

An Industry is Born.

Kitty Crosby

Herb Lore of 100 years ago.

At Sandy Bay, Hobart, stands a quaint old house "Serunna", well over 100 years old, with a beach in its picturesque garden, where the people who live there can spear flounder, & where the tide rises through the gate, & where, on occasions during the century, the fleet has anchored outside. Old fashioned herbs have grown there for generations, & largely because of this fact an important wartime industry, the Australian Fighting Forces Herbs Auxiliary has been established & now sufficient herbs have been sent abroad to season many millions of meals.

There grew up at 'Serunna' a little girl, whose mother, Mrs H. Ward, she inherits before her had a love of herbs & herb-love. So it was no wonder that this same little girl, now grown up & living in Melbourne (Mrs Sheila Monks) President of the A.F.F.H.A.) should find a special use for her knowledge when an appeal was made for herbs for the A.I.F. Throwing open her house & garden at South Yarra, Mrs Monks used it as a depot, until the work grew to such an extent that rooms at the Observatory were made available by the Government, & an army of voluntary workers now work hard to supply herbs of many kinds to men of the Troops as well as the Royal Navy. Depots & Strong posts have been established at Castlemaine (under the auspices of the A.W.N.C.), Geelong, Portland, Colac,

² Hamilton, Terang, Warrambool + right through the Gippsland district. The C.W.A. in New South Wales is also assisting.

All herbs & labours are provided free, but the auxiliary is under contract to the Government to supply the forces & is paid 3/- per lb from which overhead expenses are deducted. The surplus is converted into cheques for patriotic funds & distributed to organizations contributing to the welfare of the soldiers. The A.W.H. received 21 guineas during the past 18 months, which was divided between the Castlemaine Red Cross & Comforts Fund.

The auxiliary wishes to tender grateful thanks to Mr Straw, Harcourt, Warrumbool (State Rivers and Water Supply), High School Girls & other local & district growers for the large supply of herbs.
