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**WANTED: 12,000 LAND
WOMEN.**

The Women's Land Army is calling for recruits. 12,000 women are wanted at once for work on the land. "Come and join the Land Lassies—and hold the Home Front." That is the call to which the women of the nation must respond if the Home Front and the Food Line are to be held. The Women's Land Army "cannot offer a beautiful hat," says the Hon. Mrs. Lytton, "but it can offer a beautiful complexion and splendid rosy cheeks." And what is more important than all, it can offer a girl the chance of helping her country through the greatest crisis in its history.

London recently witnessed a great recruiting rally in connection with the Women's Land Army, when in Trafalgar Square a hundred strapping land girls belonging to the Agricultural, Forage, and Timber Sections of the Land Army appealed to their town sisters for recruits. These land girls marched to Trafalgar Square to martial music—and why shouldn't they?—for each of them is a soldier woman, and her work is of military as well as national importance. During the luncheon hour, very many office girls were told all about the open air life which the land girls love so well that they would not exchange their lot for that of any town sister, and many of the pale-faced city girls envying the blooming cheeks of the land workers and anxious "to do their bit" enrolled at once.

I talked with a few of these splendid women of the Land Army, and each of them spoke enthusiastically of life out of doors, of the joy of living "far from the madding crowd" and close to Mother Earth, of following the plough, of the joy they feel in doing man's work, and above all of the keen satisfaction they have in the knowledge that the work on the land is helping to bring the boys home sooner. "I have been twelve years on the stage," confessed one girl, "and I have now forsaken the footlights altogether. The work is often hard and our muscles very often ache, but it is work that is more conducive to health than any other kind—and we know it is work that will help our country to win; and that is reward enough for our roughing it at times." This ex-actress prefers the sunlight to the limelight; the music of the birds to the orchestra before the footlights; work on the land to play on the stage. She underwent a special three months' training and is now an expert in driving a motor tractor. She is helping to beat the U-boats.

Another Land Girl who, until a few weeks ago was a typist in the City, assured potential recruits that she loved the life, and that she had never been so fit or so happy before. At first she had "a certain fear of cows—but," she declared laughingly, "I soon mastered that, and now I am quite at home with the dears! They are quiet and gentle, and very easy to manage. My message to city girls is, 'Come and join us.' I am very fond of milking and all dairy work."

All these Land Girls are imbued with a real sense of patriotism. None of them joined simply "for the fun of the thing," although they do manage to derive quite a lot of fun out of their strenuous duties. Even in cold, wet weather, when they have to turn out at 6 o'clock in the morning, they manage to "keep smiling."

In the words of one of the Land Army songs:—

They drive the motor tractors and they
walk behind the ploughs;
They feed the lambs and pigs and calves,
they feed and milk the cows;
They clean out all the stables and the styes
and yards—for now's
The time to win the War.

Of course it makes them tired, but it keeps
them jolly fit!
And they think of all the boys in France,
their patience and their grit;
Any they say, "God helping them and us,
we all will do our bit
To help to win the War."

Women are wanted for the three sections of the Women's Land Army.

Agricultural Section: In order to provide food for our soldiers and for the nation, women must till the soil.

Forage Section: In order to provide forage for the Army, women must help in this work.

Timber Cutting Section: In order to provide timber for the Navy and the Army, women must help in this work. All desiring to join the Women's Land Army should apply to the nearest Employment Exchange for an application form or to the Village Registrar.—Ministry of Food.