeed solve the problem providing some means were found to feed and keep the animals."

"Dairy experts have for years preached the gospel of 'getting rid of the star boarder'—the cow that does not pay her expense. That is the situation just now. Few are paying their board and there is no improvement of the situation in prospect."

"Similar conditions may be spoken of in regard to the future of the beef supply. Owing to the shortage and extreme price of feed more light-weight and unfinished cattle have been marketed in the stockyards of the country during the last two seasons than ever before known. The country cannot afford to feed its cattle even at the present price of beef and the journey to market is therefore a necessity. In fact the government has recently requested that the public purchase beef from light weight animals because the stock must be marketed. This means that many thousands of animals that are today coming to market weighing around 600 to 1,000 pounds, would have showed a weight of at least a third more if allowed to fatten properly. This means an enormous loss in the meat supply for the future—a loss that the country can ill afford to contemplate."

Conservation is the All-American job—an army of four million soldiers must be fed from this year's crop.

"There is no substitute for milk as a food for growth. Portland mothers should make a drive on father's purse to the extent of one quart of milk per day for every child."—Oregon League Dairyman.

Shoes have gone up in price but we buy them. They are a necessity. Yet milk, the food that is necessary to everyone, because it goes up, is too often cut from the diet. Isn't that a little inconsistent?

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