

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES.

Women's Branch,
43, Grosvenor Gardens,
London, S.W.1.

Ref.No. 78603/L5.

14th October, 1919.

Dear Miss Moss,

I am writing to tell you of the Government's decision that the Women's Land Army shall be demobilised on November 30th. Now that so many men have returned from the Army it would no longer be right to spend public money on the equipping and transport of the Land Army, which, in time of war was a necessity. But this decision means only the withdrawal of the war time organisation; it will not mean, I hope, the withdrawal of anyone of you who has proved herself to be a good farm hand and of service, therefore, to her employer and to her country.

After demobilisation on November 30th you will be the employees of the farmers and will have to make your own arrangements with them, for with the end of the Land Army, organised for war service, the uniform and other benefits given by the Government will cease.

At the same time we are arranging to carry on after demobilisation the tradition and comradeship of the Land Army through a Landworkers' Association. It will be managed by the members themselves, and organised in each county with the help of the Women's Committees. You will be sent further news of this, and invited to join as a member. I am glad to think that the individual members of the Women's County Committee will continue to have a real interest in your work, and to give you all the help they can.

Today in the country as a whole there is undoubtedly plenty of agricultural work for all the women as well as the men who really understand their job, and therefore the skilled among you are strongly urged to continue. Some of you, no doubt, will be wanted at home again, or to return to some other employer who has been waiting for you. But the large majority of you will, I hope remain on the farms. You have shown that women are quick to serve their country in time of need; quick also to learn a new job, to give of their best to it, and to stick to it through dark days as well as sunny ones. You have shown that for many farming operations women have a special aptitude; and you have helped to remove for all time that mistaken idea that farm work requires less intelligence than other forms of employment.

For yourselves you have in countless cases gained health and the happiness of a closer understanding of country things. Continue at the work wherever it is possible for you to do so, and give of your best to it.

And so the time has come when I must, as Director of the Women's Land Army, say "Goodbye" to you. But it isn't really "Goodbye", for in the days to come, through the Association and in other ways, I shall hope to come across women farm workers who, during the Great War, belonged to the Women's Land Army.

I am proud, and always shall be of all of you. The Land Army has won a good name for itself throughout Great Britain, and, indeed, in other countries of the World.

All success and happiness to you wherever you may be.

Yours sincerely,

Muriel D. Talbot

DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S BRANCH.