

any attempt at real co-ordination and just as I have hastily since jotted them down. Beyond some figures, rather hurriedly taken, I had no notes and therefore must rely on my memory.

Our first visits were to the Admiralty, the War Office, the Munition Department, the Treasury and the Colonial Office, where we had the inestimable advantage of being received by the respective heads of these Departments, the Right Honorable Messrs Balfour, Lloyd George, McKenna, Bonar Law and Sir William Robertson, all of whom spoke frankly and freely on the part taken by Great Britain in and the then situation of the gigantic struggle. Their statements to us were in many respects new and surprising, always most interesting and generously full of hope.

We were most graciously received and entertained by Their Majesties at Buckingham Palace. I was delighted to see that His Majesty had fully recovered from the accident which he met with in Flanders and to hear from him that it had left no ill effects. He was gracious enough to give me his appreciation of some of the aspects of the war and his estimate of its duration.

MUNITION FACTORIES.

The great centres of industry, Sheffield, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh and many smaller ones, and the shipyards of the Clyde and Tyne, with miles after miles of ships under construction and millions of working men and women, were inspected and visited. And what a revelation it was to all of us! Let me give you an idea of the prodigious effort of the Mother Country, the intense fervor and activity in these Munition Factories, where work is carried on incessantly night and day, Sunday included, and without any holidays.

At the time of our visit there were about 4,000 of these Munition Factories, under direct government control, in which there were then employed nearly two million men and 400,000 women. I understand that the workers in these factories now number 3,000,000 men and nearly 600,000 women. In order to permit this to be done, the Labor people have set aside, for the time being, their rules and customs relating to such matters, as hours of labour, overtime, entrance to trade, dilution of labor, exclusion of women, juvenile labor, etc., etc.. They have waived their holidays and they have now learned the patriotic lesson of postponing all disputes and squabbles.

The spirit, the wonderful adaptability and the physical endurance of the women especially are beyond praise. Sir William Beardmore, the Chairman of the great industrial works at Fairfield, told me that many of the munition women workers turn over weekly to the Red Cross all their earnings, amounting in most cases to 35 shillings per week.

Before the war, the Government had three Munition Factories of its own. In July last it had 100. Of these ten are national projectile factories, containing many thousands of machine tools, driving many miles of shafting, with a daily output which would fill a train of ordinary box cars more than one mile long. These factories have all been planned, erected and equipped since June or July, 1915. The most of the machinery and tools had to be specially designed and constructed; some of the munitions turned out are of as complicated a mechanism as the finest watch, and all to be blown out at the end of a gun, for the purpose of destroying valuable property and invaluable human lives.