

WOMEN AND THE WAR



By MRS. HENRY P. DAVISON

Treasurer War Work Council
National Board Y. W. C. A.

Hostess Houses in the military camps all over the country are one phase of the Y. W. C. A. War



Mrs. Davison

Work Council's activities. These reception houses are placed at the entrance to the cantonments for the use of women visiting their soldier relatives. So necessary have these proved that tents and borrowed rooms were pressed into use until houses could be built. Often the Association rooms in the nearest town were turned temporarily into hostess houses.

"We put up an extra cot," reported one western secretary, who returned to tell the War Work Council the special needs of her community, "for an old Lithuanian mother who came a hundred miles to see her boy in camp. She cannot speak a word of English and she has to have her old black pipe every hour. But her boy loves her."

"Another charge bestowed upon us is the girl-wife of a 'bootlegger' arrested for selling whisky to soldiers. He was wild with anxiety about her till we said we would look after her."

"A thirteen-year-old imp has just been turned over to our care. She ran away from a convent, and, being adventurous, made straight for camp."

Any hostess can tell you heart-breaking stories of times when the

hostess house has been the refuge of stricken women. She can tell you also of incidents when the hostess house has brought about a happy ending.

Prayers of gratitude for the Hostess House are murmured every night in many towns by women who are of no particular importance to any one except to some man in the army—and to God.

The commandants of the camps are as appreciative of the hostess houses as is the most forlorn woman. No house is erected except at the direct request of the commanding officer. Fifty-four houses are now in use, others are being built as fast as lumber and carpenters can be secured.

Each house has its individuality. The plans for the building at Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Georgia, were redrawn by Miss Fay Kellogg in order to save three magnificent oak trees. A fine old Southern mansion secured for the Young Women's Christian Association headquarters at Petersburg, Virginia, is as popular with the soldiers from Camp Lee as is the official hostess house.

The hostess houses serve the entire nation.

The work with girls is one of the most important functions of the War Work Council. It deals with all kinds of work with girls. Girls in small towns, in cities, in country villages, and in the great manufacturing centers are all touched by the unusual conditions of a country in a state of war preparation. Their patriotism may urge them toward unexpected pitfalls. Their very enthusiasm leads them into danger.

(Continued)

Work or Fight Order is Here.

The work or fight order has reached Washington County. Pursuant to the recent legislation of Congress, community labor boards have been organized all through the country, and on September 30, Mr. Dooty and Mr. Hartwig of the State Advisory Board met with the committee for Washington County, instructing the committee in its duties. These boards, under the Secretary of Labor, Washington D.C., have three functions: first,

recruiting labor for war industries; second, distribution of labor to war industries; third, sitting as an arbitration board in matters of dispute between employer and employees.

These local community boards consist of seven members. The chairman of the board is the government representative and is what is known as a "dollar per year" man.

The government appointee is John M. Wall of Hillsboro, and the other members of the committee are as follows: For em-

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