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WHAT SCOTTISH WOMEN ARE DOING.

(Montreal Star.)

Glasgow, Nov. 12.—It might be assumed that to expand more than two-fold the great shipbuilding plants on the Clyde so far as employees and output is concerned would be all that is expected of this centre in the way of munitions. But it is not all that the Scotsmen on the western coast are contributing by any means, for here, as in other parts of the Kingdom, new workshops are being erected for munitions, and plants intended originally for other purposes are being turned into shell factories.

"Somewhere in Scotland," an Associated Press correspondent today visited a two-hundred acre filling plant which has grown up in a little more than a month like a magic city with its scores of separate structures. The plant will be finished soon and workers for it are now being trained elsewhere.

The plant is being erected by contractors who will make no profit, and on a tour of munition plants much of that sort of thing is seen. Engineers of large experience and reputation and owners of big establishments are "doing their bit," without a thought of personal gain.

As in the case of the famous Armstrong Works at Newcastle, plants engaged in shipbuilding on the Clyde were open to inspection. The shops on the Tyne and the Clyde are playing their part, and a tremendously impressive part it is, too.

In Glasgow, as elsewhere, the participation of women in the industry is apparent on every hand. In their khaki or blue aprons, with dust caps of the same color, they are busy at the lathes and swarms in and out in thousands at the shift periods.

Every foreman with whom the correspondent talked was enthusiastic about the application and efficiency of the women workers. Of course they are not set to work at the heavy machines, and they are chiefly given tasks requiring only a few days' experience. In every establishment, as the women workers learn how to work the machines for the lighter shells, the men are taken out for the manufacture of the heavier munitions.

What the permanent effect of all this change in the working operations of women will be after the war is not concerning the employers now, though the estimate is, that it will bring its chain of problems for solution later.

To the women it is already bringing more money than they ever had in their lives before, and a sense of independence never experienced.

This alteration in the industrial fabric by women's increasing activity and broadening opportu-

nity is perhaps the most vivid impression left on the mind of one who devotes a week to a tour of the munition plants, second only to the comprehension of the enormous scale of production that the Ministry has planned.

It is in all probability the biggest engineering and labor enterprise in modern history.

FAIRFIELD SHIPBUILDING PROFIT.

The war has naturally brought a great accession of business to a firm like the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, and the profit has increased so much that, for the first time for some years, a dividend is being paid on the ordinary shares. In 1913-14 the profit was £29,675, and the available balance £46,553. Debenture interest took £23,750 and the preference dividend £15,000, and when the directors' fees (£2,000) had been paid the balance forward was reduced from £16,878 to £3,863. In other words, the preference dividend was not fully earned. In 1914-15, however, the profit seems to have mounted up to £94,442 or thereabouts, the appropriations indicating that there is an available balance of £100,245. The debenture interest and preference dividend will apparently require the same amount as last year, and the dividend of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares will take £18,750. This still leaves a good round sum, and the directors propose to put £15,000 to the reserve, making it £140,000, and to raise the balance forward from £5,803 to £24,745. It would thus have been possible, if it had been thought prudent and there had been no such thing as the excess profits tax to provide for, to pay over 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

For a great many years the nations of the world have been preying upon one another. The white man's burden has been largely made up of the loot he has taken from other people. The United States is beginning to see that there is a great moral principle to be observed in international affairs. But at present we are not living up to our obligations in seizing the trade of nations engaged in war. Morally, we are wrong and are fostering that same spirit of suspicion and injustice which it is the greatest duty of the Church to abolish.—Professor Shailer Mathews, of Chicago.

The Russian Ministry of Finance proposes to utilise the large stock of alcohol which is at the disposal of the Treasury by exporting it to allied and friendly nations.