WOMAN'S COMMITTEE
of the
COUNCIL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.
Rhode Island Division.
For Miss Ida Tarbell, Department No. 3

Report of Departments No. 2 and No. 3:

Since rendering its last report, April 6th, this Department has continued the lines of work outlined at that time. Many meetings have been held as a result of the circular letter asking all Chairmen to hold meetings to discuss the use of wheat substitutes, at which samples of substitute and of wheatless cooking should be shown. Successful specimens were brought to these meetings, recipes were exchanged and much appreciated instruction given in substitute cookery.

The window exhibit drive last month was a success and the Committee is this week placing throughout the State a simple, but we hope effective, poster accompanied by a sheet of suggestions for simple potato exhibits.

The Woman's Land Army is beginning work in a small, but we feel, promising way.

The Coordinating Committee, so long planned, has become a fact. Mrs. Ida S. Harrington, Home Economics Director for the State, and also Home Demonstration Agent for Providence County, is Chairman. The other members are Miss Gladys Melocho, State Leader of the Home Demonstration Department of the States Relations Service; Miss Bessie Bemis, head of the Department of Home Economics at the State Agricultural College at Kingston; Mrs. Albert D. Mead, Chairman of this Department; and Mrs. B. F. Walpole, representing the women at large.

This Committee meets every two weeks and aims to avoid duplication of work, to study the needs of the State along lines of Food Production and Conservation and Home Economics, and to plan to meet these needs.

It is felt that this Committee will be valuable in coordinating the work of the Department of Agriculture and that of the Food Administration. It has already organized a canning campaign for the Women of the State . Brief, but intensive normal courses in canning are to be held with required attendance and attainments. Those enrolling and winning a certificate and the right to wear the canning insginia pledge themselves to give at least forty hours of service teaching others. Canning classes wherever formed may have expert supervision a certain proportion of the time. Frequent canning demstrations will be held.

The questionnaire submitted by Department No. 2 asking especially for information in regard to the amateur garden activity

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e State, has been filled out after getting information from Department of Agriculture, County Farm Bureau, Recreation Department of the City of Providence, Governments Prize Garden and State Food Administration. On learning what was being done to stimulate War Gardens by these agencies and of the report of the Director appointed by Mr. Goete the Federal Food Administrator to look up the matter, there then seemed no necessity for further activity. This Committee decided that we could serve the movement best by systematic distribution of the War Garden Pledge cards and the appropriate literature of that Department.

Attached is a report blank recently issued.

The Food Department has several other plans for lines of work which we hope will be valuable this summer, but these cannot be outlined in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Wm. Albert D.

Ada Wing Mead

May 13, 1918. Chairman.

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