



Vol. I.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

*Give us ten per cent. more,
Only ten per cent. more,
Give us ten per cent. more,
From our farms.*

SO might we parody a popular song and use it to cheer us at our work and to remind us of our aim for 1948. The Government's Report to the Nation, No. 6, published just before Christmas in all our national newspapers carried at its foot the statement "Ten per cent. more will turn the tide." That should not be too difficult and the miners are well on the way to achieving their share of it. Agriculture is listed with mining as national priority No. One and what the miners can do the farmers and farm workers can also do, and we might say some part of the miners' success is our success also for many people attribute at least part of the miners' achievement to the extra rations they now receive.

We have for too long looked at the shadowy negative instead of at the bright clear-cut positive side of our national picture. Let us alter all this. Success must be our keynote now and without risking too great a swelling of heads, we might justifiably record some of our successes as they occur. We therefore propose to publish the success story of the Land Army in monthly instalments starting in March. We ask all readers to contribute items to this feature. We ask our members to tell us when and how their farm or market garden increases its output in a spectacular way and to tell us when they increase their own individual efforts or when other members they know of do this. A forewoman should let us know when individuals or gangs achieve a record in potato planting, carrot or onion weeding, turnip singling, or any other form of gang work. We hope wardens will tell us when tidy hostels and punctual residents enable them and their staff to increase their output of work. County secretaries should tell us when their office staff get through a job with record speed and efficiency and Headquarters must tell us if they do the same. These are some examples of what we hope to publish. It is our readers who will decide whether or not these hopes can be realised, first by what they achieve and then by their readiness to blow their own trumpet in a good cause.

PASTURES NEW

We are pleased to say that we have only one Senior Member on our register for whom employment is not under negotiation.

Posts Wanted

In Lancashire Area at end of January. Hard worker aged 19, two years' experience at Experimental Horticultural Station, Reading University, requires good horticultural post.

There are a number of new recruits with a month's milking training who are available for employment anywhere.

Vacancies

Derbyshire. Good conscientious worker required to take full responsibility for small farm of 20 acres. Two pedigree Ayreshire cows, pigs and poultry. Billet on the farm. Salary according to experience.

Oxfordshire. Driver-Supervisor for two W.L.A. Hostels required. Must be capable of controlling and working with girls. Salary £4 5s. after probationary period.

Berkshire. Urgently required, older girl experienced with Jersey or Guernsey cattle and a good fast hand milker to work under bailiff. Billet in house. Wage above minimum according to experience.

Dorset. Poultry woman required to build up a self-contained unit. Must be experienced in all branches of poultry work. Capable of taking complete charge and deciding on layout and running of unit. Wage above minimum according to experience.

Hunts, Cambs and Ely. Senior member required. Conscientious and able to take charge of herd single handed until numbers warrant assistance. Salary £4 10s. plus a bonus on milk sales. 223 acres. Simplex milking machine. Good lodgings available in village. Small cottage available when new council houses are erected.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mrs. Harold Nicholson, Committee Member and Land Army Representative in Kent, on her appointment as Companion of Honour for services to literature.

And to Miss Bayne-Jardine, County Organiser in Berkshire who has received the M.B.E. for her work in the Land Army.

And to Miss A. Thackray, 42635, Lincs., Miss P. Walton, 196927, Warwick., and Miss M. Taylor, 25164, W. Riding of Yorkshire, who have each received the award of the B.E.M.

And M. Hyde, 65652, Hampshire, who beat 14 men, including her father, in the Growmore Club Section of the Hampshire County Ploughing Match.

And M. McElroy, 163451, Hampshire, who has looked after a herd of T.T. Attested Guernseys almost single handed since September while the cowman has been in hospital.

And F. Fox, 37005, Berkshire, who has only had 2½ days sick leave during the six years

and 10 months she has been working in the Land Army.

And E. Riddell, 136529, Staffordshire, who has had complete charge of four threshing machines during her employer's illness.

And P. Few, 94573, Berkshire, for her hard and exacting work with the Thames Conservancy Board where she was engaged on cub excavation.

PARTY AT THE PALACE

I was fortunate enough to be chosen to represent the W.L.A. at a tea party given by T.R.H. Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace on 16th December. This party was given for representatives of many organisations which gave wedding presents to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. I should like to express my thanks to those who gave me such a thrilling opportunity of seeing members of the Royal Family at close quarters and the inside of Buckingham Palace and St. James's Palace where the wedding presents are on view.

Miss Bower, as representative of the Administrative side of the W.L.A. went too, and we kept a special look-out for the Land Army present which was a lovely breakfast table of mahogany inlaid with red cherry wood and a clock both of which, I understand, were personally chosen by the Princess.

The most exciting part was the actual shaking hands with Princess Elizabeth and her husband. They are both so charming and natural that when my turn came to walk up to them I felt perfectly at ease, though I had been trembling inwardly a short time before. They walked about the room laughing and chatting with their guests. Princess Elizabeth looked most attractive in a turquoise crêpe dress with three-quarter length sleeves edged with sequins. Prince Philip of course wore naval uniform.

Each room at the Palace has a special colour scheme with furniture, carpets and walls to tone. My eyes were everywhere, trying to take in everything I could see.

We all had an invitation to view the wedding presents afterwards and I must confess, and I think I speak for all concerned, to a sneaking feeling of superiority as we mounted the steps of St. James's Palace after it was closed to the general public.

I have never seen, nor am I likely to see again such beautiful gifts of jewellery, gold and silver and rare treasures from all over the world, besides useful articles such as furniture, linen, blankets, clothing and innumerable other things I have no space to mention, not forgetting the very lovely wedding dress.

It was a most exciting and wonderful day and one which I shall remember the rest of my life.

Somerset.

R. Bruce, 25909.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A JOURNALIST?

Miss Baraud developed her talent for writing while a Land Girl and is now a fully fledged journalist.

Why not? There is plenty of chance for anyone who is made of the right stuff, but I'm not going to overlook the snags.

What is the recipe for the right stuff? A quick and thorough power of observation, the ability to put words together tellingly and briefly, a capacity for distinguishing between different kinds of writing (Oh yes, there are some people who think they'd like to be journalists and can't see much difference between things in, say, "The Manchester Guardian" and "The Daily Mirror.")

If you hate writing letters, you won't do. If you can't write a telegram within the minimum charge, you won't do either. If you don't instinctively beg, borrow or steal everything possible in the way of reading matter, you won't do. If you've never had the itch to write to the papers, you probably won't do either!

If you think you can pass some of those tests, how do you go about it next?

There are two ways, or you can combine them, in time. You can either start as a free-lance, and the first, last and almost only rule for this is *STUDY THE PAPER FOR WHICH YOU INTEND TO WRITE*. See how long they like their stuff; is it serious or light?; is it controversial or informative? Tear it to pieces, analyse it word for word, till you've got it into your system. If you're any good at this part of the job, you should be able to read a paper that you've never seen before, and then sit down and write an article which the editor will accept. I'd been writing, and having things accepted, for more than five years before I achieved this high-spot, but in the end it becomes pretty easy. Let me emphasise, it does not mean prostituting your own inimitable gift for writing—it's just commonsense to offer a man the sort of thing he is in the market to buy. You wouldn't offer cabbages to a hardware merchant, though cabbages are just as desirable objects as tin-tacks, in the right market.

Another tip for free-lances is: choose a particular subject and specialise in it. Read everything you can about it, make notes, talk to people. The one subject need not exclude all others, but specialisation is a useful backbone to your other activities.

If—or perhaps I should more optimistically say "when" you have had something accepted by a publication, let them have something else. Don't inundate them, and don't send something every day, but . . . keep them warm. Bolstered up by your first success, widen your market. And keep the new markets warm too. Gradually you will build up a small connection of people who will almost automatically accept stuff from you. You may even have that marvellous experience of getting a letter asking you for an article! The first commissioned article is a big milestone in a free-lance's life, believe me! So it is when you send something to a paper and, in acknowledging your article with a provisional acceptance, they inadvertently attach their inter-department memo: "This looks interesting; shall we say yes?" and the reply "Yes, do. I know her stuff. She writes well." That happened to me once, and was worth far more than the fee I got for the actual article!

The other way into journalism? Through a small paper, starting as a reporter, probably. Grinding work, and rather soul-shattering, but it teaches you a lot. If you want to make a career for yourself inside newspaper or magazine offices, it is an essential step, but even if free-lancing is your ultimate aim, it will do you no end of good to be inside for a time, learning the whys and wherefores, and seeing the mistakes made by so many optimists who submit stuff to long-suffering editors!

Fascinating as free-lancing is, with the independence it offers, there is much that is attractive on the editorial side of a paper. It is constructive, particularly as you get on a bit and are entrusted with the actual forming of the paper, and even the direction of its editorial policy.

Journalism is good fun, inside or out. It has its scalp-hunting aspects to appeal to the adventurous. And the pay is good—provided you can sometimes afford to wait for a cheque!

IN . . .

The work upon which I was engaged last summer is known as overhead irrigation. This is done by pumps, pumping water into two main pipes from which branch a number of rainers. The rainers are rotary and each one will cover approximately half an acre. Of course, the success of a crop depends largely on rain at the right time. So often acres of crops are lost during a long spell of dry weather. In order to counteract this we are putting the irrigation system into operation.

It is not only water which is being used, we intend to apply liquid fertiliser at the same time. The advantage of this method of top dressing is that the fertiliser is available to the plant as soon as they come in contact, and absorbs it through the leaf and root. We hope to obtain good results from the fields to which we have applied water and liquid fertiliser.

I have tried, as far as is possible, to give you a brief outline of the use of the overhead irrigation system. My part in this is mainly planning out the fields. By this I mean arranging the best place for main piping and setting rainers with as few moves as possible. Several things must be taken into consideration, the lay of the land, wind, and the distance of the field from the water supply. I also keep a check on fuel used on each field, the time spent, and sections of fields where water only has been used, and those to which water and fertiliser have been applied.

I find the work extremely interesting. It is all new to me, I have a lot to learn and will no doubt have many setbacks before things run smoothly and efficiently.

Jean Lytle, 18674.

. . . AND OUT

When I left the Land Army last February to farm on my own account in Northern Ireland, the Committee of the Benevolent Fund were most generous in giving me a £100 grant and I thought you would be interested to hear what has become of it. Things have not turned out as I had hoped, partly because this country is so totally different from England, climatically and ministerially.

My dream was to have a small herd of Ayrshire cows, T.T., but not necessarily pedigree. So when I came home, I went in search of good Ayrshires—looking at calves, heifers and cows on recommended farms. But there was not much choice because T.T. farms are few and far between over here. The prices of cows and heifers were above my reach so I concentrated on calves, with the idea of going in for poultry extensively for the three years the calves were growing up. I was offered two calves, four months old, for £50 each—granted their pedigrees were long but the milk records behind them were not so long, so I decided against them.

In the meantime I had bought 150 day-old crossbred pullets—hoping that they would bring in a small income this autumn. I bought them from one of the Ministry's accredited poultry farms who promised them to me for the end of March. But the chicks did not come till the end of May. They went into brand new houses and I had several chats with the county poultry instructress. On their third day they started dying like flies and in great bewilderment I sent some of the bodies to the Ministry's veterinary research station. The verdict was

fowl pest present, the dread disease, and I was ordered to destroy the remainder. The end of May was too late to get any more as it would have meant keeping them for so long before they started laying.

In view of this blow there was only one path open to me and that was to get some cows and start a dairy straight away. A neighbouring farmer bought four cows for me, three in full milk and one a newly calved heifer. A motley crowd—one a small black polled cow, a polled Irish brindle, and a big black and white Shorthorn, and the heifer, a pretty little short-horn. None of them great milkers, but they are definitely a help to the exchequer. Then a dealer sent round two crossbred Ayrshire heifers, £40 each, and due to calve in September. I kept them and they both calved in August, a bull and a heifer, which I sold. Both the heifers had got the hoose so that, I am afraid, put them back a lot; they are giving two-and-a-half gallons each a day and will, I hope, reach the three gallon mark. That is my little herd and I love them dearly and look after them entirely myself. But I still hope that one day I shall be able to have the Ayrshire herd—naturally a higher yielding type of animal pays better than the one that does not give so much since they cost the same to keep.

This is a brief outline of my first farming efforts—not very inspiring I am afraid but I am told on all sides "a hard beginning is a good y'un."

Primrose Macausland. Ex-Dorset member.

CAUTIONARY RHYMES

This is the story of Volunteer Harty,
Invited one day to a very "posh" party,
Who finding her breeches too ancient to wear,
Dashed off to the office to get a new pair.
But though at headquarters they wished to be kind,
No kit could they give her, her form was unsigned!
So Volunteer Harty, though otherwise neat,
Arrived at the party much patched round the seat.

This is the story of Volunteer Proctor,
Who changed her abode without changing her doctor.
And though she remained on a panel at Dover,
This didn't avail when a chill bowled her over.
The farmer 'phoned round till it made him feel dizzy
But local M.D.'s were short handed and busy.
"She's not on my panel" each said with regret,
So in sheer desperation he called in the Vet.

This is the story of Volunteer Quick,
Who never reported if she became sick.
Leaving the farm if she felt so inclined,
She left no address—nor a reason behind.
Too slack to inform County Office by letter,
She "turned up again" when she felt somewhat better,
But due to this habit of fading away
She lost quite a lot in the matter of pay.

This is the story of Volunteer Fillet,
Who returned very late from a dance to her billet.
And being locked out she contrived to get in
By the scullery window, but made such a din
That the people inside were excused for mistaking
The noise for a burglar attempting house-breaking,
And when they discovered t'was only Miss Fillet,
They thought it was time she found a fresh billet.

C. A. Homan,
Berks. County Organiser.

BENEVOLENT FUND

The Benevolent Fund has enabled an ambitious Land Army member, a machine milker, to become a Spanish translator.

When Miss had any spare time from her Land Army duties she spent it in studying French and Spanish. But fluency in these languages was not a sufficient qualification for the kind of job she was aiming at, so this is where the Committee of the Benevolent Fund stepped in. They gave her a grant and a loan which helped her to take a secretarial course. After this training she got a job with a firm of exporters to gain experience in writing letters in French and Spanish, and once she was lucky enough to be sent on a business trip to Switzerland. After passing language examinations she at last has the job she always wanted, that of a Spanish translator at the British & Latin-American Chamber of Commerce. She is very happy there and has already begun to repay to the Fund the money which was lent to her by the Committee. What is more, she is now learning Portuguese!

A most welcome contribution of £100 has been made to the work of the Fund by the Ford Motor Co., Ltd. This donation was made in recognition of the help given by 35 Land Girls who drove Ford Tractors in the Lord Mayor's Show.

ENROLLED NUMBERS

AT 18TH DECEMBER, 1947

On the 18th December the enrolled strength of the Land Army was 26,226. The figures for each county were:—Bedfordshire 689, Berkshire 444, Buckinghamshire 712, Cheshire 434, Cornwall 565, Cumberland and Westmorland 398, Derbyshire 195, Devonshire 812, Dorsetshire 314, Durham 473, Essex 1,016, Gloucestershire 580, Hampshire 804, Isle of Wight 162, Herefordshire 484, Hertfordshire 986, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire and Ely 576, Kent 1,293, Lancashire 334, Leicestershire and Rutlandshire 777, Lincolnshire 915, London and Middlesex 375, Monmouthshire 305, Norfolk 602, Northamptonshire 730, Northumberland 607, Nottinghamshire 516, Oxfordshire 595, Shropshire 369, Somersetshire 524, Staffordshire 427, E. Suffolk 456, W. Suffolk 337, Surrey 1,085, E. Sussex 578, W. Sussex 656, Warwickshire 743, Wiltshire 388, Worcestershire 614, Yorkshire N. and E., 630, Yorkshire W., 956, N. Wales Area 414, Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire 227, Brecknockshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire 347, Flintshire 296, Glamorganshire 333, Pembrokeshire 153.

LANDGIRL'S LIBRARY

In "Farming and Mechanised Agriculture" by Sir George Stapleton, distributed by Harrap and Co., 182, High Holborn, W.C.1, you will find much practical advice. The whole book presents a clear picture of Agriculture to-day. It is an expensive book but ask for it at your County Library and they will get it.

Have you read "Settlers in England" by F. Kitchen published by J. M. Dent? You will be interested in his description of his life during the last four years on his four acre holding on the Oxshott Estate of the Land Settlement Association.

"Country Living, Book 7." has now been published and can be obtained from Land & Home Publications, Ltd., Sandycroft, Dorman's Park, E. Grinstead, Sussex, price 2s.

Have you made a new resolution to send a letter or article to the Editor for publication in the Land Army News?

THE WORKING OUTFIT

Do you take your gumboots off with care and remove the mud after use? Do you allow them to dry in a warm room, away from extreme heat? If you do these things you will prolong their life.

Do you know that oiled cotton gauntlet gloves, ex-government stock, large size only, are on the market, price 4½d. a pair, postage 3d. extra. If you are interested write to Della Porta, 37, High Street, Shrewsbury.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Editor,

When I joined the Women's Land Army in July I certainly didn't expect to be able to do so many interesting things in my spare time.

During the day I milk three cows, drive the tractor and look after the poultry, but it didn't take me very long to get to know the children in the village, as Peter a small boy of nine, used to help me feed the chickens in the afternoons. One evening we went for a walk through the village and there were quite a few children playing about in a meadow. I was sorry to see that they were quarrelling so much, each one eager to be the "boss" so I decided to organise my own games team. We usually played rounders because the girls could not play any other games but sometimes, to satisfy the boys, we would play cricket. On Sundays we usually went for a walk or a cycle ride.

Then came the dark evenings and it was impossible to play games with the children. The evenings promised to be very long and you can imagine my delight when Mrs. Long told me of the Linton Village College.

There are classes for all, needlework, wood work, plastics, religious talks, French, dancing, art, physical training, music and drama. I took part in two plays a few weeks ago and next term I hope to take part in a Russian drama.

When the evenings are lighter again I hope to organise more games for the village children.

J. P. Stedmond.

684665.

Dear Editor,

I very much enjoyed reading Lady Worsley-Taylor's article "A 'Dirt Farmer' tours the U.S.A.," and I heartily agree with her "exchange" idea with America.

After all, if we can "exchange" with Europe, why not with America?

I sincerely hope that the idea is approved and adopted by the "powers that be."

Jacqueline N. Cottle.

33521.

Dear Editor,

Since 1942, I have worked in the Woods Department of Sandringham Estate. There is another girl with me and most of our work is in the forestry nursery where about four acres of young trees, including larch, spruce, Douglas pine and Scots fir are grown, many of them from seed in special wire-covered beds. When they are a year old, the seedlings are transplanted into beds about four feet wide, where they remain for another year and are moved again before going out into plantations. We spend a lot of time hoeing and weeding these trees. Every autumn we gather the seed of the hardwoods, oak, ash, beech and chestnut.

The estate is over 50 thousand acres in area and a great part of it is woodland. During the war many trees were felled and these are now being replaced by plantations. New plantations are sown to keep down weeds and wired in for protection against rabbits.

When the trees are from 12 to 15 years old, some are cut down at intervals and

used for various purposes, according to their size, until only the hardwoods are left and these may grow to a great age. Another type of thinning is the removal of all the lower branches so that knots will not form in the most valuable part of the timber and also to enable the woodmen to walk among the trees. As the trees are only four feet apart when planted, the branches soon interlace.

In the winter, when the ground is hard, we find many jobs in the woods. After trees have been felled we faggot much of the small stuff or if it is not suitable for this we make enormous bonfires. During the war these had to be covered with earth every night because of the blackout but now we can usually light new fires in the morning from the glowing embers.

Sandringham woods are interesting and beautiful at all seasons and we have the added privilege of sometimes seeing members of the Royal Family, so altogether, I am very glad I work here.

D. J. Poole. 36759.

COUNTY NEWS

MONMOUTH.—Fields Park Hostel was opened as a training centre for new recruits employed by the M.W.A.E.C. on 23rd November, 1947, and the first 18 trainees have now almost completed their course, which is a very comprehensive one covering all types of agricultural work. These girls should prove very efficient owing to the fact that they have been more fortunate than previous girls in this county, having the benefit of such a scheme. Miss Hopkin at her presentation said she would let us know what was purchased with the money collected for her. I have now heard that she bought a dress ring, a square cut sapphire with a diamond on either side. A dance was held at Pandey Hall in aid of the County Welfare Fund, and a profit of £8 3s. was made. Congratulations to the winners of the 14 prizes in the Christmas Prize Draw. This Draw realised a profit of £48 16s. 6d. The members of Ynys Hafod Hostel were once more good enough to entertain the children from the Monmouth Orphanage, and the girls collected enough for every child to have a present off the Christmas tree. Everyone will be sorry to hear that Miss M. C. Brewer, our Assistant Secretary, will be leaving us at the end of the year. During the 18 months that she has been with us she has taken a keen interest in the work and welfare of the Land Army.

NORTHANTS.—This has not been a very eventful period, but a good many activities have been in progress all over the County. The "Handicraft Exhibition" on 6th December kept a good many members busy and there were some very good entries in the various classes. Our Chairman, Miss M. Lees, and Miss Law (County Secretary of the N.F.W.L.) assisted by Mrs. J. P. Brown, most kindly undertook the judging and did not find their task a very easy one. Thanks to Mr. Stewart and Miss Strang, Principal and Vice-Principal of the Northamptonshire Institute of Agriculture, a very successful "Brains Trust" was held at Brampton House recently, which a good many girls from other hostels attended. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips of the Central Council of Health Education has spent a very helpful week in the county, lecturing in hostels, and we look forward to another visit from her in March. There is the usual programme of dances, concert parties, etc., in various hostels, and Xmas parties are now being planned in most hostels.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—Christmas festivities at the hostels are in full swing. Forest Hall Hostel is again entertaining 40 children from the surrounding district to a party. The Warden, Miss Graham, disguised as Santa Claus, will present each child with a present provided by the girls. Whalton Hostel girls, with their Warden, Miss Goodhand, raised nearly £5 in one evening's carol singing. Husky voices were restored at the end of the round when the party were given welcome refreshment by an old Whalton Hostel girl, now married to a local farmer. The money is being sent to St. Dunstan's. Ellingham Hostel girls have sent Christmas donations from their hostel fund to the Poor Children's Home, the Blind Children's Homes, and to the Deaf and Dumb Children's Home. Haydon Bridge Hostel members heard on the night of their Christmas party that their hostel was to remain open, so there was a double reason for their celebrations. Congratulations to Elizabeth Rennie, 32534, who represented the W.L.A. at a British Legion Tattoo at Whitley Bay. Elizabeth says: "I am proud to say the applause for the Army I represented was very great." 577 members were working in the county in December. This number included 23 who are working on hostel staffs as Wardens, Assistant Wardens, Cooks and Orderlies.

NORFOLK.—Miss Oakes, our County Organiser, with a party of 17, visited the sugar beet factory at Canley on 20th November. A very interesting afternoon was spent and, at the end of the tour, tea was provided by the management. After climbing endless stairs in a hot factory, this was most welcome.

A Christmas party took place at the Lads' Club, Norwich, by kind permission of the Chief Constable on Saturday, 13th December. Six-year armlets were presented by Sir Henry Upcher to D. Bruton, Norwich. P. Paul, Burston, and Mrs. Howson, Hedenham. A play was given by the East Dereham Youth Group and there was community singing led by Doctor Lincoln Ralphs. The W.V.S., under Mrs. Derbyshire Bowles, provided an excellent tea. A gift stall was supervised by Lady Ironside, and there were many raffles. L. Rankin, of the Shrubberies, had made an excellent doll which realised £3 19s. 6d. Many of our hostels are holding Christmas parties and a dinner and dance took place at Dilham on 15th December. Many dances have been held in the County in aid of our Welfare Fund, all raising good amounts. A further tour of all the hostels will be made in February by Mrs. Brown in a second series of health talks. We hope to arrange an "At Home" in the Assembly Rooms at King's Lynn on 14th February, for the girls in the West Norfolk Area.

NOTTS.—We extend a welcome to all recruits coming to us from other counties and to new hostel Wardens and other staff. Also to our new Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Hodgkinson and other office staff. Some pleasant evenings have been spent in hostels listening to the music of Miss Doris Hibbert, an Arts Council pianist. Hawksworth Hostel held a four year birthday dance and another which raised £8 10s. for our County Welfare Fund.

OXON.—The most outstanding event just recently has been the Handicrafts Exhibition which was held at the County Hall, Oxford, on 22nd November. The entries for all classes were of a very high standard and we had an excellent show. The exhibits were judged by two experienced judges, Mrs. Parkes and Mrs. Thomson, and the prizes were presented by Dr. Adams. All the hostels are at present very busy with parties, dances and Christmas dinners. Chesterton Lodge held a most successful children's party which was attended by about 70 children and each child was given a present, an apple and an orange by Father Christmas. Four of the hostels are remaining open over Christmas and the N.F.U. has very kindly contributed £10 towards extra Christmas Fare. We should very much like to congratulate Miss Elizabeth Gibbard who has won the first prize in three tractor driving contests in which all the other competitors were men.

PEMBROKESHIRE.—We should like to give a special welcome to the volunteers who have been transferred to farms in the north of the county. Several girls are now living in Welsh speaking areas and we are having excellent reports of the way they are tackling their new jobs in these isolated districts and some are making a gallant effort to learn Welsh.

The girls at Hodgeston Hostel organised a dance in Pembroke which proved to be a great success and most enjoyable. They are to be congratulated for raising the sum of £20 for the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund. Miss Lewis, the Warden of Solbury Hostel gave the girls a wonderful Christmas party on the 28th November. The room was decorated with Christmas trees and crackers. Evening classes are being organised under the L.E.A. Hodgeston girls are busy making Christmas presents. Classes include leather and cane work, plastic and toy making. We are very proud that three girls from this county with eight years' service have been invited to the N.F.U.'s party in London in January and we hope that our five Committee members and one district representative who have completed eight years' service will be able to attend.

SHROPSHIRE.—Successful whist drives have been held at several of our hostels, and £12 has been sent to the Benevolent Fund from Bourton Hostel. Mrs. and Miss Griver, of Messrs. A. & F. Pears, Ltd. spent a week in the county; their demonstrations on correct make-up were most popular and enlightening. Some of our handicraft classes have now terminated and a new series will begin in the New Year. In the meantime, Christmas parties and dances are the order of the day.

Our Chairman and 13 Committee members and local representatives have been invited to the N.F.U. party in London. These together with the County Secretary and seven land girls make up the Shropshire contingent. It is difficult to express our thanks adequately to our voluntary workers who have given such long and devoted service to the organisation. In an importing county the success or failure of the new recruit is so dependent upon her initial welcome; we are convinced, therefore, that on this count alone, the debt owed by the agricultural industry to local representatives is indeed a large one. We are delighted that Miss White, our Montford Bridge Warden, has been able to return to us after her serious illness.

STAFFS.—Busy evenings are being spent in all the hostels in preparation for the festive season; frantic efforts are being made to complete presents and decorations; Wardens and staff arranging special dinners and organising social evenings. A choir has been organised at Dunston Hall Hostel by the County Organiser, and after intensive training will sing carols in the district on Christmas Eve. Lynn Hostel has had two very interesting lectures, one on "South Africa," and one on "Great Britain's Economic Crisis" and the World Food Shortage, under the auspices of the Central Council for information. The girls asked many questions, and animated discussions followed, and as a result much useful knowledge has been gained. A very successful whist drive was organised by H. J. Richards, W.L.A. 67481, and S. Sanders, W.L.A. 182386, at Tamworth, with the help of their employer, when the splendid sum of £9 was realised on behalf of the W.L.A. Benevolent Fund and the County Welfare Fund.

We offer our congratulations to Lois Potts (six-and-a-half years' service) who is to be married early in 1948. Lois is taking the Homecraft Training Course next month, and we

hope the training will be of great benefit to her in the management of her own home. Hilda Bates (five-and-a-half years' service) is to spend Christmas at Rest-Break House, where we are sure she will have a very happy time.

Volunteers at Wall Heath Hostel organised a whist drive and sent the proceeds, £12, to the County Welfare Fund.

EAST SUFFOLK.—On two occasions recently, East Suffolk Land Girls have made special journeys to London. On 28th October, a party of 23 dairy girls, with two county Organisers, spent a happy and enthralling day at Olympia. Three of our tractor drivers were amongst those who piloted the superb new Fordson tractors which were such a feature of the Lord Mayor's Show. Early in December we held a very successful Christmas sale in aid of our County Welfare Fund and made just over £100. On 3rd November a field work proficiency test was held at Columbyne Hall—58 girls passed the test, 28 of them gaining distinction. We congratulate Sutton Hoo gang on winning the inter-hostel competition, and would like to commend Holton Hall, our newest hostel, for being second. A most successful series of weekly agricultural talks have been held in Ipswich and Yoxford. The attendance and interest shown have been very encouraging, and we want to thank all those kind enough to give the talks, especially Miss Slattery, who attended so many meetings at both centres. A new series will be arranged after Christmas, which will include special visits to the hostels. A very enjoyable concert was given at Sutton Hoo in November by three first-class artistes, and parties from other hostels attended. This concert was sponsored by the Arts Council, and we very much hope to have another before long.

WEST SUFFOLK have just succeeded in providing four of their Relief Milking Units with auto-cycles, and we would like to improve the transport of our remaining two units, but funds will not permit at the moment. All efforts to augment the Welfare Fund will be much appreciated, and we hope many people will support the 2s. 6d. competition which is being run throughout the winter months. A very successful Christmas party took place at Bury St. Edmunds on 29th November. Mr. Sayce, the A.E.C. Executive Officer, made a most encouraging speech, especially for our new recruits. He also presented armlets and good service badges to our long service volunteers. An entertainment and Christmas tea followed, complete with Father Christmas and a beautifullyiced cake. We are most grateful to all those who gave prizes and in other ways helped to make the afternoon a success.

We congratulate the eight tractor drivers, who passed their driving tests successfully and were chosen to take part in the Lord Mayor's show. From all accounts the day was a memorable and most enjoyable one.

EAST SUSSEX.—Brighton Hostel gave a house warming party on 29th November at which the Mayor of Hove and the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Brighton were among the guests. Tea was served by the volunteers and was followed by an excellent entertainment. As a result of publicity given to the hostel several invitations to the theatre and to dances have been received by the girls. High Hurst, Newick, re-opened on 17th November, when we welcomed 25 girls from London, Wales and Sussex. They have quickly settled down to work on Committee land at Peacehaven. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips from the Council of Health Education has visited the hostels and Lewes Club this month. Her lectures have been well attended and appreciated. We look forward to demonstrations from Pear's Soap and the Lux Washability Bureau in the New Year. Members of the Lewes Club are giving a Xmas party to their landladies.

It was with real regret that we said goodbye last month to Miss Lucas, our Assistant Secretary for two years, and we wish her every success in her new job. Miss Addison, well known to most volunteers and representatives as our Employment Officer has taken her place. Four volunteers, W. Hartley, K. Hobden, P. Swaine and E. Lambkin, are eligible to attend the Eight Year Party in January. Mrs. Brooke, three members of the County Committee, and 13 representatives have also received invitations. K. Hobden and W. Hartley will receive their armlets at the same time as their employers, Miss Andrews and Mrs. Banister. Both girls have been in the one job for over eight years.

WEST SUSSEX.—We were all very sorry to say goodbye to our Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Barson, but she took with her all our good wishes for her forthcoming marriage. Everyone is delighted to welcome her successor, Miss R. Cox, who was a Women's Land Army member with eight years' service and who should know all our problems. During the last three months hostels and clubs have had talks on a variety of subjects—health, other countries, including America, with special reference to Hollywood, and an account of her visit to Rhodesia this summer by our County Chairman. We have also had a series of talks on the policy of the different political parties; gramophone recitals and demonstrations of knitting, cookery and slipper making. Four hostels and a club greatly enjoyed our first Arts Council tour of the season when Miss Victoria Kingsley delighted her audiences by singing folk songs to her guitar.

The Christmas season has started already. There was a wonderful gathering of about 100 girls at Northlands for an evening of community singing and carols conducted by Mr. Kenneth Loveless, who certainly got the best out of his audience and it was a really memorable evening. Fernhurst Hostel gave the first hostel party and certainly set a high standard with wonderful decorations, games, dancing and food. Yapton followed suit with a most enjoyable party and there are several more to come.

SURREY.—We have to congratulate more of our volunteers on passing their proficiency tests which were held

in November. The milking test took place at Gosden Farm. Four volunteers entered and all passed. The poultry test was held at Barhatch Farm. Five volunteers entered, four passed. The following tests were held at Garson Farm—tractor driving, one volunteer entered and passed; outdoor garden and glasshouse work, two volunteers entered and passed; market garden and field work, one volunteer entered and passed. The judges were particularly impressed by the high standard of the practical work.

We welcome Mrs. Dyer as Warden at Surrey Lodge, W.L.A. Hostel, and we were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs. Tomlin who had been looking after the hostel temporarily. The volunteers at this hostel gave a very good Christmas party on Friday, 19th December, and invited members of the R.A.O.C. stationed at Woking. A raffle was held during the evening, the proceeds of which are being sent to the Benevolent Fund together with money the volunteers hope to collect from carol singing in the neighbourhood. We send our very best wishes to Miss Broberg, who was Finance Officer at the County Office, and also to the three volunteers who went to Canada last month. Miss Broberg and Miss Stokes flew and Miss Fawcett and Miss Gardiner went by sea. The three volunteers who drove tractors in "The Farmers' Steel Commando" in the Lord Mayor's Show had a very enjoyable day as also had two volunteers on the Milk Marketing Board's exhibit.

WARWICK.—Our congratulations go to the five committee members and the 10 volunteers who are eligible for their eight-year armlet. Miss L. E. Cox and Miss A. V. Ker were due to receive these in September, 1947. We are having a series of Ministry of Information film shows. Those we have already had have been most successful and entertaining. We are also arranging keep-fit classes in some of the hostels, and some hostels have started with enthusiasm the production of one-act plays and we hope to see the results of their efforts in the early spring. Congratulations to Miss M. Kirk who was awarded an Institute Certificate after taking an institutional course at Moulton for the year 1946-47. We hope that Miss Kirk will be very happy in her new employment and will benefit from her year at the College. We were very sorry to lose Miss Clarke, County Organiser, who has transferred to work with the Lancashire office.

WILTSHIRE.—Congratulations to Miss J. E. Margetson, W.L.A. 171600, and Miss J. Parsons, W.L.A. 708261, for passing, with distinction, the hand-milking proficiency test, both gaining 91 marks and also to Miss O. B. Wiltshire, W.L.A. 68733, and Miss P. F. Adlem, W.L.A. 171594, who passed the test, gaining 83 and 75 marks respectively. Eleven of our long service volunteers are looking forward to the eight-year party on 16th January, 1948. Mrs. Godfrey Phillips of the Central Council for Health Education recently did a three weeks' lecture tour of our hostels. She was a great success with all our girls. The volunteers at Greenway Lane and Darley House hostels have been arranging social parties, dances and inter-darts competitions. In November, the girls from Darley House attended a party at Greenway Lane. They played games before supper and afterwards, danced to piano and accordion, played by one of the girls. The Warden and volunteers prepared some very nice refreshments and supper and everyone enjoyed the party enormously. At Bromham Hostel, a New Year's dance, in aid of the Bromham Fund, is to be held at the village hall. An R.A.F. band is being engaged. Private coaches will bring R.A.F. boys from several camps and a large number of local people will be coming to this dance. Refreshments are being prepared by the Warden.

NORTH AND EAST YORKS.—We are proud to have still working in the North and East Ridings five volunteers who have been asked to attend the special party in London on the 16th January. They are Marjorie Jacques, Doris Barker, Margaret Haller, Vera Cole, Edith Yardley. On the 6th December a party was held for the North Riding at St. Barnabas Hall, Middlesbrough. Plays and entertainments were given by the Scarborough Club and a most excellent tea was provided by the Wardens of Leeming Bar, Stokesley and Guisborough Hostels. We would like to thank all who helped to make the afternoon such a success. On the 13th December the Welfare Committee organised a tour of the sugar beet factory in York.

NORTH WALES AREA.—The Xmas fair and bridge drive at Bangor on 11th December, realised approximately £150 for the Benevolent Fund. The Lady Kathleen Stanley (Chairman) was present to speak about the work of the Benevolent Fund and to introduce Sir Michael Duff, who opened the fair, and also undertook a very successful "auction." Mrs. W. H. Wynne-Finch and Mrs. N. I. Edwards proposed and seconded the votes of thanks and the stallholders were Mrs. H. Robertson, Mrs. N. I. Ellis, Mrs. Drage, Mrs. Lloyd Edwards, Mrs. Williams Williams, Mrs. Oswald Thomas, Mrs. J. C. Wynne-Finch, Mrs. Osborn, Miss Jagger, Mrs. Isaac Jones and Miss M. E. Griffith. We send our grateful thanks to Land Girls, who supported the event. Other good news for the Benevolent Fund was the very enjoyable dance at Gresford that brought in £16 5s., £10 from the whist drive at Abergele and £30 from the Abergywnant dance. There is encouraging news of Miss E. S. Martin who has now left hospital and to whom we send our very best wishes.