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## EDITORIAL.

### WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY.

The share of women in the world's work is vital to the world's welfare. That is what women have claimed in the past and demonstrated in the present, and men have had openly to acknowledge—generously or grudgingly according to their disposition—that the present war could not be fought to a victorious finish for the Allies without the help of women.

The service which they have rendered during the war has proved both the measure of their capacity, and the need there is for further use of their help, and the Director-General of National Service, Mr. Neville Chamberlain, has done wisely to create a Women's Department of National Service with Mrs. H. J. Tennant as Director, and Miss Violet Markham as Assistant Director, who have their head-quarters at St. Ermin's Hotel, Westminster, the Head Quarters of the National Service Department.

The Director and Assistant Director will at once endeavour to organize effective machinery for securing women of the right kind for substitution work, and for using woman-power of every kind in the best way possible. At present they are engaged in drawing up a scheme for the development of their department in a number of directions. We do not doubt that they will be as effective in organizing women's work on broad lines as women have been in stepping individually into the ranks of the workers to do their bit.

There are many ways in which women can help which may be briefly enumerated. In munition work they are proving their skill and their courage; on the land their services are in request, in the Government Services—the Post Office and elsewhere—they are becoming indispensable, in hospitals

and as clerical workers, they are in great demand, in welfare work, and in helping mothers in employment to care for their children they can render valuable service.

One of the most important departments of national life, in which women have always had scope and power, is the domestic department. At the present time its importance cannot be over-estimated. To regulate the feeding of the nation, to control the food supply, means the question of winning or losing the war. We always come back to King Hunger. Here is the opportunity of those who regret that circumstances prevent their offering their services outside their homes, to render most patriotic service, to make the most of the food supplies at their command, to eliminate waste, which at the present time is little short of criminal, and women who keep control of these matters cannot complain that their work, though it may be tedious, is unimportant.

Lastly, in the past women have been notoriously badly paid, and few have much surplus cash, but we earnestly ask all those who have £5 to spare to invest it in the War Loan, so that the defenders of the Empire may be amply provided with the means for winning the War.

We know that women complain of the extravagant management of State controlled enterprises, but the present time is not one for making reforms, but for winning the war, and every woman should put her shoulder to the wheel, and use her organizing ability, health and cash, to help to win the future liberty of humanity.

In our opinion no nations will ultimately benefit more from the victory of the Allies than those which are groaning under military tyranny. It should be the aim of one and all to help to deliver the world from its burden.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)