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WAR WORK FOR BOYS AND WOMEN.

The question of the engagement of boys of school age for various kinds of work under the pressure of existing circumstances, continues to be one of considerable interest. With the addition of 14 fresh applications reported last week, the total number of boys who have now been granted permission to leave school under the Education Committee's emergency resolution to work on farms, reaches 630. Mr. Carr Lloyd elicited by a question to the Secretary that the total number of refused applications has been about 110. It has now been decided that exemptions from school attendance for boys over 12 and under 14, may be granted where the boys are to be engaged "on land which produces part of the staple food of the country," or in connection with fisheries. The latter clause was added through the suggestion of Mr. E. G. Arnell, who says that by reason of the shortage of young men the fisheries are suffering as much as, or more than, the work on the land. It is worth noting, though not directly in connection with this subject, that the Board of Education have declined to pay grant in respect of the classes in the under-woods industry held last season, on the grounds that the work of the classes was too narrow and specialised, and that very few boys had taken to the occupation after leaving school. The Board have also declined to make any grant towards special classes for the instruction of women in clerical and commercial subjects, being of opinion that the cost of providing short courses should not in present circumstances be charged upon public funds. The demand for such classes indeed seems small. In Chichester no application from any employer has been received in reply to the advertisements issued on the subject, and only 13 replies from women wanting to be trained. At Chichester, consequently, no action is being taken. At Horsham extra facilities are being given for additional instruction to certain senior students by the Evening School Managers.

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SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

Mr J. A. P. Wyatt presented the report of the School Attendance Sub Committee. The Secretary had given permission for 38 more boys and eight more girls to leave school for farm work, their average ages being 13 years, and average wages 7s 8d a week. The total number of such children was 1,511 boys and 128 girls, of whom 1,292 had now reached the age of 14, 347 being still of school age.

Mr Wyatt asked for the confirmation of the appointment of Mr Reginald Graham, aged 31, formerly a leading seaman, who was wounded by a dum-dum bullet shortly after the evacuation of Gallipoli, as school attendance officer for the Petworth district.

The report was adopted, and the appointment endorsed.