

Home Market. If every woman present, many of whom are housekeepers, would undertake to buy British produce in preference to others, and if every other woman would get two women to promise the same, we should soon form ourselves into a noble band, the idea would spread snowball fashion.

We women might do much to revive the agriculture of Britain, and I should be glad to hear any suggestions on the subject. Besides this, let women learn by means of the County Councils, &c., dairying in all its branches, cheese making, gardening, poultry keeping, bee rearing, fruit growing and jam making; and let us other women undertake to buy these English products, marked with a British brand. Let us eat English foods, wear Spitalfields silks or home-spun tweeds, use Irish linen, &c., and we at once form our Woman's British Produce League in connection with this Grand Council.

With your permission I will read a letter from the Earl of Winchelsea, who is the President of the National Agricultural Union, and the leader in that movement. To his energy and enterprise agriculturists owe much.

DEAR MRS. ALEC TWEEDIE,—I am very glad to hear that you are going to speak on Monday, and that the attention of the women of England is about to be directed to the importance of taking their part in the great movement now on foot for reviving the oldest and most essential of our national industries—agriculture.

If I may venture on a suggestion, as to the most practical direction in which these efforts might be of use, I would suggest poultry rearing and fattening (after the Heathfield, Sussex, way, for instance), butter factories, and more than that, by impressing individually on labourers, farmers' wives, and ladies too, the necessity for attention to packing, uniform quality, and a system of collecting and sending to a depôt at a railway station; impressing on people the national duty and the advantage too, of buying British produce, and by telling them we are shortly going to establish a depôt in London, and elsewhere, for the exclusive sale of British produce, and asking everyone to deal there, or to insist that their retail tradesman sells English brands.

I am about to start this Association with the object of bringing good, pure, fresh produce, guaranteed to be of British origin, into the hands of our great town population, at reasonable prices. We annually send out of England £147,000,000 sterling to buy agricultural produce, most of which might be grown at home. By so doing we ruin our own farmers and labourers, become dependent entirely for our daily bread on foreign, and possibly hostile countries (of the folly of which the nation has just had an awful warning in our late very narrow escape from war), and we open the door to every kind of fraud and adulteration which can be and is extensively practised on foreign produce, much of which is often palmed off to the public as 'home grown.'

What more noble, what more truly national work could women engage in, than to embark in a crusade, the result of which would mean that happiness and regular employment would once more be given to thousands of our own countrymen, the growing population of our cities fed on genuine, pure, fresh food, and our country saved from the fearful and imminent danger of being starved into a humiliating surrender when next we find ourselves involved in a great war?

You will be able from your Danish experiences (so happily reproduced in the little pamphlet you called 'Danish *versus* English Butter Making'), to show how, in country districts too, your members might encourage and introduce better and more modern forms of dairying—and so on right through the piece.

Wishing you well through an ordeal which I know must be a trying one to you, and assuring you of my help, if it can be of any use, in starting the 'Woman's British Produce League.'

I am, yours truly,

WINCHELSEA.

Women have a grand work before them in the field of agriculture. Without energy, uniformity, and co-operation, nothing will be done. As we are banded here for the advancement of women, let us also band ourselves together, and every one of us try individually to help the great agricultural question, and bring prosperity to our land."

Mrs. AMIE HICKS made an admirable speech from the Trades Union and Co-operative point of view.

On the motion of Mrs. ROBERTS-AUSTEN, seconded by Mrs. RUSSELL COOKE, a resolution was passed cordially approving of the formation of the National Council of Women, and pledging those present to give it their support.

WOMEN.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of the Women's Local Government Society. Sir Arthur Arnold, Chairman of the London County Council, presided, and said he could not believe that any movement which had gone on during the last thirty years had rendered anything like such unequalled advantages to the community at large, as that movement which had been for the greater and more useful co-operation of women in all branches of intellectual and useful labour. He had always been a thoroughgoing person in this matter, and believed that the ineligibility of women for the work of local government should be immediately removed. There should be absolute and complete equality in this matter.

Mrs. Stanton Blatch moved a resolution approving the efforts of the society in the promotion of its objects, and pledging the meeting to support the Bill which Sir Albert Rollit had undertaken to introduce to provide that duly qualified women owners should be entitled to be on the register of parochial electors. The resolution also emphasized the opinion that the actual disfranchisement by the Act of 1894 of women owners in respect to the election of Guardians was unjust, inexpedient, and retrograde. The resolution was seconded by Mr. C. Dodd, Q.C., and unanimously adopted.

Lady O'Hagan, of Townley, Lancashire, has been elected one of the Board of Managers of the Victoria Hospital, Burnley. She has for ten years done some valuable work for, and has taken great interest in, the Hospital.

Miss Willis, who was recently appointed by the Education Department to act as Inspector of Elementary Schools, is a charming, womanly woman, whose work for some years past as a Lecturer on Hygiene to the Cambridge County Council, has brought her into relation with rural populations and their needs. In this new work her past experience will prove very valuable.

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