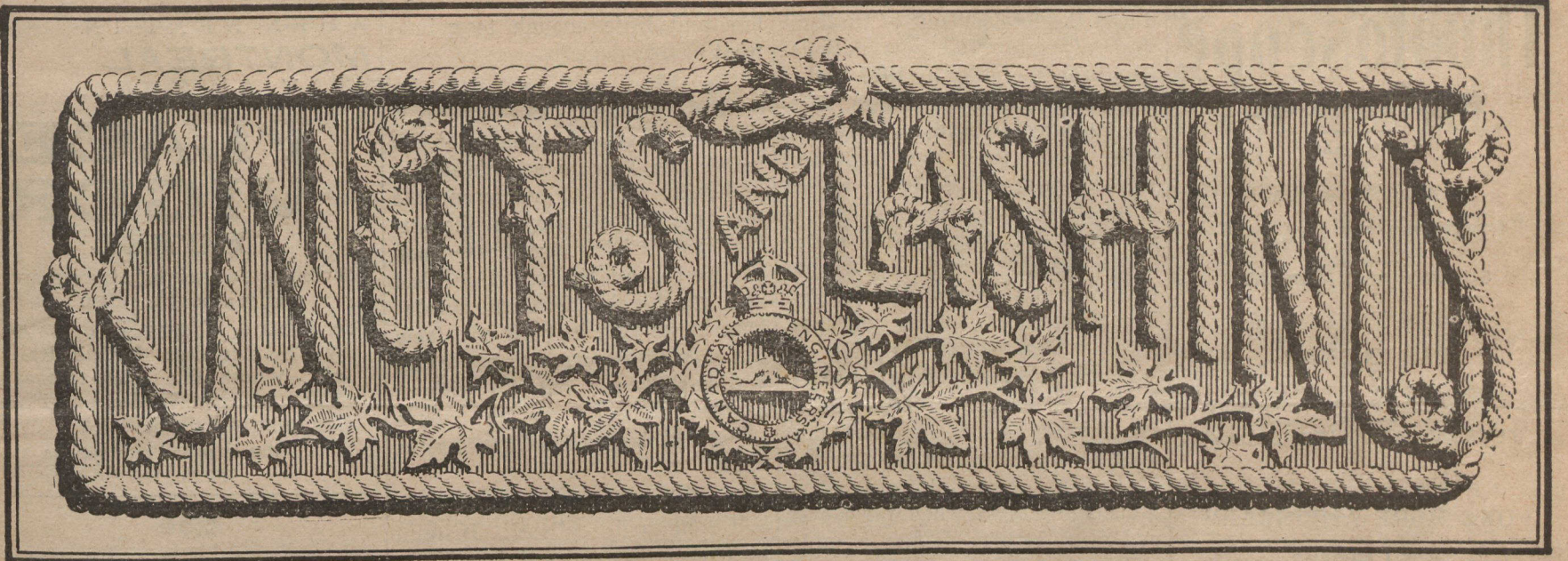


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FOUR YEARS' WAR FOR PEACE

(Continued from last week.)

Less conspicuous than the enlistment of the men, but as heroic and complete, was the self-offering of the girlhood and womanhood of the country. To-day women from every walk of life have put aside the dainties and domesticities that grace life, in order to tread the furrows of the farm, stoop over whirling lathes, shovel nitrate of soda, fill shells with high explosive; "man" railway trains, street cars and omnibuses, make aeroplane wings, drive motors, mould bricks, crush coal, fire kilns and in a thousand ways to replace the men who have gone. The women of England to-day literally hand out to the armies the guns, shells, cartridges and food without which the Army would wilt in a week.

Industrial Transformation.

This brings the story of transformation to its mechanical and industrial element—the reconstruction that has made Britain one vast armament factory. At the beginning of the War Britain's ammunition needs were served by three Government factories and a few auxiliary private firms. How often in the early period of the War our gunners sat gloomily by their batteries, being pounded by shells, and with none of their own for a reply! The story of what has been done

here baffles the utmost stretch of the mind. In the spring of 1917 the capacity for producing high explosive was twenty-eight times as great as in the spring of 1915, and the cost was barely one-third per ton of the early War charges.

New explosives have been discovered, all the technical difficulties of their manufacture eliminated, the supply speeded up, and as a result our soldiers have moved on to the ridges of Vimy and Messines from which the Germans had pounded them with shell for more than thirty dreadful months.

These guns and this ammunition roar from the Italian and Russian fronts as well as in Flanders and France, in the Balkans and in Palestine, on the banks of the Tigris and in the jungle of Africa.

Over and above these things, whereas at the beginning of the War we could only make 10 per cent. of the glass for optical instruments that we required for ourselves, we can now do all that we need and provide substantial assistance to our Allies. Our entire and paralysing dependence on Germany for potash has been broken by a discovery which puts the supply of more than all our needs into our own hands.

New Inventions.

Tanks and super-tanks, with still more yet unrevealed inventions to

follow; railway engines and railway lines for the immense network of new strategic lines behind the Front; a myriad motor lorries; agricultural implements for widening the range of harvest; these have all been provided by the Army behind the Army, the industrial array of Britain. The supply of aeroplanes has been doubling every six months. From abroad some 1,500,000 tons of munition supplies come every month with an average loss, since the beginning of the "ruthless submarine campaign"—

as Dr. Addison informed us on June 28th, 1917—of at the most 5.9 per cent. by submarine warfare. The annual output of British steel has risen from seven million tons to ten millions and is still increasing.

The British arsenals put out in 1917 as many heavy Howitzer shells in a single day as in the whole first year of war, as many medium shells in five days, and as many field-gun shells in eight days. In high explosives and in heavy guns every three days in 1917 pro-



We would respectfully ask that, in making purchases, you "patronize those who patronize us."