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## EDITORIAL.

### WASTE IN CAMPS.

The need for economy is at present being urged upon the nation. More especially the women are invited to save every penny possible, and many of them are conscientiously endeavouring to do so, in order that they may help to replenish the national exchequer.

But there is one direction in which waste is going on in which it might be checked, and money saved to far greater effect than is possible from the revision of the *menu* of women with slender incomes, and the frugal self-denial which limits their consumption not only of luxuries but of necessities.

From near and far comes word of the terrible waste of food which is going on in camps, both from the lack of efficient control and knowledge, resulting in the rejection of good food which if cooked suitably, and served palatably, would fulfil its purpose in life, and nourish the men of our armies; and also because it is the custom, when striking camp, to bury, or otherwise dispose of quantities of stores. Thus a correspondent of the *Times* writes:—  
“As Commandant of a small Red Cross hospital where men from many of the surrounding camps have been nursed during the past year, I have had many opportunities of hearing this matter discussed by the soldiers, and the same statements have always been made. They have seen pounds of bread (often uncut loaves) thrown away mouldy, because too much was given out at a time; and entire joints have been buried time after time, owing to their not having been sufficiently cooked in the field kitchens; while the hungry men have had to go dinnerless after a long morning's work! If you consider the fact that it takes a mistress of a house some time to learn the most economical and healthful way to provide for a large family or household, is it to be

wondered at that young officers are not proficient in catering for their regiments, nor the newly-trained camp cooks now employed in the new armies capable of judging either of the quantity of food required for each mess, nor of the time required to cook the large joints?

“Would it be quite unreasonable to hope that now women's services are so largely employed, and so willingly offered to their country, some of the most capable ladies might be selected at each military station to form a working committee and to undertake the entire control of the catering for both officers and men? I feel convinced if this could once be started an enormous saving would be made, and the troops would greatly benefit.”

Another correspondent writes:—

“I was at — in July, when the brigade in camp there was moved, and I know from personal observation of the waste then. I saw women come from the camp with a wooden case containing tins of condensed milk and other sealed packets of groceries and they were lamenting that they were not in time to secure 1 lb. packets of tea, numbers of which had been opened and thrown into the pails for refuse. One woman told me that her husband said; ‘You may just as well have these things as let them be destroyed.’ They had come from Newcastle to say good-bye to their men. There were 150 loaves destroyed and quantities of jam in tins, and all this was done at one mess on the evacuation of the camp. Such waste as this at every camp all over the country must amount to thousands of pounds.”

Domestic management is a department in which women are past mistresses, and if the Government sought their aid in relation to the means by which waste could be checked, many thousands of pounds might be saved, and our soldiers might get the full benefit of the provision made for them.

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