While The Kettle Boils

Dear Friends,

For a number of lucky ones, Christmas time also means holiday time. After a long, tiring year of work, it is a blessed reprieve to have two or three weeks when you can put everything else out of your mind except enjoying yourself. When you are happy, the days pass so quickly—and those few weeks seem like a passing breath.

It would be a very tedious world if we all planned our holidays along the same lines. Fortunately, we each possess a different conception of enjoyment. The swimming enthusiasts will visualise some favourite beach or stream, where they can discard their everyday clothes and wander about in shorts, slacks—or merely a bathing suit. Nothing to do all day — just to swim or sunbake, gaining stores of Vitamin D to fortify them against the coming year.

Others take to the bush. The country, which the city dweller has so little opportunity to know, offers a unique attraction. Many like to take their holiday on foot—with a knapsack and a billy slung across their shoulder. They know, wherever they walk, that New Zealand will be green.

Some people prefer the easier mode of travelling—a car or a caravan—or both. And this, certainly has its merits. What could be more delightful than to dawdle along the country roads by day, and to draw up at night in some quiet spot to sleep. Here the amenities of life and the joys of the open country are combined.

Then there are the tenters; those who pitch their camp and settle down to blissful days of idleness and relaxation. I think young people are attracted more to camp life than their elders are. They don't mind the minor discomforts that accompany this kind of holiday.

Camp fires sound attractive in advance, but they do not always work out so satisfactorily. For those who can obtain them, a small camp oil stove with wind guards will save many wasted hours and blackened fingers. They can also be used indoors in the event of rain.

Don't forget a hurricane lamp—and a picnic kit that can be carried further afield. You will also be glad that you brought a small meat safe — and don't overlook a hanging mirror and coat hangers that will dispose of your clothes

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN AND THE WAR

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be a familiar sight on our streets. The girls eagerly await their appearance. You can't be a real soldier without a uniform, they say.

So the WWSA has made its first great stride forward. New Zealand has every reason to be proud of its womenfolk. New Zealand soldiers, fighting overseas, will share in that pride. These women are their sisters, their wives, their mothers and sweethearts, rallying behind them to the same cause. They do not stand alone.

neatly on a peg. Bring cards along with you, board games, darts, and books. I think it is a good plan to bring away some long book that you may have been wanting to read all the year. Remember you won't have an exchange library to hand.

On Christmas day, guest houses all over the Dominion will overflow with holiday makers. This, to many, repre-

sents the ideal holiday. Some place where household duties and kitchen cares are forgotten; where they can enjoy all the comforts of home without any of the responsibility. Many a tired housewife dreams of this type of holiday with a wistful longing. By the law of justice she should have it.

Wherever you go, be it country, beach, mountain or stream, I wish for

you the happiest of holidays. A little time to rest, to dream—and to gather strength and heart to face the unknown new year.

Yours Cordially,





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