A PAGE OF VARIED INTERESTS FOR WOMEN—BREAKING INTO WAR TASKS—SUMMER STYLES

HOW TO GO ABOUT GETTING INTO HELPFUL WAR WORK

Workings of Placement Bureau of Woman's National Defense Committee Outlined for Patriot Reader Who Wants to Carry On

SUCH a very great deal is said about women's work in the war that it is easy to understand the spirit that prompts a letter apropos of this which came in the editor's mail-bag. It follows:

Dear Editor of the Woman's Page:

Will you kindly give advice through your columns on a subject of interest to dozens of able, intelligent women, and that is how to go about those given some opportunity to be useful service to their country? We attend meetings, lectures, etc., all given for the purpose of stimulating war activities; yet with no definite advice as to how to obtain an opportunity to work. The work of the women in the Liberty Loan, etc., is most commendable, and there are hundreds of us eager to help in this and other activities, but they have had no opportunity to demonstrate their ability. The writer has performed every service possible in her own home, as to food conservation, etc. Members of her family unable to perform outside duties are constantly engaged in knitting. She has taught her maid to knit and allows her time for it. She devotes all the time to the Red Cross that her unit can occupy. Her fifteen-year-old daughter is given the addressing of envelopes in war-relief work, and the writer feels that as these things are being done by those incapable of other work, and by hundreds of other women, should we not enjoy her leisure with something those people cannot do. How shall we go about it?

AN EARNEST READER.

FIRST, may I say, Earnest Reader, that you have already been of real service to your country in that you have done faithfully the duties that lay nearest you? If every family wove into the war the record your family is weaving we could have little need for these hundreds of messages to spur women on to action.

But to come to the point raised. You want to carry on still further. The women's committee of the Council of National Defense is the official clearing house for placing women to work to help win the war. I took your letter to Mrs. L. R. Taylor, who is manager of the bureau of registration at the committee headquarters, 1697 Walnut street. We talked things over.

FIRST we must make this point. The woman who is of most value to her country at this time is the trained woman. When she is trained she knows how to do one thing better than any other she can be choice about her war work. Personally, I think it the splendid and prepared thing for all women who have spare time to take training in some sort of work—social secretarial, district nursing, home at home, etc.—and then to go forth to aid their country.

We won't discuss the great service rendered to her country by the woman who goes into the munition factory to helps to relieve other man-power shortage. It is not very possible for the mother of a family to do this until there is greater call for this work.

But to return to the volunteer work. The big matter, it seems, is not that there is lack of opportunity for women to do volunteer work, but that when the opportunity comes there is lack of women to live up to their promise to do it.

I am glad you brought up this subject of volunteering. It needs a little thought, and honestly it works both ways. I don't think we can deny that some of the active advocates of war work for women have not always practiced what they preached. At least a few of the really useful women I know did not drop their every-day duties to devote themselves entirely to war work. They simply added the new duties to the old ones, and so managed to keep their balance in some sort of fashion. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, as in the instance of women whose every waking moment is filled with duties that cannot be neglected, but these are exceptions.

Let me give you an example. If you happened to write eight or ten letters from the morning mail, you would not feel that all you could do for the day was to get those letters written. You would feel that you had done a fair day's work, and then you would be free to turn to some other duty. Take it into your mornings to write those letters before breakfast, and you will find a good hour and a half to devote to the war interests.

The trouble is that we are all trying to do too much. We are trying to do our regular duties and the war duties, and we are doing neither as well as we should. Why not drop all the regular duties for a time and devote ourselves entirely to the war interests?

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How to go about it? Mrs. Taylor suggested that you call at the committee headquarters, 1697 Walnut street, and see Mrs. Taylor herself. You have been personally recommended to her, and if you go at once you will be given a chance to do your bit. The other duties of your household must be attended to, but you will find that you can manage to get the time for the war duties. Don't be afraid to try it. Don't be afraid to drop the old duties for the new. Don't be afraid to put your own personality into the war work. Don't be afraid to be yourself. Don't be afraid to be original. Don't be afraid to be different. Don't be afraid to be unique. Don't be afraid to be extraordinary. Don't be afraid to be remarkable. Don't be afraid to be wonderful. Don't be afraid to be marvelous. Don't be afraid to be fantastic. Don't be afraid to be incredible. Don't be afraid to be unbelievable. Don't be afraid to be astonishing. Don't be afraid to be amazing. Don't be afraid to be astounding. Don't be afraid to be staggering. Don't be afraid to be overwhelming. Don't be afraid to be crushing. Don't be afraid to be devastating. Don't be afraid to be annihilating. Don't be afraid to be destroying. Don't be afraid to be ruining. Don't be afraid to be wrecking. Don't be afraid to be demolishing. Don't be afraid to be shattering. Don't be afraid to be smashing. Don't be afraid to be breaking. Don't be afraid to be tearing. Don't be afraid to be rending. Don't be afraid to be splitting. Don't be afraid to be cleaving. Don't be afraid to be severing. Don't be afraid to be cutting. Don't be afraid to be slicing. Don't be afraid to be carving. Don't be afraid to be hewing. Don't be afraid to be chopping. Don't be afraid to be hacking. Don't be afraid to be mangling. Don't be afraid to be maiming. Don't be afraid to be crippling. Don't be afraid to be disabling. Don't be afraid to be incapacitating. Don't be afraid to be weakening. Don't be afraid to be enfeebling. Don't be afraid to be debilitating. Don't be afraid to be exhausting. Don't be afraid to be tiring. Don't be afraid to be wearying. Don't be afraid to be boring. Don't be afraid to be tedious. Don't be afraid to be monotonous. Don't be afraid to be dull. Don't be afraid to be uninteresting. Don't be afraid to be commonplace. Don't be afraid to be ordinary. Don't be afraid to be usual. Don't be afraid to be normal. Don't be afraid to be average. Don't be afraid to be mediocre. Don't be afraid to be inferior. Don't be afraid to be poor. Don't be afraid to be bad. Don't be afraid to be terrible. Don't be afraid to be awful. Don't be afraid to be horrible. Don't be afraid to be dreadful. Don't be afraid to be frightful. Don't be afraid to be shocking. Don't be afraid to be appalling. Don't be afraid to be horrifying. Don't be afraid to be terrifying. Don't be afraid to be alarming. Don't be afraid to be startling. Don't be afraid to be surprising