

# WOMEN REALIZE CRISIS IN RECRUITING

## Their Aid More Than Ever Necessary to Release Men From Now On

Having worked so efficiently that "it worked itself out of a section of its job," to quote Dr. A. H. Abbott, the Women's Emergency Corps, at a meeting in the Guild Hall yesterday, under the Presidency of Mrs. Willoughby Cummings, decided to hand over its bureau for the registration of war work, together with all registrations to date, to the Government Department of Trades and Labor.

At the same time the corps, encouraged by the reports of many recruiting officers, who had felt the influence of its members in their work in town and country, decided to continue its campaign of education among women, and to redouble their efforts to assist in raising the recruits never so greatly needed as now.

"We're not making good the losses among the men at the front," said Col. Williams, Chief Recruiting Officer, to the meeting. "And there's not a man behind in reserve. Next spring we shall be at death grips with the enemy, and we must get every man from every source we can."

Col. Williams declares that there is no scarcity of material. "There isn't a village that couldn't to-day spare many men without seriously disturbing existing conditions."

### New Employment Bureaus.

Mr. G. I. Riddell explained the plans of the Department of Trades and Labor regarding the establishment of employment bureaus in different parts of the Province. Efficiency is to be the basis. In a choice between two applicants the one with experience will be given the preference.

Dr. Abbott reiterated this decision, agreeing that only so would the bureaus gain the confidence of employer and applicant.

Some women objected, saying they thought that mothers, wives and sisters of men at the front should have the preference.

"If there's any mother here with a boy at the front," replied Dr. Abbott, "she will want every munition factory to reach its maximum output of shells, so as to safeguard that boy's life. To get the maximum of efficiency it will be impossible to work the employment bureau or the factory on a sentimental basis."

Dr. Abbott referred to the statements made by Miss Wiseman, and published in The Globe yesterday, and said that her deductions regarding the usefulness of the untrained women of the leisure class were largely correct. He suggested that women desiring to do patriotic work should go into factories, other than munition plants, and learn to handle machinery.

"Such as?" remarked Mrs. Cummings from the chair.

"Whitewear factories, knitting mills and so on," said the doctor. "It's up to the corps to persuade women that there are lots of patriotic jobs that are not labelled 'munitions.'"

### Malleable Iron Workers.

Mrs. Gunnett mentioned a factory where women are employed as malleable iron workers, and she also spoke of a girl stenographer in a large public building who had gone into an iron foundry to fit herself for handling machines in a munition plant.

Heads of munition plants were objecting to the employment of women as late as September, according to Dr. Abbott, but when they faced the situation created by the call for 100,000 recruits to be raised this winter, they saw the only remedy lay in utilizing women labor.

"And so well had the Emergency Corps shown women their patriotic duty that as soon as the Munitions Board opened its offices in the Traders Bank building, Miss Wiseman was flooded with applicants. Hundreds came, and they congested the hallways so badly that the company complained. "There'll be work for all of them later on," said Dr. Abbott. "There will be a small call in December, a larger one in January, and a big one in the spring."

### Hard to Bear.

There was a good deal of discussion regarding the methods that might be

"The more womanly a woman is the more she is sure to throw her personality over her home, and transform it from a mere eating and sleeping place, or an upholsterer's showroom, into a sort of overgarment of her soul."  
—Frances Power Cobbe.

adopted to further recruiting, and many mothers spoke with bitterness of the large numbers of young men shirking their duty who are still kept on in Government, civil and industrial jobs. Col. Williams agreed with them, and added:

"It's a pretty heroic thing to offer your life to your country at \$1.10 a day when 100 aliens, discharged from an **internment** camp, are picked up by a local firm and offered \$3 a day on the spot."

Before the meeting closed a vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Austin Hutchinson for her work as Secretary of the Registration Bureau of the corps.

Miss Church, in a few feeling words when the subject of recruiting was under discussion, said she had no doubt but that "woman's tribute might," by reflex action, show the unenlisted man where he stands in the estimation of all decent Canadian women.