

The Y. W. C. A. Goes Into Industrial Fields

A committee of experts to investigate the special hazards of war industries as it affects women is about to visit various centers where women are working on war contracts. Hazards incurred in the use of material poisons will be investigated, and their effect upon the health of the women. Y. W. C. A. war workers report that in their work in the munition centers they find unusual precautions taken. Under Dr. Alice Hamilton of the Bureau of Statistics, a survey of occupational diseases has been made. The newness of the work which gave little experience as to its dangers, was one of the greatest causes for accidents, poisoning and neglected cases of occupational diseases. Many times the physicians living in the districts occupied by these chemical factories found the patients suffering from symptoms which were entirely new in their experience. There

parts, greasing wires so they would not rust, riveting and boring at power machines, tacking and glueing reinforcements and doing other things to the 4000 parts that go to make one airplane. These women wear an emblem which is officially awarded by Uncle Sam to show that they are members of his industrial army. Only at the end of six months, and upon honorable discharge from service, does this pin become theirs for keeps. Although they do not work as fast as men, they are more painstaking and for some of the more delicate processes, they seem to be more adept. The strongest impression I brought away was the infinite care with which everything is watched. There were piles of discarded parts, "rejects" on every hand. A cross marks the defect on each piece and sometimes it seemed so small that only a microscope



GIRL INSPECTORS IN MUNITION PLANT—It is for these girls the Y. W. C. A. supplies Recreation Rooms.

are nearly 2,000,000 women employed in the United States in industries necessary toward carrying on the war. It is for these women that the Y. W. C. A. is opening war service centers in the small communities in which large munition, uniform, or supply factories have sprung up almost overnight.

The large number of so-called "cost-plus" plants in the country are employing tens of thousands of women. To watch over and befriend these women when off duty, when ill, and discouraged or homesick, since many of them have left their homes for the first time to engage in this work, is the function of the Y. W. C. A. war service centers which are being established in munition cantonments. It is estimated that four persons in war industries must be maintained behind every fighting man in the army, and it is certain that at least half of this tremendous army will be composed of women. These war service centers in industrial centers hold for women the same place as the hostess houses in military camps do for the men and their friends.

At Bridgeport, Conn., where there are 45,000 girls and women employed in the Remington Arms and Union Metallic Company the girls on the night shift have a half hour's recess from 11:30 to 12 o'clock. At this time a canteen is in operation and some of the girls take out door exercises planned for them by the secretary in charge. Most of these cost plus plants are in small towns, and in the majority of cases, there are no housing facilities so the Y. W. C. A. is planning to build and operate dormitories in many industrial neighborhoods.

The Hatting Sash and Door Company and the American Car and Foundry Company in St. Louis are working on airplanes. The Y. W. C. A. has two girls' clubs or recreation centers there for the women employed in the new war industries. One of the Y. W. C. A. secretaries after going through the plant said that the work of these western factories was singled out for special commendation by the congressional committee. In speaking of the women's work she said: "I saw women in overalls or long aprons stitching wing covers, coping them, binding struts with stout cord, varnishing landing gears and other exposed wooden

would reveal it. Pieces of wood are being planed and levelled down to the thirty-second degree of an inch, and the work in all its departments is very trying, so that the women are keen for a place to rest and eat in comfort after their intense work."

In addition to the work in munition centers there are nearly one hundred hostess houses established under the Y. W. C. A. in army and navy cantonments. These houses are for the accommodation of the women friends and relatives of men in the service. Comfortable nurseries, cafeterias, big living rooms with open fires of friendship, deep chairs and books give the soldiers a real refuge when their families come to camp.

Not long ago a big brown khaki boy spoke to the director in the Hostess House at Camp Lewis. "Can I stand on the rug?" he asked, his eyes twinkling. "It's the first one I've seen since I left home." He looked around the big living room with its comfortable chairs and its bright hangings. "Who'd ever think a fellow'd find a home like this in a military camp," he went on. "Now I guess I could send for Her to come and see me, couldn't I?" and he drifted off to the desk where the stationery is kept and disappeared up the stairs leading to the writing tables.

In one of the quieter corners sat a boy laboriously untying the bright colored ribbons from a fat bundle, which had been left with a number of other such bundles by an elderly lady who said, "Give it to a lonely boy." Inside of several layers of tissue paper was a warmly knit sweater with a white card attached bearing the legend, "For one of our brave defenders, from a Mother." The boy read the card with interest. For a moment he looked puzzled then he exclaimed, "By Jiminy, I never thought I was anybody's defender, but I'll make that old lady proud of me yet."

At the end of a busy day the secretaries were planning to close the house. There was a call for help from the rest room and the director found there a sullen faced woman who stubbornly refused to go home. "The government is trying to kill me by taking my husband and I'm coming out here to stay until he is exempt," said the woman. It was a new problem for the Hostess House staff but finally with a little tactful discussion, a lot of helpful sympathy, and even a little firm arguing, the trusty fitney bus was gotten out and the woman was deposited at the bus station headed for home.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Wednesday noon train from Portland to Astoria ran over and killed a boy named Peyton at Westport and seriously injured his companion.

The Marshfield community labor board has compiled a list of non-essential industries, and if the law concerning them is enforced much confusion is expected to occur in business circles.

The circuit court jury for Clatsop county returned a verdict of guilty in the case against H. S. Gillnet, who was charged with larceny by embezzlement of \$2600 from the Highway Auto company, of which he was president and manager.

Marshfield is stirred by the confession of a member of the police department to stealing clothes gathered for the Belgians, which after collecting were placed in the station until packed. The city fire engineer is also accused of participation in the deed, but has not yet confessed.

Joseph Meindl, a socialist and for many years a resident of Clackamas county, was arrested this week at his farm, charged with violating the espionage act in the utterance of seditious statements. Meindl was taken to Portland for preliminary hearing in the federal court.

Oregon may be facing, so far as the Willamette and McKenzie rivers are concerned, the biggest salmon year in its history. It is expected that the state will have 30,000,000 eggs from spring salmon from those rivers, according to the report of Master Fish Warden Clanton for the month just passed.

In the state bar examinations that are being held in the hall of representatives at Salem under the direction of the supreme court only 11 applicants for certificates have made their appearance. In normal times the number ordinarily is around 100. The decrease is due to enlistments in military service.

The Baker county liberty loan committee in making a statement Friday that the county had oversubscribed its \$582,890 quota in the fourth liberty loan took occasion to note several prominent residents who had failed to subscribe as liberally as the committee believed they should and some who refused to buy bonds at all.

Because of government orders to produce 200,000 feet of sawed spruce daily, the Sitka Spruce company of Coquille, is making arrangements to put on a third working shift, running the mill continuously. Machinery is now being purchased for enlargement of the plant and soldiers are coming from Vancouver barracks.

Public Service Commissioner H. H. Coroy has returned to Salem from eastern Oregon, where he effected an agreement between the East Oregon Logging company and farmers of Wallowa county by which the ranchers will be allowed to transport their wheat to market over the logging road of the former. The cost will be about 9 cents a hundred pounds.

The University of Oregon has announced courses of study for women which will qualify them as physicians, nurses, bacteriologists, stenographers, typewriters, bookkeepers, teachers of hygiene and physical education, laboratory systems, pathologists and in many other positions. Nursing is to be emphasized and courses prescribed and indorsed by the War department have been adopted.

An order of the state desert land board requesting that certain securities held by the Security Savings & Trust company of Portland, under an escrow agreement, be surrendered, underwent some modification at the hands of the board in a meeting Wednesday. Preparatory to compiling its biennial report the board authorized the employment of a person to check up the accounts of the Tumalo project.

No less than \$100,000 will be needed as a maintenance fund at the state hospital for the insane during the remainder of the year, and Dr. R. E. L. Steiner, superintendent, will ask that a deficiency be authorized and provision made for that amount when the state emergency board meets. The meeting has been called to consider needs at the state hospital, but it is understood that some of the smaller institution may ask for assistance also.

372 U. S. SOLDIERS DIE IN SHIP CRASH

Big Disaster Takes Place In Channel Waters.

VESSELS IN COLLISION

Transport Dashed to Pieces on Rocks of Scottish Coast in Storm. Over 300 Men Rescued.

A British Port.—A large number of American troops have been lost as the result of the sinking of the transport Otranto in the North Channel between the Scottish and Irish coasts in a collision with the steamer Kashmir.

The Otranto, after the collision, was dashed to pieces on the rocks off the south Scottish coast with a probable loss of 372 American soldiers.

Three hundred and one men were taken to Belfast by the British destroyer Mounsey, the only vessel which made an attempt at rescue in the terrific gale when the Kashmir, another vessel in the convoy with the Otranto, rammed the Otranto amidships.

Seventeen men were picked up alive on the Scottish coast.

Of the 699 American soldiers on board the Otranto, 310 were landed. Seventeen were rescued alive at Islay, leaving 372 unaccounted for.

The Otranto and the other vessels of the convoy were battling with the heavy seas and high winds Sunday morning, October 6. The storm was so severe and the visibility so bad that the Kashmir, a former Peninsular and Oriental liner, crashed into the Otranto squarely amidships.

Washington, D. C.—In a collision between the United States destroyer Shaw and a British vessel October 9, two officers and 11 enlisted men of the destroyer were lost. Thirteen other members of the crew were injured. The collision occurred in British waters.

BIG VICTORY SEEMS NEAR FOR ALLIES

Washington, D. C.—The wholly unexpected extent of the German collapse between St. Quentin and Cambrai, which leaves a great gap torn in the center of the enemy lines that were already struggling to extricate themselves and get back to a shorter front, has given rise to the belief here that there is even the possibility of a crushing and immediate military victory for the allies.

Should the French to the south or the British to the north also succeed in breaking through before the Germans can complete an extensive retirement, the capture or destruction of a whole enemy army group might be realized. In the opinion of observers here the situation has almost limitless possibilities, and Marshal Foch is virtually certain to concentrate every ounce of power at his command for a final coup.

47,000 Escape From Turks.

London.—Mesopotamian dispatches received here record the arrival inside the British lines of 47,000 Assyrian, Armenian and Russian refugees from Urumiah, Persian Armenia, who broke through the Turkish front and escaped.

Another 10,000 refugees, according to dispatches, are distributed in Kurdistan towns or are wandering in the hills. The Turks pursued them, but were driven back by British cavalry. Later the Turks entered Urumiah and massacred 200 Persians, mostly old men.

It is reported that 600 Christian women have been distributed among the Turkish troops and the Moslem inhabitants of Urumiah.

Belgium Gets New Loan.

Washington, D. C.—Belgium's quota of loans from the United States was increased to \$171,020,000 by a new credit of \$5,000,000. This made the aggregate credit of allied governments \$7,220,476,666.

HOW TO HARVEST NEW BROOM CORN

Of Importance to Cut Brush at Proper Stage of Maturity to Get Full Value.

STAGE OF MATURITY COUNTS

If Seed Crop Is Desired Much Depends on Climatic Conditions and Care Given—Standard Varieties Are Very Tall.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The value of the brush of broom corn depends largely upon the stage of maturity when harvested. If the brush is harvested when too young the fiber is weak at the base of the head, and when harvesting is delayed until the brush is overripe the fiber becomes hard and brittle. Good service cannot be expected from brooms made of such brush.

The brush should be harvested when it has reached the stage where the natural green color extends from the tip of the fiber to the base and center of the head. This usually occurs from the time when the flowers are falling to the time the seed is in the milk or thin-dough stage. Brush harvested in this stage and properly cured, without being damaged by the sun or wet weather, is tough and flexible and of the best quality.

If Seed Crop Is Desired.

If a seed crop is desired the brush is not harvested until the seed is fully mature. The value of ripe brush depends largely upon the climatic conditions previous to harvest and the care given the brush after the seed is removed. If seed brush is not discolored by wet weather, but has the natural yellow color of mature brush, it commands about half the price of good brush if cared for in the same way.

Standard broom corn and dwarf broom corn are harvested in different ways. The standard is bent over or tabled and the brush cut off; the dwarf is jerked or pulled from the upright stalk.

The standard varieties are so tall that the stalks have to be bent over to bring the brush within reach. This process is called tabling. The tabler walks between two rows, bending or breaking the stalks over, three or four feet from the ground. The stalks of the left-hand row are bent to the right and those of the right-hand row to the left. This crosses the stalks of these rows, so that a sort of table is formed behind the tabler, the brush projecting across the table into the spaces between this pair of rows and the next row on either side.

Harvesting Brush.

The brush is harvested by walking in the space between the tables and cutting the heads from the stalks with a jackknife or a knife with a short, wide blade made especially for that purpose. The stalk should be cut so as to leave about six inches of stem with the brush. All leaf sheaths, or boots, should be removed as the heads are cut. The knife should be held firmly with the cutting edge pointing at an angle from the body. If the head is then grasped with the other hand and the stalk pulled against the knife, instead of forcing the knife against the stalk, the stem of the brush will usually slip out of the boot as it is being cut from the stalk. As the heads are cut they are laid in handfuls on the table. The brush should be hauled to the curing shed and threshed the same day it is harvested, or at any rate not later than the following day.

KEEP BACTERIA FROM MILK

Carefully Cleaned Utensils, Protection From Flies and Dirt Will Aid Materially.

Cows free from manure and dirt, especially in the region of the udder and flanks, utensils that are carefully cleaned, scalded and dried, and careful protection of the milk from flies and dirt after production, will prevent the entrance of bacteria into milk.

Land for Alfalfa.

A Virginia alfalfa grower says there is little use trying to grow alfalfa on soils that will not produce good crops of cow peas, soy beans or clover. Soils should be brought to a high state of fertility before attempting to grow this crop.

Plan for Best Cream.

Plenty of cold water and, better still, ice, together with clean stables and a sanitary milkroom, means sweet cream and no complaints. Careless cows cause cream troubles.