

A NEW GOVERNMENTAL BODY

In August, 1916, a new governmental body, the Council of National Defense, was created by Act of Congress, to deal with the internal problems of the country arising from war conditions, such as problems of labor and the demand for labor, transportation, finance, and the production, distribution and conservation of food.

The Council of National Defense was empowered and directed to form an advisory committee of experts. In practically all problems to be met, it was recognized that the aid and cooperation of women was essential to success; so, as a part of the advisory committee, a Woman's Committee was created. The Woman's Committee, therefore, is not a new organization of women, but a part of a governmental body doing a bit of government business.

THE WOMEN'S WAR CENSUS

As a business firm takes inventory of its stock at the beginning of each year, and places a selling value on each article, so the United States in entering upon its new business of war has asked the Woman's Committee to take an inventory of the women of the United States and place a war value upon each individual woman.

This inventory, to be taken the week of November 5th, 1917, is to be a complete census, and at the same time an opportunity for women to register for willing service, either paid or volunteer, to nation, state, or community. No service is asked or expected of a woman except what she may freely offer, but she is requested by the Government to register, in any case, that the Women's War Census may be complete.

WHY REGISTER?

- BECAUSE, in England, in the first two years of the war, over one million women were needed to replace men in industrial positions, making over 3,000,000 engaged in gainful occupations
- BECAUSE, in the same length of time, a tremendous force of volunteers was needed to cook for the workers, to care for their children during the day, and to take their places in the factories at week-ends, that the work might go on but the workers have one day of rest
- BECAUSE, the United States—which already has taken a million men out of industrial, professional and civic life, and with succeeding drafts will take millions more—will have similar emergencies to meet, and when they come needs to have a record of women willing to do the work required, either as paid or volunteer workers
- BECAUSE, all charitable agencies need a large force of volunteer workers to help with the big increase in relief, investigative, and protective work arising from war conditions
- BECAUSE, if you have any trained ability, there is a place you could be used—NOW—for the benefit of your community
- BECAUSE, if you have even half a day a week to spare, there is a bit of work calling to you—NOW
- BECAUSE, our boys are fighting for us in the trenches, and we should fight for them at home
- BECAUSE, this is a Government Census, and whether or not you are able to offer or perform any service, IT SHOULD INCLUDE YOU!