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SECOND FRONT—THE LAND ARMY'S PART

The following is part of the speech made by Mr. R. S. Hudson, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, when he opened the new Land Army Club in London.

“THE Women's Land Army have done a grand job during the war. We know that without them it would not have been possible for us to have produced the terrific amount of food that we have done over the last four years. We know that by their efforts the women in the Land Army—more than 70,000 of them—have made an important contribution to the Second Front operations which we are all following so anxiously at the present time. You will have read that in the great Armada which set sail from this country there were over 4,000 ships of different sorts and sizes. Many of those ships would not have been available unless the members of the Women's Land Army had come forward and so enabled us to carry out successfully our great food production campaign. Moreover in the years before, when we were massing in this island our great armies of liberation many of the ships that brought over the Atlantic the troops, the planes, the tanks, the weapons and the ammunition, would have been needed to carry food to this country, if we had not been producing such quantities here ourselves.

The job of the Land Army volunteer is a hard and often rather a thankless one. They are working long hours often at heavy jobs and in remote rural areas “far from the madding crowds.” As they go about their daily tasks isolated from the turmoil and excitement of the war, it is not always easy for them to realise that the work which they are doing is important—is indeed vital for the national war effort. That is why I feel that a gift of this sort is particularly valuable because it shows to all the volunteers in the Land Army that their work is known and appreciated even in countries overseas.

RURAL DOMESTIC ECONOMY

This article has been written for the Land Girl by Miss E. H. Pratt, O.B.E. who has been on the staff of the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture for many years. The subject is one of extreme interest to all countrywomen.

The classic name for agriculture was "Rural Economy" and the Department of Agriculture in the University of Oxford is still known as the "School of Rural Economy." Domestic rural economy is the domestic end of the agricultural industry and so particularly the affair of women.

Women in agriculture fall into two classes, (1) those who are "gainfully employed" and are doing much the same work as men (as farmers, salaried workers or wage earners) and (2) those who are working in family partnerships on agricultural holdings, great or small. Rural domestic economy is the domain of the second class.

The Country Wife

The general character of that domain may be illustrated by a comparison between the wife of an urban clerk and the wife of a smallholder. The former has no connection with her husband's job beyond her interest in his income. She probably resides in a reasonably convenient house, with ready access to shops, and caters on a day to day basis. But the other woman's life is bound up with her husband's work, because the farm home is the centre of the farm business. In emergency she may have to take general charge of the farming. Certain outdoor work (tending of stock, gardening) falls normally to her share. Her indoor tasks are complicated because agricultural holdings are comparatively isolated, public services are scanty and accommodation and equipment are often old-fashioned. Moreover, she has special responsibilities in regard to housekeeping, for the farm income is not wholly in cash, but largely in kind. The profit of a farm undertaking largely depends on restricting purchase of food and keeping a nice balance between sales of produce off the holding and indoor consumption. Catering has to be on a long-term basis; gluts must be dealt with by preservation and farm materials used to the uttermost—The women on family farms are indeed full partners and their ability, or lack of it, often makes all the difference between success and failure, especially on the small holdings.

In 1939 there were 361,663 agricultural

holdings, over one acre in extent, in England and Wales. It may be assumed that the number has not lessened during the war and that there is an average of at least one woman, engaged in the work described above, to each such holding. Their importance to agriculture is obvious for they make a large contribution to food production as well as acting as the home-makers of the agricultural community.

A skilled profession

Agricultural education is still in its infancy; which is another way of saying that it is only in recent years that the peculiar skill needed for agricultural work has been appreciated and efforts made to develop it. In other countries, notably the U.S.A., generous guidance for farm women has been provided by the Department of Agriculture since the passage of the Smith Lever Act in 1914. In this country a beginning was made by a Committee on the "Practical Education of Women for Rural Life" over which Lady Denman presided in 1928. That body recommended that provision for instruction in rural domestic economy should be made as a branch of agricultural education. Despite the lean years which followed, some progress was made and a certain number of County Councils appointed Instructresses in Rural Domestic Economy. These officers proved so useful that their numbers expanded considerably after 1939.

At the moment there are only four or five counties in England and Wales which have not yet made provision for instruction in rural domestic economy. In several counties the officers first appointed have been provided with one or two assistants for, wherever the service has been introduced, it has been successful and evidently met a need. The original plan for special training of instructresses was not carried out, (owing to financial difficulties), so they have been recruited (1) with a main qualification in food production, coupled with some training in preservation and cookery, or (2) with a basic qualification in domestic science, and an added training in a brand of food production. Special short courses, e.g. in fruit preservation and bacon curing, have already

been arranged for instructresses and other training, e.g. in farm accountancy, are under consideration. A farming background is naturally a great asset.

While most of these officers serve under County Councils, a certain number have been seconded to W.A.E.C's. and a few have been directly appointed by W.A.E.C's. The work is arduous but varied and enjoyable. Touch is maintained with colleagues who are production experts and there are close contacts with such organisations as the County Federations of Women's Institutes, County Garden Produce Committees and the Small Pig Keepers Council. Lectures and demonstrations to such societies, assistance with schemes such as "Dig for Victory" and co-operative preservation, together with advisory work, provide plenty of useful occupation. The absence of rigid training, (compensated by numerous short practical courses), seems to have had some advantages as the R.D.E. Instructress usually proves adaptable and capable of conveying information in an informal and acceptable way.

The women in "homes on holdings" have made a remarkable contribution to war time food production. The Press has drawn public attention to the length and complexity of their working day. The Minister of Labour has agreed that there should be some priority for domestic help on farms. The Inland Revenue authorities are giving the farmer an allowance of £80 per annum in respect of his wife's services. These things suggest that the importance of that deserving, but often disregarded person, the "farmer's wife" and her special functions in the industry are at last being appreciated. It needs to be recognised that it is a professional job to be a "farmer's wife." Now that women have proved their capacity in many fields from which they were formerly barred, it remains to try to raise the status of occupations that are reserved to them.

It may be hoped that, in the post war world, the women on farms, particularly those on family farms, will have better facilities. Even if the more elaborate plans do not materialise, or do so slowly, there are reasonable prospects of extension of some public services (water, transport, or lighting), which would make big differences. It has, however, to be remembered that there is always a "time lag" between town and country, in the sense that populous centres will always get the first benefit of any improvements or developments. So the special prob-

lems of the "farmer's wife" will remain, though they may appear to change in form, and suitable advice should be available to her.

Opportunities for the W.L.A.

The question arises—What have W.L.A. members to do with rural domestic economy? The first answer is that those who have resided on farms are perhaps interested to the extent that they have seen it at close range and may have views as to directions in which there is room for improvement. The second is that a number of W.L.A. members may end up farmer's wives; and the third is that there may well be some W.L.A. members who would like to become county instructresses in rural domestic economy.

A further reflection is that if the war brings changes in the status of domestic work it may be that the "farmhouse assistant" may re-appear in modernised form. Such assistants, treated as members of the farm household, and helping with outdoor and indoor work (understudying the farmer's wife in fact) were long a feature of farm life in certain parts of the country and there may be a future for such helpers.

THE OLD LABOURER

You're a stacker now—
Up there with my old fork in your hands.
You've got a pair of hands that under-
stands,
Though last year that old fork still
worked in mine.
Worked fine,
As it always did
Back down that old stairway of time.
This June ain't as any other June.
You make the hay without me
And, come harvest,
You'll pitch the sheaves
Easy as dropped leaves
Like I could once
When the blood still ran true and free
In the frame that was me.
Now, the rain that fell
Over four-score years and ten
On fields and men
Has gotten right in where the movement
came
And stopped the game,
The game of living.
Now I can only watch you
Being me.
So like—so like,
I live again—
Young and strong and free.
Essex

D. Hudson.

SPRING CLEARING

It's a lovely sunny spring morning and after breakfast I cycle cheerfully to work. My first job is to uncover the International tractor and get it started. It is heavy to start, but if I'm lucky one of the men or Phyllis, my "mate," helps me to swing the starting handle.

After filling up with diesel oil, and greasing the necessary points, we are off. Phyllis sits on the arm of the seat as a rule—not a very comfortable situation as it's impossible to miss all the tree stumps in the wood. To wend a way through these stumps is like trying to find one's way through a maze. Eventually we reach our objective at the top of the wood. There is a marvellous view across the valley to the hills on the other side of the River Clywd. Nearer, is the lower part of the felled wood where we are working. Among the tree stumps dotting the ground, wild cherry trees are in flower; even some which were carried down by other trees as they were felled, are blooming bravely as they lie alongside bluebells, primroses and violets. There is no doubt that Wales is a place of beauty.

Well, now to get to work. I reverse the "cat," as we call it (because of the caterpillar tracks) up to a few pieces of timber and we put the chain around it—sometimes a more difficult task than it sounds. Often the trees are tight on the ground and it's not easy to push the chain underneath. However, we manage one way or another, and off we go again to drive the "cat" to the bottom of the wood.

If we are lucky we get there without any trouble, but often there are complications. Sometimes the timber catches against the stumps and the "cat" is pulled up with a jerk. Then I have to manoeuvre around to get it away. At other times perhaps the chain will slip off, possibly through the bark slipping off the timber, or else because the timber moves closer together when we get going. Any way we do eventually arrive at the loading place. After a few journeys we will probably have enough for a load for the pole-wagon; a pole-wagon is a lorry used solely for timber; it has no body, but instead, a long pole from the back of the cab to a cross-bar at the tail of the lorry. The timber rests on the bar behind the cab to the bar at the back. The pole wagon is under the three legs (tripod), and all ready to be loaded. The men attach the "dogs" (large pincers which bite into the tree as they receive its full weight) to the wire rope, and the

other end of the rope is attached via the pulley blocks and the apex of the legs, to the front of the "cat." Then off I go at a signal from one of the men, backing away until the timber is hauled above the wagon. Then they signal me to lower it and so I drive forward until the timber rests on the wagon.

This goes on until the load is big enough and then we have lunch in the open. Tea is made in a billy can. We all have enormous appetites through being in the open air. Above our heads the elm trees form a lacey pattern against the brilliant blue sky. I think that elm trees are one of the most lovely unblossoming trees in the spring. The birds here in Wales are prettier than any birds that I've ever seen in captivity. Some are minute. Squirrels occasionally are seen scampering about and moving at an amazing rate from tree to tree.

After lunch the pole-wagon goes off to the saw-mill and we go up the wood again to "tush" (I have never been able to find out how that word was derived) some more timber down. We have to winch out some of the timber because it is in an awkward place, too awkward for the "cat" to get to. I find that most woods are planted in places which are unsuitable for cultivation in any other way. Steep gulleys, rocky hillsides and, as it seems to me, anywhere where the extraction will be difficult.

Still, there are ways and means of doing everything so I must not grumble because we always manage somehow and I expect that if things were too easy we would be less interested in the job. Anyway, I wouldn't change my job for any other. I go to my lodgings at night, happy and content, and sleep like a log. W.T.C., Denbigh. V. E. Shaw, 64561.

The following report has been received from the Ministry of Aircraft Production:

"LAND GIRL"

This Typhoon, presented to the Royal Air Force by the Women's Land Army, has taken active part in the battle against the Luftwaffe.

"Land Girl" first saw operational service in January 1943 and has been on convoy protection, sweeps over occupied territory, attacks on enemy shipping and as bomber escort and the Women's Land Army can feel justly proud of their Typhoon which has done much to keep up the high traditions of the Royal Air Force.



STEANBOW FARM

These four Land Girls are loading up a trailer of wheat on Steanbow Farm. The sacks of corn have just been dropped from the chute of a combined harvester.

On this farm we have two combined harvesters which make one job of cutting the corn and threshing it. The sacked corn is placed on a chute attached to the combine which drops it at the corners of the field. The sacks are loaded on the trailer almost immediately and taken to the grain drier, where there are day and night shifts ready to cope

with the many loads of corn hauled. Not all the 450 acres of corn are cut by the combine, many have been cut by the binder.

There are nine regular women field workers, and 20 girls new to agriculture, here for a months training on this 730 acre farm. They are taught milking, fieldwork and general farming by Miss Fosberry and Miss Naish. The day's orders are given by the bailiff, Mr. Croker, who has been very patient with us, and we live in Steanbow Farm Hostel, with our most understanding Warden, Mrs. Holmes.

Som.

J. Whatley, 90822.

M. Barstard 32450 (Norfolk) saves coupons by making "briefs" to wear under dungarees out of old shirts too badly worn across the shoulders and at the collar for repair. "I cut straight across close under the arms, fold the pieces so that inside seams meet, cut out a piece for the legs but not making them quite so big as are needed, as an oblong piece can be cut from each sleeve and sewn in double to serve as a gusset; hem round- legs and thread elastic through the ready made hem."

A PLEA

From a Magazine Secretary

O, Land Girls dear, so good and brave,
I wonder if you ever think
What lots of paper you could save,
How many pints of ink!
If only you would send to us
Your money by return,
And also any new address
What gratitude you'd earn.

This month's cover design is by Miss P. O'Toole, 51097 (Lancs).

Heartiest congratulations to Miss Hodgson (Regional Officer) and Mrs. Clement (County Secretary Northumberland) who were awarded the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List. These well-deserved awards will cause great pleasure to the Land Army.

Our warmest gratitude is due to Queen Marie of Jugo-Slavia and to the Tanganyika War Relief and Welfare Fund, for very generous gifts of £100 each, to the Benevolent Fund.

Recently the Senior Chaplain of the Royal Naval Barracks at Chatham sent £10 for the Land Army Benevolent Fund, the proceeds of "a collection taken for this purpose at one of our parade services recently."

Oxfordshire's splendid achievement in raising over £3 per volunteer for the Benevolent Fund will take some beating. Which will be the first county to pass this record?

DESIGN FOR A DAIRY

Housewives have recently been been invited to examine and discuss plans for the houses to be built after the war. I believe the views of land workers would be equally valuable to the designer of post-war farm buildings.

Take dairies for instance. None of those I have worked in or visited in the last few years could, I think, have been laid out by anyone who had actually worked in one. I should like to suggest the following points for consideration.

General Arrangement

There should, if possible, be two rooms even in a small dairy so that the clean churns can stand in one while the other is being washed down. Otherwise it is difficult to avoid splashing them, especially if they are upside down on a rack.

It is a great help if there is not too much traffic in and out of the dairy, especially from the cowshed. On one farm I have seen the warm milk pan is in a recess with a sliding door at the end of the cowshed. The pan had a metal arm passing through a hole in the wall on to the cooler in the dairy next door. This arrangement worked well, especially as the floor in the recess was raised so that the warm milk pan was at a convenient height for tipping the milk.

The washing-up trough should be close to the window so that the light falls upon the objects being washed.

The whole floor should slope slightly towards the drain to make the washing down easier; corners and the junction of wall and floor should be rounded.

The ceiling should not be so high that cobwebs cannot be swept away fairly easily.

Washing-up troughs.—The tap should be placed so that the dairymaid is not in danger of stunning herself if she lifts her head quickly. The outlet hole should not have a plug on a chain. It is very easily dislodged during washing-up and painful to put back if the water is really hot.

There should be a large shelf near to hold brushes, cleaners, swabs, soap etc. There should also be some table handy, the kind that fold down against the wall would I think be good.

Steriliser.—This should be built in to meet the floor all round (like a modern bath) for you cannot clean underneath it. It should be possible to pack and unpack utensils fairly easily. One chest I used was so deep you had to climb inside to reach the back and so low you had to imitate a serpent to do so. This wastes time and temper needlessly.

I think it is easier to sterilise churns on a jet. Is it true that they are more safely sterilised in a chest?

The rack in which the utensils stand inside the chest could be easily removable for cleaning.

Churn rack.—I have only used wooden ones but I should think metal might be easier to keep clean.

Wall tap.—Tins should not be so low that a bucket cannot be lifted from underneath easily.

I am sure there are many points I have overlooked and I should very much like to hear the views of other dairymaids. It would be interesting too, to hear suggestions on the arrangement of farm buildings and the placing of ricks and clamps. Quite small and unimportant—seeming alterations mean a lot of minutes saved at the end of a year as all farm workers know. And time and labour saved mean lower costs of production and cheaper food.

Dorset.

F. Palmer, 58710.

HEADQUARTERS NOTES

Income Tax.

There has been much discussion and misunderstanding about the application of the Income Tax regulations to the wages of agricultural workers, including members of the Women's Land Army. The position has now been clarified between the Ministry of Agriculture and the central office of the Inland Revenue and is virtually as explained in the October 1943 issue of the LAND GIRL.

Any Land Army member whose employer provides her with free board and lodging **either in the farmhouse or in an outside billet or hostel where he (the employer) makes himself financially responsible for the cost of the board and lodging**, is assessed for Income Tax only on the cash wage which she receives. A Land Army member who receives a gross wage from her employer and out of that gross wage must herself pay for her board and lodging, is assessed for Income Tax on her gross wage.

This Income Tax regulation applies in the same way to all agricultural workers, men and women and although for the Land Army it must seem strange and perhaps unfair that some of its members are taxed on the gross wage while others are taxed on the net cash wage, it is to be remembered that the same in equality of treatment is to be met with in many other walks of life as between resident and non-resident workers.

Agricultural Holidays with Pay.

Once more the Land Army has given a lead in the agricultural industry. For over a year it has been a Land Army regulation that its members shall have one week's holiday on pay during the working year. Now a new Order of the Agricultural Wages Board has made a week's holiday on pay the legal right of every agricultural worker. Under the Board's new Order, an agricultural worker qualifies for one day's holiday with pay after each two consecutive months of regular employment completed on or after November 1st 1943.* He may insist on having at least three days of any holiday for which he has qualified to run consecutively and he may also insist on having the whole of the holiday for which he has qualified between 1st April and 31st October* unless he himself agrees to take it during the winter months.

In the past it has sometimes been difficult for the Land Army to enforce its holidays-with-pay regulation where a Land Army member has changed her job during the year. Now in such cases the land girl will have the **legal right** to claim from the employer she is leaving, one day's holiday on pay for each two months during which she has worked regularly for him since last November. When she goes to her new job she will at once begin working towards her next holiday and after her first two months there, will have qualified for a day's holiday with pay.

Inez Jenkins.

* Different dates have been fixed in the counties of Durham, Hereford, Northumberland and Worcester.

DIARY OF A RED ARMLET—5

Monday.—Cleaning up the cow yard after the weekend; joined the others at the potato pit in the afternoon. A really lovely day, sunny and hot but with a nice breeze. Want some rain in the garden; my spinach seeds are just as they were when I put them in a week ago. And the fly have demolished my third sowing of radishes! Ted says his have all gone, too.

Tuesday.—Cows' grub. Then Planet hoeing on the mangold-bed, a new game with a toy new to me. A really excellent gadget and would be unmixed joy on a nice tilthy bit of land but this bit was a stack-yard some years ago and is still full of brickbats, to say nothing of two-year old Brussels stalks, so that I kept having to stop and clean the hoe, or lift

it over obstacles. All the same, not a bad job. Frank says a man can do an acre a day with one. I was only out there for four hours, by the time I'd done the stock chores, and then had to go back for the afternoon milking, but a rough calculation shows that I should have done more than an acre in a full day. Not too bad, seeing that, judging by respective rates of pay, a woman is worth only two-thirds of a man!

Wednesday.—Planet hoeing again all day, bar stock jobs, and working well over towards the far end of the plot. Found one or two bits of flint that only an expert could decide whether they were hand-worked or natural formations. Not like that lovely little arrow-head I found two years ago.

Thursday.—Potato pit all day as Jarvis was due to come for another three loads. Struck a bad patch, the ones we picked up after the frost had nipped them. Had we left them till the frost had thawed out of them Frank thinks they'd have been all right, but the handling bruised them. Beastly things, rotten potatoes. When they're really fluid, they call them "pammy" round here.

Friday.—Back to the Planet hoe, and finished the job. Now I'll have to bunch and then single the plants. Warm and sunny, but not too hot for work. Found a linnet's nest in the stack-yard hedge, four eggs.

Saturday.—Bunty's foal arrived at 2 a.m. Lovely little thing, full of beans, and almost blue in colour. Gypsy's is now five weeks old, and out in the meadow, and Maggie will be joining the matrons any day.

Saturday.—Cows' grub for the weekend, and the cows had already helped themselves liberally to potatoes under the barn door. To town by the dipper bus, a jaunt somewhat clouded by a visit to the dentist and—as I suspected—one out. Never had less trouble with an extraction, however, and I had a look round the shops before getting the five o'clock home. Spent an hour scything Queen Anne's Lace in the orchard, to the delight of the rabbits who had an enormous supper. If we don't have some rain soon we shall have no vegetables till Christmas.

9600

D. Kingston, 42379 (Westmorland) says that a square cut from a worn out shirt, blanket stitched all round in a colour, makes an excellent face flannel.

LONDON CLUB NOTES

It was very gratifying that so many important individuals and distinguished representatives of government departments showed their appreciation of the work of the W.L.A. by attending the opening of the London Club on June 14th. Unfortunately there is not room to give many names but our own Ministry was nobly represented by the Duke of Norfolk, Earl de la Warr, Sir William Gavin, Mr. Anthony Hurd, Mr. Donald McCullough, Mr. H. Johns and Mr. W. Grant. There was, of course, a special welcome for Mr. Bertram Cruger, Representative in Great Britain of the British War Relief Society of the U.S.A. It was through this Society that the two great Labour organisations, the American Federation of Labour, and the Congress of Industrial Organisations, gave the generous gift which has enabled us to open the London Club and the two Rest Break Homes.

Mr. Cruger's words of praise for the Land Army were warmly applauded. When Lady Denman explained to him that the beauty and elegance of the Club were due not to extravagant use of the money he had given but to skill and the generosity of friends, he replied, "Don't worry—nothing is too good for them."

Mrs. Hudson's inspired decoration of the canteen won universal admiration. As they eat their meals, many Land Girls will appreciate Mrs. Hudson's artistic ability and the unstinted time and trouble which produced such delightful results. They will also enjoy the charming and original mural paintings done by a Danish artist, Mr. Tage Werner, as his tribute to the Land Army.

The exhibition of entries for the Arts and Handicrafts section of the Winter Competition was set out in the Conference Room, where the speeches were made, and was very much admired. It is a fine example of the varied skill and ability possessed by the Land Army.

As she went up the lovely curving staircase, past the volunteers' guard of honour, Mrs. Laughton Mathews (Director, W.R.N.S.) said, "You're Lucky, you have the most becoming uniform of all the services."

Others who have since visited the Club, are Mrs. Winston Churchill, and Mrs. Fraser, wife of the High Commissioner for New Zealand, who bought the doll in Land Army dress, entered by Miss Sparrow, (E. Suffolk) for the Winter Competition, for exhibition to the W.L.A. in New Zealand.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton. Maisie Ward
(Sheed & Ward, 21s.).

There was no Yesterday. John Stuart Arey (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 9s.).

This new biography of Chesterton is an expensive book, but everyone who cannot buy should beg, borrow or steal it, for it is the story of the most lovable great man of our day. Chesterton had that courtesy of the soul which is one of the rarest and most precious graces vouchsafed to poor humanity; and when it is combined with a first-class brain and a brilliant wit, the result is a piece of remarkable good fortune for any society. With him, everyone was at his best. Since his opinions were so conventional as to appear highly eccentric in an intellectual man, people often wanted to quarrel with him, but they always found it impossible—one of H. G. Wells' attempts to do so is one of the funniest things in this book. With Bernard Shaw, also an extremely courteous antagonist, his controversies have the style and charm of a minuet.

Maisie Ward has shared the universal good luck of Chesterton's contemporaries in having an ideal subject—a subject whom it was possible to treat as Boswell treated Johnson, letting him speak for himself most of the time, in the safe conviction that no one could do it better. In the ordinary sense, Chesterton's life was not an adventurous one, but adventures are where one finds them, and to a man who finds the commonplace glamorous, life must obviously be one long adventure.

Chesterton was devoid of either time sense or money sense. His famous telegram to his wife, "Am at Market Harborough. Where ought I to be?" was only one of many such; but when he was late at an engagement, his apology was always worth the waiting for. That such a man should be exploited was inevitable; but he asked for it and enjoyed it. When he was underpaid, his only response was to point out the extraordinary good luck of being paid at all for what you wanted to do, anyhow. It is surely something to be said for our much abused age that it succeeded in producing at least one great man who was also a happy one.

"There Was No Yesterday" is a story of war-time, but of a comparatively easy-going, pleasant war-time behind the Welsh mountains. The main struggle here is that of an ageing country doctor to control a paratyphoid epidemic against the stupidities of self-interest of colleagues and the public. But there are also several love-stories and an exuberant large family of charming naturalness. It is a well-written and mildly exciting novel of the old type, agreeable to meet again in more hectic times.

The photographs opposite were taken at lunch after the opening of the London Club on June 14th.

THE LAND GIRL



CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

I write on behalf of the Churches Group of the National Council of Social Service, which is a body that represents all the Churches in this country—Protestant, Catholic and Jewish. We send our united greetings to the land girls connected with all our different religious communions and say that, if any girl is unable to make contact with representatives of her own Church locally, the Central Churches Group would try to help her.

It may well be, however, that there is no Church of her denomination within easy reach of her work or residence. In that case she might like to be introduced to the facilities that are available for religious discussion groups or reading courses which would be adapted to her need. We should be glad to get questions on this point. They should be addressed to Mrs. Feeney, Central Churches Group, 26, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. Malcolm Spencer.

Secretary of the Churches Group.

Dear Editor,

I have heard that several Land Girls are disappointed with the Proficiency Badges, whether it is the material, colour, or design I do not know, but I have one and am more than pleased with same.

I have been told by an expert on such things that it is a grand bit of workmanship and it is worthy of the highest praise. I thought you would like to publish this.

Warwicks.

F. D. Reason, 124104.

Dear Editor,

I have been in the Land Army over a year now and never regret a moment of it.

We have over 500 acres on our farm. My proudest moment was when our farmer praised us, saying "I could not have done that job better myself." It was indeed high praise and encourages you to work harder still.

Kent.

P. Ewens, 100054.

Dear Editor,

I have been in the Women's Timber Corps for 4 years. I have never had a day off for sickness or accident and have only taken two of the annual weeks leave allowed.

Middlesex.

D. G. Smith, 33927.

L. Bamsey 40203, M. Palmer 38037, and N. Redhead (Oxon) 38304, also write to say that they have records lasting nearly 3½ years, which beat that of E. Edgar recorded last month.

AN OPEN LETTER

Dear Land Girls,

Please read this and then look in the glass.

"O father dear, what is that thing
That's walking round the farm?
It has a bootlace on its chin,
Ten badges on its arm,
An emerald jersey, purple scarf,
And khaki dungarees"
That seem to have been cut in half:—
Whatever is it, please?"

"Hush, hush, my child: that's Maisie Thrupp,

A Land Girl, as supplied
By Ministries that ginger up
Our quiet countryside.
She digs and plants and milks and hoes
And ploughs uncommon well:
But why she goes about in *those*,
The Lord alone can tell."

"But father dear, that *can't* be right
For I have often seen
The Land Girl, smart and neat and
bright,

Employed by Farmer Green.
She wears one badge (not on her hat),
One armlet, (not cut up):—
Why, I'm no more like our Tom Cat
Than she's like Maisie Thrupp!"

I could do you a lot more of this. Verses 5 to 15 would tell either, how Farmer Green's girl married a beautiful airman, and was happy ever after, while poor old Maisie remained miserably on the shelf, or how Farmer Green's girl set up as an Agriculturalist on her own account, while Maisie ran an Old Clothes Shop. But I'm not sure that that would do, because, judging by what some farmers tell you, Maisie might end up the richer of the two. So I think on the whole we'd better pass on to Verses 16 to 40, which tell how Farmer Green's girl met Maisie one morning and told her a few home truths.

She taught her that the uniform of the Womens' Land Army correctly worn, is the smartest one there is, and makes you look your best. Everything, work included, comes easier when you know you're looking nice; and it comes easier still if you can feel proud of yourself altogether. You can only do that if all Land Girls are properly dressed, because then other people look up to the Land Army, and to you for belonging to it.

On hearing this, Maisie burst into tears and quickly turned over a new leaf. So the war was soon won, and the last 50

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verses just describe 76,000 Land Girls, without one hair out of place or one badge too many, and with a cheerful sufficiency of Land Army Cosmetics, all taking part in a Victory Parade.

I've let you off reading it, so will you please *live* it instead? And if that Maise shows her face in your county just tell her what you think of her, and why.

Worcestershire W.L.A. Yours sincerely,
Barbara Lea,
Chairman,

WINTER COMPETITION

The following are extracts from the Judges Report.

It is interesting to see in this Exhibition of paintings and handicrafts by girls of the Land Army, work of a high standard of technical skill.

The knitting deserved the highest praise and the work of Miss Hunter (Wilts.) shows not only a thorough knowledge of the craft but displays excellent taste in colour, design and finish.

1st prizes go to Miss J. Hunter (Wilts.) Miss Lidbetter (East Kent). Miss Browne (Lancs), was 2nd, Miss Wild (Staffs), 3rd, and the Misses Jeffery and Peckover, were commended.

In the Embroidery Section of the Exhibition we find some excellent work put into rather poor designs, and one realises how very high the standard would be in this section if the designs were as good as the workmanship.

1st Prizes: Miss E. Hunter (Middx.), Miss E. White (Herts.). Miss Gowlett (W. Kent) Miss Peckover (Cambs.) and Miss Sutton (Glos.) were 2nd., and the Misses Dalton, Smith, Mills and Jennings were commended.

Miss Richardson (Norfolk) and Miss E. King (W. Kent) were awarded 1st prizes for a child's smock and a knitted cheval set.

In Handicrafts there are some interesting exhibits. The historic dolls shown by Miss Campbell (Devon) are delightful. They are full of character, and considering the scale are well carried out. Beautiful workmanship, original design and good colour are displayed in the exhibit Felt Foot Stool shown by Miss Coppin (East Kent) and this is one of the best pieces of work in the Exhibition.

1st. Prizes: Miss Campbell (Devon), Miss Coppin (E. Kent). Miss Sparrow (E. Suffolk) was 2nd, and Miss Dakin (Cheshire) 3rd. Miss Stubbs (Bucks) and Miss Cornelius were commended.

In the Painting Section the flower

drawings by Miss H. Watson (Perthshire) show careful study, and the pen and ink drawings are of a high standard. Miss Sparrow's "Flower pieces" are among the most striking pieces in the Exhibition and her sense of pattern and handling of the medium should enable her to go far in this particular kind of work.

1st Prizes: Miss Watson (Scotland), Miss R. Owen (Som.), Miss Coates (Warwick), Miss Sparrow (E. Suffolk), Miss A. Hewlett (E. Sussex), Miss L. Russell (Somerset), Miss Dyke (Dorset), Miss Dunhill (Surrey), for water colours, oil paintings, lettering and pen and ink drawings. In these different sections Miss Kelham (Herts), Misses Scrivener (Worcs), Gladstone (Kent), Boss (Kent), Maynard (Berks) were 2nd, and Miss Birkby (Lancs.) was 3rd. The Misses Caistor, Wilde, Hughes, Fawcett, Cornelius and Irwin were commended.

WANTED.—Ladies Riding Jacket, for wear with Land Army breeches. Bust 34 ins. Smith, Rectory, Whichford, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

WANTED.—Roller Skates. Size six. Patterson, Newbury Cottages, Upchurch, Near Sittingbourne, Kent.

FOR SALE.—Brown Tweed riding coat. Bust 30-32ins. **WANTED.**—Brown Jodpur boots. Strap or elastic sided. Size 5. Ellis, Winterbrook House, Harwell, Didcot, Berks.

WANTED.—Large frame rucksack and small billy can. Good condition essential. McLeod, Townhead, Gatehouse, Castle Douglas.

SCOTTISH NOTES

ABERDEEN & ELLON.—A concert party from Aberdeen gave an excellent variety show at Garlogie Timber Camp to which L.G's, from the surrounding areas were invited and afterwards entertained to supper.

ANGUS.—W.L.A. members in Angus took part in Salute the Soldier parades in Arbroath, Brechin and Carnoustie. The Misses Braid and Watson entertained the L.G's, attending the parade in Arbroath to tea at the Willows. Nellie Torrance, W.L.A. 18518 displayed great courage in rescuing two horses and assisting in the removal of the cows during a fire at Denside Farm, Colliston, where she is employed. Mr. Smith, her employer, gives her great praise for her courageous action.

SOUTH ARGYLL.—In the Lochgilphead district four girls have worked on the same farms for two years, and considering the remoteness of the district this is an excellent record!

SOUTH AYRSHIRE.—60 L.G's, took part in A Salute the Soldier, week held in Ayr on the 20th May, and were afterwards entertained to tea in the Club by the Ladies' Committee. The window of the Club was decorated with red, white and blue

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flowers and Union Jack flags, with a miniature L.G. complete with hoe, made by one of the girls.

CAITHNESS.—General Sir A. F. Andrew Thorne, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Officer Commanding, Scottish Command, presented G.S. Badges to members of the W.L.A. at the War Memorial, Thurso before taking the Salute at the "Salute the Soldier" Parade on 12th June. Mrs. Mill, Chairman of the W.L.A. Sub-Committee introduced General Thorne who addressed the girls, and Mrs. Gunn, Lybster, proposed the vote of thanks.

DEER and TURRIFF.—A presentation of G.S. Badges was held in the Auchterless Hall on 26th May. Mr. Wannop of the North of Scotland College of Agriculture gave a short address before presenting the badges to the girls in the Auchterless and Turriff districts. A dance, in aid of the Benevolent Fund, followed, organised by Mrs. Wilson, Turriff assisted by volunteers. The sum of £40 was realised. A very successful dance was organised in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund by Sybil Munro, W.L.A. 7523, in King Edward district in May, realising the sum of £30.

DUMFRIES-SHIRE.—Members of the W.L.A. bore themselves with distinction when they took part in a recent "Salute the Soldier" parade. There were girls in charge of a tractor and a "hothouse on wheels," (tending tomato plants), and driving a hay rake pulled by a horse! Lady Hilne Home and Mrs. Ralston presented G.S. badges at Langholm and Lockerbie respectively.

DUNBARTON and RENFREW.—also had several girls in Salute the Soldier Parades throughout the area. At Dunbarton a tractor with trailer was driven by one. Sir Ian Colquhoun of Luss presented G.S. Badges at a Rally in Dunbartonshire. The Paisley L.G.'s Club went to a picnic to Glentworth, and had a Treasure hunt in which trees and wild flowers were the clues. Thanks are due to Miss Doull and Mrs. Gow who organised such a splendid afternoon.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT.—Over 100 volunteers in the Stewartry were presented with G.S. badges by Lady McCulloch, Ardwall, at a Red Cross Free Gift Sale, 4 year, 3½ year and 3 year armlets were presented.

N. LANARKSHIRE.—had 50 Members in the Glasgow "Salute the Soldier" Parade, who marched well and looked very smart. On 6th June, W.L.A. Employees in Glasgow Corporation Parks gave a very successful Dance in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund which benefited by £36 5s. 6d.

EAST LOTHIAN.—"Meet the Land Girl" was the title given to a variety entertainment in Edinburgh, organised by Mrs. Gibson and played by the girls of Roselea Hostel. It was a delightful performance, pretty and tuneful and went on without waits between the "turns." This was one of a series of entertainments by East Lothian girls in aid of the Welfare and Benevolent Fund. The total sum raised was over £300.

MIDLOTHIAN.—8 girls from Penicuik took part in the Salute the Soldier parade and had tea with Mrs. Paterson, Glenesk. A very successful and enjoyable Whist Drive and Dance were held in the W.L.A. Hostel at Westfield, West Calder. Thanks are due to many kind friends who sent gifts for tea and prizes and in many other ways assisted in not only making a very happy evening but also in adding the splendid sum of £21 to Midlothian County Comforts Fund.

EAST PERTH.—Volunteers employed in Rait district held a basket wheel drive which raised over £22 for the W. & B. Fund, and a dance in Blairgowrie brought the Fund £31 10s. 6d. Thanks are due to Miss Spooner and friends who organised it.

WIGTOWNSHIRE.—An impressive parade marked the official opening of the "Salute the Soldier" campaign in Stranraer. The L.A. brought up the rear with two vehicles, on which were staged two tableaux, one showing how women, in wide-

brimmed sun-hats helped on the land 100 years ago, and the other depicting L.G.'s, of to-day at work. The W.L.A. gave a very successful concert at Portwilliam. The programme contributed by the Hostel girls, for the "Salute the Soldier" effort, was greatly appreciated.

W. & B. FUND.—A concert was held in Edinburgh on 26th May in aid of the W. & B. Fund. The programme was provided by the St. Andrew's House Female Voice Choir in co-operation with the D.O.A.S. Male Voice Choir. Sir Patrick Laird, C.B., Secretary to the Department of Agriculture for Scotland proposed a vote of thanks. The proceeds amounted to £49.

MON.—Sir Louis Bussau, Agent-General for Victoria, Australia, was principal speaker at a Rally held at Newport on June 10th. He spoke of conditions and possibilities for women in agriculture in Australia. Other speakers included Sir Foster Stedman, Mr. Leslie Pym, M.P., and Mr. G. H. Purvis, M.B.E., Chief Executive Officer M.W.A.E.C. Among the votes of thanks was one from a volunteer with five years' service—M. M. Harris, W.L.A. 3286. Sir Louis later presented the first of our proficiency badges. Tea and Community singing followed and the evening was rounded off with a splendid E.N.S.A. show. We congratulate the seventeen successful candidates out of twenty-five entrants for the proficiency tests held recently. Passes include nine in milking and dairy, three in field work, two in general farm work and one in market gardening. Distinction was obtained by J. Webb, and Y. N. Poole, in milking and dairy, while the others maintained a good average standard. We hope these results will inspire other Monmouthshire girls to enter for the next tests. We note with satisfaction the increasing number of our volunteers who are marrying farmers: this promises to be a happy augury for the future of agriculture.

MONT.—70 L.G.'s took part in Welshpool's "Salute the Soldier" Parade. Everyone remarked on their smart appearance and good marching. Smaller detachments were present at other parades in the county, and with tractors at an open-air service in Montgomery on Farm Sunday. Half the collection was given to the Benevolent Fund. Welshpool Hostel sold over £400 worth of Savings Stamps during the Week. By the courtesy of Brecon and Radnorshire J. M. Davies took and passed her Horticulture Proficiency Test in that county. The last very enjoyable W.L.A. Dance of the season was held on May 25th, and M. Humphreys ran a very successful Whist Drive which resulted in her sending £13 6s. 3d. for the Red Cross. On June 2nd the Llandinam ratcatchers ran a dance in aid of the Benevolent Fund, which was very enjoyable and successful. In a Field Work Proficiency Test Vols. Coates and Ralph gained distinction, and Vols. Carr, Balch, Connelly, Senior and Routledge obtained passes.

July ushered in big changes in organisation. Our part-time County Secretary and County Organiser, Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Vaughan, leave us, and our County Office becomes full-time under the auspices of a new Organising Secretary, Mrs. Purves. Our retiring officials leave us with our very best wishes and many regrets; but we extend a very real welcome to our new Organising Secretary.

NORFOLK.—The present series of Proficiency Tests has ended, and out of 48 entries there were 10 distinctions and 37 passes. The standard of work was good throughout and the girls enjoyed the experience. A contingent of 52 members attended a Grand Military Parade, inaugurating Norwich "Salute the Soldier" Week; they marched well and received a round of applause as they passed the saluting base; E. Briggs, of Pickenham, was chosen to represent the L.A. in the tableau of Britannia surrounded by members from all the women's services. Audrey Holden (Kenningshall), now Mrs. Maxfield, was the first L.G. in Norfolk to wear an American wedding

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break, the photograph sent to this office showed that the dress was extremely pretty, and that Miss Holden looked very charming in it. Meetings are being held in various centres to discuss post-war occupations for L.G.s; many interesting ideas have come forward, not all connected with agriculture; it is part of our plan to put girls who have the same ideas in touch with each other.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—In the King's Birthday Honours announced on the 10th June, our County Organising Secretary has been made M.B.E. The members of the W.L.A. in Northumberland offer congratulations to Mrs. Clement for the award so highly deserved.

Norham-on-Tweed hostel, holders of the W.L.A. Drama Cup, have also won the prize at a Drama Competition of the Northumberland Federation of Women's Institutes when they staged "The Great Dark," at the Little Theatre, Gateshead. They were presented this time with the Challenge Cup. The girls, who spoke in Northumbrian dialect, were congratulated by the adjudicator, for choosing a play which "only they could do so well." The producer was Ada Mather, Forewoman of Cornhill-on-Tweed Hostel. Members of the W.L.A. have taken part in many parades during "Salute the Soldier" Week campaigns in the county. The first series of the W.L.A. Proficiency Tests was held during May. In Field Work 17 passed out of 22, 2 with distinctions. G.F. Work, entries 16, passes 14, 2 distinction. Outdoor Garden and Glasshouse, 3 entries, all passed. Milking and Dairy, 8 out of 9 passed. Pest Destruction, all 7 passed. Tractor driving, 2 entries, both passed.

NOTTS.—A parade was held on Farm Sunday at Southwell Minster with a procession into the fields to Bless the Crops, at which 18 L.G.s were present. Hodstock Priory Hostel raised £4 for the Benevolent Fund by a very enjoyable Whist Drive, at which they had 10 tables and a present of 12 eggs for a raffle. Farndon Hostel recently held a party to celebrate its third birthday. The guests included a number of farmers in the neighbourhood and everyone enjoyed the evening's entertainment and the tea and supper and of course the Birthday Cake. Some of the girls at Clipstone Hostel took part in a beet striking and singling competition, and carried away the three prizes. Well done, Clipstone. Salute the Soldier Week in Retford opened with a parade round the town at which the W.L.A. was represented by a good number who came in for a lot of praise on their smart turn-out, not forgetting the tractor driver who brought up the rear. Proficiency tests have been held in Milking and Dairy, G.F., Field Work, Tractor Driving, Gardening and Poultry, of the 42 entrants 22 have passed, 11 gaining distinction. M. Mahony has sent 68 to the Benevolent Fund raised by 2s. but of every hour of over-time during May. She hopes to collect a good sum by the end of the year as she intends keeping up the practice indefinitely.

OXON.—In a moment of optimism we decided to make a special 'drive' to raise during April £1,500 for the Benevolent Fund; and we determined that the target would be reached. But great was our surprise when we realised £2,710, a result far exceeding our expectation. A special Week was arranged for the end of April, and it was our pleasure to have Mr. Donald McCullough to open this in Oxford. A unique event was a Stock and Produce Sale in Banbury Market when Gillie Porter 'opened' the stall and auctioned the stock. Proficiency Tests were also a special feature in April, 48 volunteers entered; 37 passed, 10 with distinction. An Oxfordshire volunteer was one of the first to have the pleasure of wearing a wedding dress sent from America—it was a charming gown. An interesting conclusion to the winter programme at Chalford Hostel was a Brains Trust arranged by the W.E.A. Royal Engineers and American troops were guests on that evening. Larkstone Hostel recently commenced its second year with

birthday celebrations. Woodstock farewelled its Warden at its second birthday party—we are extremely sorry to lose Mrs. Nash who has been Warden for two years.

PEMBS.—We have now completed Proficiency Tests in all branches of work for which entries were received. Gardening produced outstandingly good results and special congratulations are extended to Mrs. E. David who gained 100 per cent. Congratulations to the 7 entrants, who all passed well, especially Mrs. Tarrant and the Misses Raper, Ackland, and Currey, who gained distinction. Pest Destruction tests resulted in 6 passes out of 8, Miss le Riche passing with distinction. The judges were very pleased with her work. A second and very successful Leaders' course has been held and we hope to see good results in even better work from the gang girls during the summer months—20 of them are already helping to solve a labour crisis in the south of the county. Continentals of the W.L.A. took part in "Salute the Soldier" parades in various parts of the County and earned much praise for their smart appearance and good marching. Our Welfare Fund is growing satisfactorily. We have received contributions from 3 dances, one at Stackpole, one at Dale, organised by J. Latchem and B. Howard—a splendid effort for a small place—and one organised by the Girl Guide Company run by Miss Griffith, one of our District Representatives.

SALOP.—In addition to their normal weekly contributions to the National Savings Scheme our Hostel volunteers decided to organise special efforts in support of their local "Salute the Soldier" weeks. As a result £328 18s. has been contributed from 7 of our hostels to the National Savings Scheme. Edstaston House with 38 volunteers is specially to be congratulated in buying certificates to the value of £182 12s. 6d. in one day, and on sending £31 7s. 6d. as a free gift to their local "Salute the Soldier" Committee. A delightful Garden Party and Sale was recently held at the Shropshire College of Domestic Science and Dairywork, Radbrook, Shrewsbury in aid of the Benevolent Fund, and by this means £80 was raised. We have once more to thank Miss Bode, College Principal and member of the County Committee, for her help and the students for giving us such a jolly party and inviting the L.G.s. as their guests for tea. The Party opened with the presentation of G.S. Badges to local volunteers by our Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Donaldson-Hudson. Congratulations to M. A. Williams, 23449 and L. Slater, 16565 on obtaining their 9th badge, and to the former for passing her Proficiency Test with Distinction, and the latter for her success in the Horticultural Correspondence Course.

STAFFS.—We are indebted to Stafford Y.F.C. for arranging such a successful dance in aid of our Benevolent Fund. Two parties of volunteers

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Swainfleet Hostel (Lindsey Lincs). entertains the Vice-Chairman and County Secretary for its second birthday.

from Hostels and neighbouring farms attended and there was no lack of partners, thanks to our American Allies. A most enjoyable dance was also held at Brewood; congratulations to the Hostel girls who worked so hard and raised the splendid sum of £34. Milford Club had a most instructive evening when the art of preparing and spinning of sheep's wool, collected by one member, was demonstrated. Each member took her place at the spinning wheel and had the satisfaction of producing wool ready for the skein. We hear glowing accounts from one of our members of her stay at the Llandudno Rest Break House; two more volunteers will be spending a well earned rest there during the next month. Further Proficiency Tests have been held in G.F. Work, Dairy and Milking, Field Work and Horticulture. Congratulations to all who passed, especially to the three volunteers gaining Distinction. We thank our kind Host and Hostess during the G.F. Work Tests, for their hospitality and the perfectly marvellous teas provided.

E. SUFFOLK.—Our Hostel L.G.'s. have been working so hard on the sugar beet crop that we have had to postpone the four Proficiency Tests in field work arranged to take place in June. The girls have put in a great deal of overtime and have tackled an urgent, tiring job cheerfully and well, and praise for their work has come in from all parts of the county. There will be further Proficiency Tests during July; for machine milking and general farm work on July 19th at Columbyne Hall Hostel, Stowupland, and for hand milking at Sutton Hoo Hostel on July 26th. Committee Members and V. Representatives will be welcomed at both. Congratulations to Miss B. Mayes (Onehouse) who gained her Proficiency Badge at a recent poultry test held at Thurston, in which she was included by kind permission of W. Suffolk. The Minister of Agriculture paid a flying visit to Columbyne Hall Hostel on June 6th. The "spring cleaned" appearance of every field, barn, implement and animal was a splendid testimony of the extra hard work put in by the girls and their instructors in honour of the occasion. Members of the Woodbridge, Helmingham and Kelsale L.G. Clubs have been allowed to use private tennis courts locally, which they much appreciate. There have been many good efforts and generous individual contributions during the past two months for the Benevolent Fund.

W. SUFFOLK.—Volunteers at Shimpling Hostel had a pleasant surprise when Mr. Hudson paid them an informal visit. Elveden girls were also honoured

by a visit from the Minister the same week-end. L.G.'s have been particularly successful in local contests of late. M. A. Turner, 109456 won 1st prize in an open Tractor Furrow drawing competition and 3rd in a ploughing match. In the finals of the W.A.E.C. open milking competition, F. Cambridge, 10336 came 2nd, and J. Wren 26378 came 3rd. We have just completed our first round of Proficiency Tests and were very pleased to welcome an E. Suffolk Volunteer for the Poultry Test. A most successful conference was held in the office, of the forewomen of all the Hostels, with the W.A.E.C. Woman Labour Officer. It was a most successful and helpful meeting. Lakenheath were the winners of the W.A.E.C. Inter Hostel Agriculture Quiz and the Warden gave them a magnificent banquet to celebrate the occasion. Risby Hostel gave two dramatic shows and an open air dance for the Salute the Soldier Week, which brought in over £30. Four hostels have entered for the Gardening Competition. Mr. Creek, the County Horticultural Instructor, has kindly consented to judge the gardens.

SURREY.—Surrey is starting a campaign to raise at least £1,000 for the Benevolent Fund by Oct. 31st, and each area, hostel, W.A.C. depot has been given a target which it is hoped the volunteers will be able to raise. Plans are already in the air and include dances, socials and a tennis tournament. A large number of volunteers took part in a parade at Farnham on Rogation Sunday, and marched through the town to Gostrey Meadow where a service was held. The second lesson was read by a L.A. volunteer. The W.A.C. was well represented by a large gathering, which included representatives of many organisations interested in agriculture. The first forewomen's training course, under the W.A.C., has just been held at the Committee's training hostel at Heath Farm, Godalming. 16 volunteers attended the course which lasted for two weeks and included lectures as well as practical work, they had been in the L.A. for well over a year and all had acted as forewomen in charge of gangs. The course was therefore of an advanced character and concluded with a test which caused some perturbation. It was rumoured that even during a dance, some of the candidates were overheard making anxious enquiries as to the number of stomachs possessed by a cow! Congratulations to Heath Farm volunteers for their splendid donation of £18, the proceeds of a dance, to Benevolent Fund.

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E. SUSSEX.—County Office, very ably backed up by District Chairmen and Local Representatives, opened a Gift Shop in Lewes for a week, followed by an open air Caravan Shop in Haywards Heath. We sold everything which can be imagined, from our Office cleaners cast off boots to a jade necklace worth £75. Garden produce, wine, antiques, and toys were among our stock. Our most prized gift being a lovely engine turned silver cigarette box which was given to us by our Patron the Queen. The final result is not yet to hand, but we are confident that we shall have made at least £1,000. Out of 150 girls who have entered for their proficiency tests 135 have passed, many of them with distinction. We have attended many Salute the Soldier Week celebrations. The Shaugh Hostel, Hartfield, set themselves a target of £10 and actually realised £26 2s. 6d. within the Hostel itself. Five Sussex Girls have sat for the Correspondence Course and have been awarded certificates. They are:—P. E. Parrott, B. H. Layzell, A. Roust, D. Gouthell and B. Bickford.

W. SUSSEX.—Three more Proficiency Tests have been held, one in Hand Milking, in which all entrants passed and M. Foley gained distinction, the first Field Work test in which R. Cox and D. Hickman gained distinction, and a positively brilliant G. F. Work Test in which all 8 entrants passed, 5 gaining distinction; P. Reed and B. Riddell only lost one and two marks respectively; the others were G. Ripley, G. Billing and H. Blakley. L.A. members took appropriate part in many Rogation Sunday Services and Processions, a particularly charming one was held in the little village of Compton, where all the village activities were blessed as the procession passed along. In many places also the L.A. has figured prominently in "Salute the Soldier" Week marches. A few Clubs continue to meet during the summer; Horsham had a most enjoyable supper picnic at Leonardsea, in spite of a thunder storm, and enjoyed seeing the famous farm and gardens. Worthing sent a delegate to a special meeting organised by the National Council of Women to stress the need for women police. Chichester has held several highly successful Agricultural Brains Trusts, and Cowfold and Madresland have been fortunate in having visits from Madame D'Alroy, the famous journalist and speaker. Loxwood were enthralled by an entertainment from Miss Elspeth Douglas Read, the famous Discuse who most kindly made a special visit to this remote village to entertain L.G's.

N. WALES.—The sequel to smart W.L.A. contingents in "Salute the Soldier" Parades were compliments that encouraged everybody. Proficiency Tests revealed that volunteers were reaching a high standard, for 70 passed, including 10 with distinction. Volunteers from 5 counties are at Bangor for the potato "rogueing" course, proof the School of Agriculture were satisfied with the inspection of crops by L.G.s last season. Sir Michael Duff Ashton-Smith presented Proficiency Badges at Caernarvon, Miss Griffith inviting us all to a dance afterwards; at Llandudno Miss Wilkinson and Miss Ellis had a party for the presentation by Miss Griffith. Hostel party at Abergwynant was a true "Nosen lawen." Tydwiliogs acting at Sarn made us lament the impossibility of a combined performance by them and Menai Bridge. Flourishing hostel gardens in Anglesey will mean a keen competition for the "Ellis" Cup. We are truly grateful for the lovely comforts received for hostel sick-bays distributed to us by the Dudley House Allocation Committee on behalf of the British War Relief of U.S.A.

WARWICKS.—We were delighted to welcome Miss Brew on her first visit to the Warwickshire W.L.A. On May 9th Mrs. Fielden gave an enjoyable party in Warwick for the volunteers due for their four-year armlets. The evening started with a concert given by the Alcester W.L.A. Club, after which Miss Brew gave an interesting talk and presented four-year armlets to 21 volunteers. The Treasurer of the Alcester club thanked Miss Brew

and presented her with a cheque for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund for £130, which had been raised by the club concerts. The party then ended with marvellous refreshments. On May 10th Miss Brew addressed a meeting of W.L.A. District Representatives at the Leamington Town Hall, which proved a most interesting and helpful meeting. Proficiency Tests in field work, tractor work and horticulture are in full swing. Garden parties for the L.A. are being given by committee members and many district representatives, and during June most enjoyable parties have been given by Lady Leigh at Stoneligh Abbey, Mrs. Quinney at Sambourne, Mrs. Phillips at Oldbury, and by Mrs. Sparkes, Mrs. Pinsent, and Mrs. Barnett in the Birmingham area. We have all been pleased this month to welcome Miss Sawdon who has joined our county staff as Assistant County Secretary.

WILTS.—Congratulations to the 54 girls who have passed their Proficiency Tests, 6 gaining distinctions. Keen interest was shown in the tests, and it is hoped to hold the next series in October. 90 out of our 120 District Representatives attended a Central Conference at Conock, where a talk by Miss Walton, our Regional Organiser, was the special "draw" The Hostel was thrown open to inspection, and the Warden produced a pre-war tea from voluntary contributions. A Wardens' Conference held earlier in the month at Nonsuch was a great success. A Ministry of Food official spoke on pack lunches, and many difficulties were discussed and solved. W.L.A. members are taking an active part in "Salute the Soldier Week." The 26 girls at Sarn Hostel got special congratulations for their turnout and marching, and their wonderful total of £103 to War Savings in one week. It is hoped that other Hostels will produce good totals for the Benevolent Fund Drive for which a target has been set. Wharf House, Seend, have already made £20 by the sale of tickets for a bed spread, crocheted by them, in coloured wools. We would like to thank Mrs. Grace for her splendid idea of bringing the W.L.A. into line with the other services by an official issue of cosmetics. The many appreciative letters which pour in amply compensate the office staff for the extra work involved.

We welcome Miss Smith as an Assistant Secretary, and hope she and "Brenda" will settle down in Wiltshire.

The uniform store has now moved to spacious premises in New Park Street, Devizes. Please note the address, write direct there, and NOT to Nonsuch.

YORKS. E.R.—In April Howden Hostel held a very successful dance on the occasion of the second anniversary of its opening, raising £5 for the Benevolent Fund. Sherburn Hostel has had a very enjoyable course of six lectures on post-war reconstruction from Miss Jordan of the W.E.A. The East Riding Welfare Fund benefited by £8 10s. from a dance organised at Tibthorpe by Marion Puckering, Marion Cook and Dorothy Dalton. In May, Muston Hostel had a film show by the M. of I. Keyingham Hostel held a very successful Fancy Dress dance on the occasion of two twenty-first birthdays. O. Henry and D. Davison recently received a cheque for £5 each subscribed by local farmers in recognition of their good work on threshing. Two East Riding girls, Josephine Curtis and Joyce Seymour have had a fortnight's holiday at the Rest Break House at Llandudno, and much appreciated all that was done for them. A contingent of girls attended the York "Salute the Soldier" parade on Women's Day, and afterwards a very enjoyable tea was provided by Lady Dunnington Jefferson.

YORKS. N.R.—On June 17th a party was held at the Allertonshire School, Northallerton for the presentation of four-year armlets and proficiency badges, by Major T. Dugdale, M.P. On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Major Dugdale congratulated the members of the W.L.A. on the splendid work which they had done for their country. 26 girls received four-year armlets and 63

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proficiency badges. In addition, two members of the Timber Corps also received four-year armlets. Members of the W.A.E.C., the farmers on whose farms the proficiency tests were held, and the judges also came to the party. Joan Rigby, who has the longest service in the North Riding, proposed the vote of thanks to Major Dugdale and this was seconded by Maisie Garside, who obtained the highest marks (97%) in the proficiency tests. After the presentation a concert was given by W.L.A. members from the Stokesley hostel. 8 members of the Flaxton L.A. Club went for a week-end camp at the beginning of June and in spite of the weather everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Another camp will be held at a later date for members who could not go for the first week-end. Strensall hostel had to be closed and on May 28th, 35 of the girls from this hostel were transferred to Stockton House, Stockton-on-Forest. All the girls have settled down in their new surroundings and enjoy living in a house instead of a hutment.

Please remember to renew your subscriptions when these are due.

Please remember that all communications about subscriptions should be sent to your County Office or your Magazine Representative, NOT to the Editor.

It is much regretted that news received from London & Middlesex and Yorkshire R. was lost owing to enemy action. In account of the same reason it is probable that this issue of the LAND GIRL will be late in reaching subscribers. For the Editor expresses regret.

BENEVOLENT FUNDS

On June 30th the Fund totalled £84,846. The July total was £5,888. KENT still has the highest total of £6,612. J. and OXFORD the lowest monthly total of £2,730. This month the limelight switches to OXFORD sent a "small donation" (their own words!) of £1,710 as the result of their special effort. This means that Oxford's total now averages £3 per employed volunteer in the county— a record which will take a lot of beating! We were also delighted to receive a cheque for £1 from the WOMEN'S TIMBER CORPS representing money raised in many different ways during the past few months. Apart from these, the best county totals this month come from E. Lincs—£221, which includes £25 from a dance at Grinstead; NORFOLK—£117; WORCS—£25. Single outstanding efforts include £80 raised by SHROPSHIRE at a garden party organised by the Committee members, and this county also sent in at the end of May £66 from a dance and a whist drive at the Oswestry Club; £71 from a dance at Cambridge from HUNTS CAMBS & ELY; £66 from a whist drive and dance in Spalding, HOLLAND; £49 from the Petersfield Club dance in HANTS and £45 from a summer fete with side shows, stalls, etc., organised by the volunteers at Eaves Hall Hostel, DERBYS. Four dances in SOMERSET produced £57 and two in GLOS. both organised by the same L.A. volunteer, raised £25. A member of the GLAMORGAN office staff got up a bridge drive which made £22 and E. SUFFOLK's total of £76 included £23 from a dance in Fressingfield. £58 was received at the end of May from NOTTS, largely helped by £30 from a "social." Miss Kennet Hayes, has sent us a total of £9 14s. 4d. representing the profit on 141 pairs of oiled wool socks which she knitted in spite of a long illness.

A further £206 has come in from Rogation Day collections throughout the country.

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County Returns

County	Ben. F. Total			Em- ployed
	£	s.	d.	
Kent	6612	3	4	4039
Essex	5177	16	7	3519
Surrey	1620	16	5	2277
West Riding ..	996	18	6	2240
Hampshire ..	2061	18	1	2118
East Sussex ..	1574	11	10	2099
Leicester 1811 Rutland 272 }	1458	3	11	2083
Worcester ..	1703	2	11	2077
Hertford ..	3788	2	4	2055
Northants ..	2119	0	6	1817
Somerset ..	1314	0	8	1794
Bucks	4102	18	10	1783
Devon	2627	2	4	1695
Warwick ..	2411	19	3	1690
West Sussex ..	2054	18	11	1607
Norfolk	2183	9	9	1599
Cheshire ..	1510	7	2	1566
Lancashire ..	835	10	11	1503
Wilts	543	15	8	1487
Cornwall ..	281	10	3	1365
Northumberland	1237	4	3	1352
North Riding ..	410	1	11	1272
Gloucester ..	1711	18	0	1263
Nottingham ..	411	17	0	1256
Hunts 311 Cambs 527 Ely 325 }	931	4	3	1163
Berkshire ..	1291	0	3	1146
East Suffolk ..	1406	9	11	1127
Oxford	3400	5	0	1072
Durham	321	1	8	1031
East Riding ..	156	0	0	998
Shropshire ..	1056	12	4	990
beds	716	12	11	987
Cumbs & West'd	438	11	7	897
Lincs—Kesteven	651	15	6	877
Dorset	846	8	1	858
Stafford ..	528	11	1	810
Lincs—Lindsey	585	2	6	717
Glamorgan ..	637	4	11	686
Hereford ..	943	9	3	633
Lincs—Holland	755	19	4	630
Monmouth ..	572	19	1	617
West Suffolk ..	1289	2	11	600
Denbigh ..	420	7	11	599
London & Middx.	680	19	2	594
Derby	745	2	0	588
Flintshire ..	385	15	4	573
North Wales ..	1135	0	9	531
Pembroke ..	645	8	11	397
Cards & Carm's	532	9	11	355
Isle of Wight ..	110	9	5	345
Brecon & Radnor	274	0	6	282
Montgomery ..	289	12	4	236
Timber Corps ..	2151	14	7	3480

On June 30th, 69,307 volunteers were in employment.