

NEWS LETTER

OF THE

Woman's Committee Council of National Defense.

HEADQUARTERS:
1814 N STREET NW., WASHINGTON, D. C.



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Miss AGNES NESTOR.

Miss HANNAH J. PATTERSON, *Resident Director.*

MARCH 2, 1918.

NUMBER SIXTEEN

TO FRANCE.

What is the gift we have given thee, Sister?
What is the trust we have laid in thy hand?
Hearts of our bravest, our best, and our dearest,
Blood of our blood we have sown in thy land.

What for all time will the harvest be, Sister?
What will spring up from the seed that is sown?
Freedom and peace and good will among Nations,
Love that will bind us with love all our own.

Bright is the path that is opening before us,
Upward and onward it mounts through the night:
Sword shall not sever the bonds that unite us
Leading the world to the fullness of light.

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and Dr. Shaw, the Chairman of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, have issued the following letter which contains a message for all women:

To the Women of the Allied Nations of the World:

Dear Friends: The unparalleled struggle for democracy and permanent peace which binds our Nation in cooperative service is shared by men and women alike. In the yearning of the mother heart of the world for the highest moral and spiritual welfare of children, there is a deeper and more subtle bond which makes all women kin.

Out of the mutual agony and love of the mothers of America, this message is sent to our allied sisters in Europe, faithfully pledging our interest and cooperation in the protection of our sons and daughters at this time of unequalled temptation and danger.

In all our countries, mothers are willing and proud to give their sons to defend the ideals which underlie this supreme sacrifice which their Government demands of them and to accept with fortitude and calmness their death. But they shrink from the greater sorrow which comes from the loss of moral fiber that robs them of health and manly vigor.

It is no wonder that their hearts fail them when they realize the temptations which beset their sons, removed from homes and family ties, living the unnatural life of the camp, exposed to the excitement and fierce passions of conflict; all of which impair their powers to resist temptations that under happier and more healthful circumstances would easily be conquered.

The same is true of their daughters who are thrust out of the home into world service with the glamour of war and emotional phases of society which war tends to foster and which lead to the breaking down of restraints that have hitherto been their safeguards.

These abnormal conditions place upon all women tremendous responsibilities and urge the closest union in an effort to conserve the moral forces of society, to protect our young men and women that they may be kept pure and chivalrous, so that after the conflict is ended we may look with hope to the future home life of our peoples, for that health of body and

mind, that purity and nobility of individual character, and that righteousness in government which alone can insure permanent peace and prosperity to any nation.

If we fail in this, then have our struggles and sacrifices been in vain, and future generations will rightly charge the women of our time with failure to meet the great responsibility which must always rest with the mothers of the race.

Faithfully yours,

Edith Bolling Wilson
(Mrs. Woodrow Wilson).

Anna Howard Shaw,
Chairman Woman's Committee,
Council National Defense.

In the name of the women of America, messages had already been sent to the Queen of the Belgians and to the Queen of Italy. The text and the cordial responses follow:

To Her Majesty, Queen of Italy:

The women of the United States of American desire, through the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, to express to your Majesty our sincere gratitude and high appreciation for the great service rendered to humanity by the devotion of your Majesty and the loyal women of Italy to the cause of freedom and civilization. May the nobly endured trials and sufferings, which are the lot of all womanhood through this horrible war, bind us together in ties of sympathy and mutual interest which shall enable us to serve the cause of justice with unflagging zeal until a victorious peace shall be won for all our allied nations.

Anna Howard Shaw,
Chairman Woman's Committee,
Council National Defense.

This letter was transmitted through the American Ambassador to Italy Thomas Nelson Page. An answer came from the Queen's Lady in Waiting, which, translated, is as follows:

Court of Her Majesty the Queen,
Rome, January 14, 1918.

Signor Ambassador:

I received from His Excellency the Duke Borea, and had the honor to bring to the attention of Her Majesty the Queen, my august sovereign, a letter which your excellency had the courtesy to transmit with homage to Her Majesty the Queen, from Signora Anna Howard Shaw, Chairman of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, in Washington.

The message, inspired by the same sentiments and wishes which are in Her Majesty's heart, was received with the liveliest sympathy by the august sovereign, who at once desired that Your Excellency should have the courtesy to interpret her most cordial thanks for so kind a manifestation. She wishes to express to the excellent committee the sincere sympathy which Her Majesty has in considering their work and their high ideals.

I have the honor, at the same time, to present to Your Excellency the gracious good wishes of Her Majesty, and on this occasion to offer to you, Signor Ambassador, my highest regard.

Lady in Waiting,
The Countess of Cimita.

To Her Majesty, Queen of the Belgians:

The women of the United States of America, through the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense, desire to express to your Majesty and to the heroic women of Belgium our heartfelt gratitude for the great service which they, together with your incomparable army, have rendered civilization by their courage, their suffering, and their exalted sense of honor. The prayers of the women throughout our nation are offered in behalf of yourself and your family, that the hardships which you are enduring at this time in behalf of humanity may bring to your country a thousandfold happiness and security, when your beautiful and devastated Belgium shall be restored to your Majesty and to the brave Belgian people.

Anna Howard Shaw,
Chairman Woman's Committee,
Council of National Defense.

The following answer came from the Chef du Cabinet, Headquarters of the Belgian Army.

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw,
Chairman Woman's Committee, Council of National Defense,
Washington, United States of America:

Her Majesty, the Queen of the Belgians, commands me to ask you to be so good as to convey through your committee to all American women, whose interpreter you have been, her most sincere thanks for the kind sentiments expressed by your cablegram of the 10th instant. Such a proof of sympathy for suffering Belgium will be of the greatest comfort to those in distress. Her Majesty prays that every blessing may be poured upon the women of the United States of America in their efforts toward the supporting help to the allied cause.

Count Fr. Jehay,
Chef du Cabinet, Headquarters
of the Belgian Army.

OUR WORK.

One of the essential steps in the ratification of America's defense work so well begun was taken early in February, when the Council of National Defense sent to the state councils a bulletin entitled "Development of Community Councils." Dr. Shaw at the same time sent out a letter (No. 92) setting forth the plan so far as it affects the Woman's Committee. It is now proposed that the county councils of defense and the county auxiliaries of the state divisions of the Woman's Committee shall merge their subdivisions into one working force, so that all the war work of these communities shall be carried out with united effort; and it is further proposed that the school district shall serve as a basis for these subsidiary organizations, since it is a nonpolitical governmental unit, and, especially in rural districts, is already a social community.

The pamphlet enclosed with the letter outlines plans for this most important development. In the plan of work provision is made for the existing arrangements of the Woman's Committee. Since the state divisions have already departmentalized their work along lines generally parallel to those suggested in this program, an effort should be made in those communities where the work of the Woman's Committee is well organized to combine the two programs or departments of work to prevent duplication and too much reorganization of existing committees.

The Council of National Defense states, "The experience of the first nine months of the war has clearly demonstrated that the primary task of the state councils of defense and the state divisions of the Woman's Committee is to mobilize and make available behind

the war the effort of the whole people, and that this must be done by efficient organization reaching into the smaller communities."

The Woman's Committee gives its heartiest indorsement to the suggested plan, and urges that the chairmen of the state divisions immediately consult with the chairmen of the state councils of defense in each state, in order to carry out the recommendation made by the Council of National Defense "that the state councils, jointly with the woman's divisions, organize community councils as above described, using wherever possible existing auxiliary councils." County chairmen of the state divisions may obtain, either from the Woman's Committee itself or the state chairmen, copies of this valuable pamphlet.

Protect the Girls.

The latest information about camp work and protective officers has been sent to the chairmen on Health and Recreation by Mrs. Philip North Moore. Women police appointed in 15 states, largely through the efforts of the Woman's Committee, have been satisfactory. The committee unites with the Commission on Training Camp Activities in urging the appointment of "protective officers." Mrs. Moore recommends that women willing to serve in this remedial task should plan to work with the authorities round the camps, such as judges and women probation officers of the juvenile courts, women physicians, men and women of the community, and other agencies; that local and state agencies should be utilized, such as municipal and state farms; that each case should be considered, so far as possible, individually and under the care of women, and that agencies for the care of young mothers should be utilized, such as Maternity and Florence Crittenton Homes. The representative of the committee should work in close touch with the protective officer. As soldiers are given work or recreation, so girls must be protected, looking to the best citizenship of the future.

Food Production and Food Administration.

Mrs. McCormick has sent a letter to all national organizations conducting any organized branch of food work, inquiring what they have planned to do, and how they have set about accomplishing it. (Circular No. A-1.) She called a conference of food-production chairmen in connection with the conference of Food Administration home-economic directors, held February 20-21 by the United States Food Administration. Mrs. Lamar addressed this meeting on the work of the Woman's Committee. The Woman's Committee was at home to the heads of both departments and to the home-economics directors of the United States Food Administration on February 21, and a conference of food-production chairmen was held on the following day, George Washington's birthday, at the Committee's headquarters.

A Division for Professional Service.

The Labor Department asks the Woman's Committee to inform the state chairmen of the establishment by the United States Employment Service of a Teachers' and Professional Service Division in Chicago, which will act as a clearing house for teachers and members of other professions who are in search of positions and for boards of education and other organizations of like character who desire to employ teachers or persons in other professions. The division desires the name and address of every teacher who is not now engaged in the teaching profession, or who may be seeking a new position. All inquiries concerning professional service should be addressed to the Teachers and Professional Service Division, 845 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Save the Babies.

Dr. Peixotto says, in circular No. 95a, to the chairmen on child welfare: "If you want to save your state quota of 100,000 babies in 1918-19 as many as possible of the following activities should be included in your program:

- "The national weighing and measuring test.
- "The drive for public-health nurses.
- "The drive for home-health volunteers.
- "The baby week."

Following Dr. Peixotto's instructions went a letter (No. 96) from Miss Tarbell, to publicity chairmen, suggesting means for spreading the information.

Bespeaking Speakers.

The great need of a few good speakers among the women in each State is the subject of a letter (No. 90) sent out by Mrs. Martha Evans Martin for the Department of Educational Propaganda. Circulars are enclosed prepared by the State Councils Section containing information in regard to campaigns and speakers.

On Guard.

Dr. Shaw (in circular No. 91) treats of "Communications to State Divisions." Certain people claiming to have authority are sending to certain divisions or local units, so far as they are able to obtain addresses, communications, resolutions, etc., and requesting their cooperation and indorsement. At an executive meeting of the Woman's Committee, January 28, it was decided that "No communication or movement shall be understood to have the approval of the Woman's Committee unless such approval is sent to the state divisions by the Committee. This is to prevent any misunderstanding in view of the fact that the list of state chairmen is open to the public."

Various societies are using the names of the members of the Woman's Committee without authorization. In event of such communications being received, state chairmen are advised that, before indorsing them, it

should be ascertained by what authority these names are used.

Food for Local Use.

Dr. Shaw takes occasion to point out that the President of the United States has sent out a call to farmers of the country to produce such food as people may be able to consume in their own homes or communities, and adds that the small gardens through which so much was accomplished last year must be multiplied and made more productive during the coming year.

Information concerning circular letters, which will hereafter go to state chairmen and the heads of the departments, has been sent out by the Resident Director. Miss Patterson also transmits (with No. 84) two exceedingly interesting bulletins from the State Councils Section.

Legal committees.—Local legal committees are to be organized by the state councils to explain the selective-service law to drafted men; to give legal advice as to the benefit of the war-risk insurance; to draft wills and attend to caring for property and settling business affairs of men entering the service; to represent soldiers and sailors in court, where necessary, and to obtain for them the benefits of the civil-rights act when in force; to arrange and attend to such business matters as may require attention in the absence of men in the service; to report to the Red Cross Home Service section cases requiring relief which come to the attention of the committee.

The Woman's Committee will doubtless be of assistance in this work, particularly when the Community Council plan gets into full swing.

Deliveries.—The results of the conference of the Commercial Economy Board in regard to retail deliveries, attended by delegates from several federal and state bodies, are set forth in a concise way in General Letter No. 40 (also transmitted from the State Councils Section). The chief recommendations for reduction are:

1. One delivery a day.
2. Cooperative delivery.
3. Special deliveries, C. O. D. orders, and return privileges, limited.

Methods of introducing the delivery program are suggested, the work in each town planned, and methods of dealing with objections offered.

WHAT THE STATES ARE DOING.

Surveying "The Child."

A remarkable questionnaire is being sent out by the Rhode Island Division of the Child Welfare Department. The points this questionnaire covers are: whether prenatal education is available for pregnant women in each district; the care received by women in

the district at confinement and what hospital provision is made; to what extent midwives practice, and whether the general type of midwife is ignorant or intelligent; what the greatest need of pregnant women in any particular locality is, and what can be suggested to improve the condition. This division has prepared a most careful inquiry. As to the postnatal period, pre-school age, school age, and time when the child is beginning to work, all these are contained in a document which the department sends to each city, ward, and township chairman to find out what the maternal and child welfare needs are, and where they are, so they may be met efficiently. This questionnaire is supposed to be filled out by the Child Welfare Committee or board of the Woman's Committee, and, if desired, a separate questionnaire may be used by each unit in a township. Members of the state department will speak in the interest of child welfare at public meetings and meet local chairmen in round-table conferences. Rhode Island is laying a sound basis for its work in this department.

Opening the Doors.

Motor-repairing courses open to boys will be also open to girls in Illinois as a result of the efforts of the instruction committee of the Illinois division. Gardening courses will be given for girls in the public schools. The war-information committee of the Illinois division has also arranged with Chicago University for a correspondence course in the historical background of the war. The date has not yet been decided.

The division in Wisconsin is now urging that women avail themselves of the opportunity to secure war emergency training in domestic science now being offered by the University of Wisconsin. There is a tendency all over the country to throw wide open the doors of our educational institutions formerly closed to women.

Conservation and Children.

Minnesota has her house in order. In the last report sixty counties in this division sent in their account of work done and organization perfected, and it is encouraging that in the heart of the wheat-milling district in the United States food conservation is widespread and strict. A Minnesota specialty is a sort of barley bread, which makes an excellent substitute for wheat. Significant in the reports from all counties is the evident importance of the schools in the education of the parents. The child is indeed father to the man, and teacher to him, too. From Lake County comes the statement that "the women arranged to canvass the home" (for the food drive) "which had no children at school." In Martin County "the chairman arranged to have canvassers to do follow-up work, to reach the homes the schools did not touch." In Watonwan County "the pledges were thoroughly circulated on the first campaign, but the schools reached those who had not come in on the first call."

Posters.

Art instructors of the public schools in several divisions will be kept busy with posters. The Wisconsin division has started its food poster contests. In various units the local librarian and the chairman of the food conservation committee will cooperate and the posters will be displayed at the library food exhibitions. The best will be given honorable mention and sent to the governor for final award. Those receiving the blue ribbon will be photographed and sent to all the county councils for use in window exhibits.

The Library Plan.

The library may almost be called the head of a community, just as the school is sometimes called its heart. In the Duluth (Minnesota) unit food conservation work has been proceeding much faster because a volunteer has been found to carry out the plan of the local librarian, a plan which includes systematic and generous publicity through the papers, running bulletin boards and displays in the main library and branches, featuring tried, proved, and thrifty recipes in the papers on the boards, and putting the cooked product on exhibit. A card index of thrifty recipes is being compiled, and the main aim is to get the public in the habit of calling on the library for information on all these matters of food economy and conservation, for market information, and for any sort of help to be got from recognized sources. This aide to the librarian has a desk in the library and a place for conferences.

Registration's Favorable Reaction.

In Colorado registration is being carried on with the greatest enthusiasm and is serving a double purpose—as an index of woman volunteers available for the Government and as a stimulus to action and increased effort among the women themselves. The patriotic spirit in Denver is illustrated by the fact that as a result of the registration there the number of Red Cross workers has been increased 300 per cent. The state chairman has been flooded with telegrams and letters from units all over the state requiring more registration cards.

Vision.

The Muskegon (Michigan) Woman's Club has just placed at the disposal of the Woman's Committee unit its entire building for the period of the war. The building is an unusually beautiful one and thoroughly equipped for all activities. It seems an eminently proper thing that the Woman's Club in Muskegon appreciates a larger opportunity for service than that represented by its own membership. The fact is that the Woman's Committee is inclusive of all women and constitutes a democratic defense army which should be helped. Need of headquarters is common. When the organizations show comprehension of the true purpose of the committee the great job before us goes faster.

Keeping Tab.

When the new home cards of the Food Administration reach the town chairmen in the New Hampshire division each canvasser will also receive a record card which has been prepared to show the exact visits made. New Hampshire expects to visit every family in the state, and when they present the new cards they will clean up on the pledge cards, asking families who have not signed to do so.

The Promising Pinto.

The Cheyenne County chairman, Colorado division, had a booth at the National Western Live Stock Show, where she demonstrated the humble but promising virtues of the Colorado pinto bean. This local product appeared in the form of loaves and muffins, and proved so appetizing that her booth was a center of attraction for women from the farming districts who wanted to learn her recipes. It was a revelation to thousands of Coloradans, who had long known the pinto bean but never dreamed of its possibilities.

Another State Heard From.

The Nevada division is making its bow this week with a News Letter note. A letter from a member of that division tells of her endeavor to have the News Letter read before each woman's club in the state. She feels that it is a good way to report on current events and on the war service which women are giving, and she considers it part of the service she is "willing and anxious to give to stand back of the Government, the President, and the firing line." From the same source we hear that the high-school pupils are forming a patriotic league to assist in making copies of the News Letter and circulars if necessary.

A Glorious Way to Celebrate.

It is centennial year in Illinois and the child-welfare department of the state division has decided that it will celebrate by saving babies. Their plan will be adapted to the one which this Committee advises. The expenses of this program, as far as possible, will come from the Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund.

More Nurses.

The need for nurses is acute and the several states which have been pushing the campaign are to be congratulated. Michigan is one of them. Kansas is very busy making a survey through its county units for the State Nurses' Association. These have registration cards on file in each county.

Helping the Boys En Route.

The Missouri division has appointed committees to meet the troop trains passing through different parts of the state. Not only do they furnish the regular refreshments, books, stationery, and magazines, but they sometimes employ a means of distribution that especially appeals to soldiers. They carry a large grab bag through the train filled with small packages containing all the things that the soldiers want, such as candy,

cigarettes, razor blades, etc., and each soldier grabs for a parcel. When the trains do not stop long enough for the women to board them the bag is given to an officer in charge to carry it among the men. Some of the women have put their own cards into the parcels they prepare and a great many have received letters from the boys telling how much they enjoyed the bag.

Among Older Women.

The Director of the Bureau of Collegiate Occupations in Chicago is giving half of every day to the work of establishing a paid employment bureau for the Illinois division. One of the most serious problems that is confronting her is what to do with women over 40 who are coming in considerable numbers. Either the high cost of living is making their incomes insufficient or perhaps a member of the family who has been able to contribute to the family support has been called to war. A great many of these women have had no training of any sort. Others have had household experience or have done some slight executive work. A conference has been called with employers of labor, industry, stores, hotels, etc., to work out this problem. Occupations that suggest themselves are: companion, practical nurse, taking care of linen in hotels, looking after supply rooms, and mending. A photograph-finishing firm in Chicago is giving employment to six of these women, has taught them the technique of finishing photographs, and finds them extremely satisfactory.

Appreciation for One of Our Chairmen.

Questions and answers on the causes of the war, written by Mrs. Alice Ames Winter, chairman of the Minnesota division, are so effective that the State Commission of Public Safety has caused 100,000 to be printed and has posted them in railway stations and other public meeting places.

A Definition.

What are the special duties of the Woman's Committee? is one of the five questions the Minnesota division ably answers. The reply is: "To give effectiveness and unity of purpose and administration to the work of women in food conservation, Americanization, protection of children, protection of women in industry, Liberty-loan and thrift-stamp campaign, maintenance of existing social agencies, education in patriotism, health and recreation, giving assistance to Red Cross wherever possible. To stand ready to serve the Government in any further activity for which it shall receive instruction from time to time.

The woman's organizations are asked to cooperate with the Council of National Defense as a matter of patriotic duty, thus insuring that the women of the United States shall present a united, efficient body of service to our common country. This is a time to forget all smallness, all prejudice, all personal feelings of unwillingness to work with this or that woman, and to remember only that we are women of America."

The Soldier's Shelf.

The Georgia division is much interested in setting aside every tenth jar of material put up this year for the soldier's shelf, to be given to convalescent hospitals.

The Gleaners.

A Biblical atmosphere surrounds the action of the county chairman of the Barnesville unit, in Minnesota. After the thrashers had been over the wheat fields she and her husband went out and gleaned them and obtained in one day wheat which sold for \$2.75. Thereafter they organized a corps of boys and gleaned the fields thoroughly. This sounds like olden times. In reality it is the essence of the day in which we are living.

Making for Permanency.

Plans to establish permanent headquarters in every county seat and town of more than 5,000 inhabitants have been made by the Missouri division. Registration cards will be kept and a bureau of information established, with a volunteer worker of the Woman's Committee in charge. In Jasper County a successful method of registration was found to be the placing of registration booths in several large dry goods stores.

Patriotic Food Exhibits.

The graphic method of teaching people to master their food problems is one that Connecticut has great faith in. In six towns exhibits were held in January. In each town one to two hundred women of all nationalities worked on the exhibit, and foods were made by Italian, Swedish, and Polish women, to be exhibited with the other foods, and to suggest to the people of the town what they should and could eat. It is planned to continue this sort of demonstration in many other centers. In Hartford a corn show had already been planned, and the food exhibit was run in connection with that.

Getting Ready.

Farm units of twenty or more young women are being established in the Montgomery County (Pennsylvania) unit under the food-production department of the Woman's Committee. Able women will be housed in one building under the care of a chaperone or matron, and each morning transported to their labor by some system of automobile service. The Garden Club has volunteered to care for one unit and other similar agencies may fall in line. The unit of Bryn Mawr girls will probably repeat its work of last year by taking a large farm under its supervision, with a trained agriculturist in charge.

Stimulating Enthusiasm.

Missouri is asking its county chairmen: "Have you appointed a chairman in every line of work recommended by the Woman's Committee? * * * Have you appointed town chairmen in every town and township in your district or county? If not, do it to-day.

If your women are not bristling with enthusiasm toward every line of patriotic service write to the chairman of the Speakers' Bureau and she will send you a 'live wire.' * * *"

The Fuel Situation.

"Keep the home fires low" is the most patriotic, if not the most cheerful thing women can do this year, and under the heading, "Women! This is war!" the Grand Rapids, Michigan, unit has sent out a ringing call to women to come forth and help in the present fuel crisis. Some of the practical suggestions that are urged on women are the following:

Keep no more rooms heated than necessary, and those not above 65°. Wear extra clothing rather than waste fuel. Turn off every light not actually needed and use candles for casual needs.

As for children home from school on account of lack of fuel the following suggestions are made: Have the children clean the snow off the walks and pay them in thrift stamps. There are also plenty of opportunities at the Red Cross, Woman's Committee, and other organizations for the children to put their time to good account. "Do not stop getting together for work and the stimulus of friendship," the appeal urges. "Use houses where churches and clubs are closed and make a real opportunity out of the chance forced upon us."

Something to Say.

Twenty-two states have Speakers' Bureaus. In Missouri this department has enrolled ninety-five speakers in various parts of the state and has recently been merged with the Speakers' Bureau of the State Council of Defense. In the future when the State Council of Defense receives a request for a speaker to address groups of women such request will be turned over to us to be handled by our chairman, we, as in the past, taking care of all requests that come to us.

Defense Edition.

Tennessee reports that she realized nearly \$3,000 from the sale of the Defense Edition of the Tennessean. This sort of an edition represents much hard work and we are delighted that our women succeeded in it.

Window Displays.

Window displays are used by the Texas division to stimulate planting war gardens. Merchants have been furnished with bulletins outlining what the Government wants them to feature in their windows, and the chairman of the Committee on Window Displays of the Texas division added to the suggestions made by the Government. One of them used living models. They planned to have kindergarten children in the window of one of the large piano houses, with little hoes and rakes go through the motions of planting the spring crop. A sign in the window was to read, "We are striking the right note." This division is getting out plays and cartoons also.

Soliciting Gifts of Coal.

The Rhode Island division writes, "Our schools have been ordered closed. The coal crisis is very serious with us. Even now there is not enough coal for the householders, and places of public meeting are unheated. On the last day of January the ward and section chairmen of the Providence unit of the Woman's Committee were called together on short notice, after a session with the mayor, and as a result they have conducted a house-to-house canvass to solicit gifts of coal. They also listed where coal could be obtained if it were paid for. In two days they succeeded in raising more than 115 tons. Distribution took place through the mayor's office of the Coal Administration."

Graduation.

No val nor voile for girls this year! A recommendation will be made to the girls' private schools that the graduation exercises this year be reduced to a minimum in Connecticut.

The War Map.

Instruction, money raising, diversion, all are promised by Illinois' new war-map scheme, till it sounds more like the advertisement of a valuable circus than the activities of a sober and solemn committee. The war maps have the first advantage of teaching people the geography of the fronts, of stimulating their interest, and, finally, the solid one of contributing large sums to the \$100,000 fund for expenses of the committee.

It is done in this way: two enormous maps of the whole battle front of Europe have been cut into sections; one section is sent to each local unit of the Woman's Committee. With it go small maps of the four fronts and a letter saying that by the map the unit can see what part of the front it is holding. The chairman is requested to return the section with as much money as the unit's heart and purse are able to give to the cause. "We do not want any gaps in our section lines or communication trenches for the enemy to break through" runs the letter, and it is therefore incumbent on the units to take care to return the sections. The four small maps are to be sold at twenty-five cents a set.

When all the pieces are returned a contest on putting the maps together is begun. The competitors are the units of Cook County against all the other units in Illinois. Each competitor has its own map, and they try to outstrip each other in returns of money from the sections and sale of the small maps and also in the speed with which they can put together the complete map.

The maps are the most complete and most recent that could be made. They show everything from the first drive of the Germans on Paris to the present position of the battle lines. The four sections consist of the British front, the northern and southern sections of the French front, and the Italian front.

Publicity.

The chairman of publicity in California has 44 county publicity representatives. There are only 58 counties, and some of these are large and mountainous, where there are only a few small towns with one or two small weekly papers.

The Humble Acorn Flour-eth!

A dollar a sack is what acorns are bringing already in California for hog food, but greater honor is in store for them. Mrs. Nellie Taylor, of Plymouth, Amador County, has at last, after years of experimenting, perfected a process of making a flour from them that can be used as a substitute for wheat flour. She has succeeded in what no one hitherto has been able to do—removing almost all of the coloring matter and the bitter taste. With the help of the chemist in the last details of preparation, she hopes soon to have it on the market.

"The flour as I make it to-day," Mrs. Taylor says, "is far superior, in my estimation, to wheat flour in the making of cake. It is a much richer and softer flour; it is especially fine for making fruit cake because of its richness."

This discovery may be of great help to poor families who live in the country where acorns are abundant. Already Mrs. Taylor is receiving letters from several States, asking for her recipe for acorn bread.

Speakers' Bureau Goes Well in Wisconsin.

The chairman of the speakers' bureau states that 24 counties have reported their chairmen for speakers' bureaus. Reports have been received from six counties showing work already done. The Kenosha unit reports that 63 speakers have been furnished.

Press Releases.

A "Made in Connecticut" series of war interviews with women has been put out in Connecticut in cooperation with the state council. Leading women have been interviewed on the need of sacrifice in relation to the war, and the imperative demand for realizing the gravity of the situation.

One interview with the state chairman of the Connecticut division deals with the reasons why our nation must conserve its children. Still another concerns the true attitude toward the war which should be held by the American citizen born in Germany.

FROM OUR FOREIGN NEWS BUREAU.

Mrs. MAY LAMBERTON BECKER, *Chief.*

The Wrens.

"Both officers and women" are required for the new woman's service in England, the W. R. N. S. This service is to be to the Royal Navy what the W. A. A. C. is to the army, and as these latter women are commonly referred to as Waacs, the Woman's Royal Naval Service

are being called Wrens. The recruiting has only been going on for a month, and, as the women are not to serve abroad, there will not be so many women needed as for the Waacs, but the work will be as hard and as valuable. Chauffeurs, wireless operators, clerks, cooks, waitresses for officers' mess, and workers at air stations for repairing and cleaning airplanes are especially needed. Four or five hostels have already been opened.

As in the W. A. A. C., the women will be responsible to their own officers when off duty and, during working hours, directly under the orders of naval officers. Much of the work will be in isolated stations and at big naval bases. The problem of housing is what has delayed the undertaking of recruiting so long. The women who live in their own homes at or near naval stations are asked to come forward to help in housing the workers.

Dame Furse, formerly at the head of the V. A. D.'s, is now head of the Wrens, and she says there is no lack of women to officer the force. Women who have been doing patriotic work of a routine character at the beginning of the war are now sufficiently experienced to be moved up, and the women who are only taking up war work now can serve under them, regardless of the rank or class of the women on any other basis. The service is to be a democratic one. Dame Furse says it is even doubtful whether the saluting of officers by women can be introduced. The use of "ma'am," as in the Waac, will be adopted, however, as the women like it.

The Spirit of French Women.

"To work alone, that is the hardest thing." Under the leather suit of a "munitionette" she wore the black of a widow's mourning. A perfect fury for work, her task is one of the hardest—to run the "mill" which turns out its hundreds of shells every day. In her leather suit with goggles in her helmet, she seems a figure from some Dantean dream, fighting with fire where men 10 paces away flinch for their eyesight in the glare.

"Next to our soldiers, it is to the French women that we owe victory," says Millerand in the *Revue Bleue* of November 24. "Women have replaced men not only in the manufacture of war material but in all departments of the larger industrial life. Her effort permits France to live behind the lines while men are battling at the front. In the metal trades the woman laborer to-day heats and charges the furnaces, works the hydraulic presses, discharges trucks and wagons, and welds brass. In addition she takes upon herself less heavy but more delicate labors, cutting metal pens, making chains and accessories for bicycles, and small wares of the coppersmith's trade.

"She works not only in metal, but in stone. Beside the woman blacksmith stands the woman mason, who

assists in constructing the stocks for ships; the woman who molds bricks, who watches the ovens, who makes molds and crucibles, porcelain and faience. There are factories where she makes glass. Industries of precision invite her. One can see her at Nancy and Lyons making files and compasses, at Paris electric lamps.

"The divers industries of woodworking used to be reserved to men. To-day women are at home in saw-mills. One sees them now near Paris constructing the Adrian barracks for the ministry of war. The same is true of other industries, into which they had not ventured before 1914. Lack of men has forced the employment of women in the manufacture of drugs, chemicals, and asphyxiating gas. In the leather industries they manipulate the green skins, wash them, remove the hair, color them, and tan the leather, make varnished leather, and conduct the various processes of glove making."

In the food industries, quite outside of bakeries, which deserve consideration by themselves, they conduct the dairies, the manufacture of conserves, biscuits, prepared foods—doing the hardest kind of labor as well as the most delicate.

In the manufacture of sugar, women are employed as strainers, juice and sirup filterers, diffusers, knife sharpeners, truck movers, washing-machine tenders, etc., and for the first time they are reported as working in starch and glucose factories. Wine making is dependent in a great measure upon old men, women, and young persons. Women are employed in lead-pencil making, in gas works, as far as possible, and particularly in coke drawing.

According to the October, 1917, report of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, an increasing number of women are employed in the metal trades, where their work has proved satisfactory even in the heavier tasks. In certain French cities 14 to 30 per cent of all employees in these trades are women. In the manufacture of porcelain products in 33 establishments nearly half are women.

In some degree it was easier for women to take their places in French industry than in the professions. In spite of Mme. Curie and other noted professional women, France has never welcomed them among its physicians, lawyers, or scientists. The first time that a woman has spoken from the tribunal of the Academy of Medicine was last year, when Dr. Bonet-Henry described the happy results of a new method of dressing burns with a mixture of gutta-percha and paraffin.

At the same period two dressmakers left their familiar ateliers for the strange and hazardous pursuit of chimney cleaning. They were brave girls of seventeen and eighteen years, who, because of scant returns from their needles, became "chimney doctors." In place of the three francs a day earned by dressmaking, they are now earning twelve by doctoring the chimneys of Paris.