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St. John's.

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## WOMEN WORKERS IN MUNITION FACTORIES

ONE British armament firm in the North has 6,000 women employed. They are engaged mainly on shell work, for this particular firm at present is turning out 77 different varieties of shells. Women have been employed for years in certain British armament works; but the war has caused the number to be increased, and the field of industry where women work has been widened. The women are said to be enthusiastic workers. In one factory where women are employed almost exclusively, no military munitions had ever been made before. The Daily News (London) special correspondent describes it as follows:

"They have a factory to themselves, not a new building, but a converted one, and by no means conspicuous for convenience; but the amount of work they do is astonishing. Here are 320 girls, with only eight skilled men to look after them, and they were in two shifts. They are making high explosive shells and turn out many thousands a week. This is no flash-in-the-pan outburst of energy. On the contrary, they have gradually worked up to it since March, when they started. Of course, they vary in expertness, but the acceleration of particular operations up to three and four times the rate at first attained is common. The manager, who is justly proud of his khaki feminine troop, and knows exactly what every girl is doing, showed me one who had increased from 30 to 130, another from 40 to 150, and so on.

There is apparently no pretence that the work of the women shell makers is confined exclusively to simple, automatic operations. They are doing skilled work in the newly-organized resources, and greatly increasing the shell output thereby. The London correspondent says:

"I saw a girl doing a particular operation on a lathe which had been previously worked by a skilled man; she was turning 150 per shift, against his 30. The champion of the factory is a girl who is machining the copper bands on shells; her 'record' is 1,014 in a 10-hour shift, or, say 101 per hour. And each shell has to be lifted into position and lifted out again. The weight raised in an hour can be easily calculated. These are Scottish girls. They earn good money. The minimum is 15s 9d a week, but one who cannot earn more is of no use. Most of them earn a great deal more; the average earnings in one shop are 35s., in another 45s. Some earn up to £4; the champion mentioned above has earned £5. But it is not the money only. Their hearts are in it.

Women in the industrial districts are acting as tramway conductors and railway porters, and commissionaires and elevator operators. They are driving delivery vans and delivering mail. They are carrying on practically all the work of commercial and business establishments where young men were formerly employed. But the work women seem to be doing in the national munitions industry is revolutionary.

The development of national arsenals, and the conversion of private factories—nearly two thousand of them—into state-controlled munitions works apparently could have been accomplished in no other way than by introducing women workers. Among the national munitions districts, the West of Scotland area is a remarkable example of national service. The plan of organization in the Clyde district is described as follows:

"It has been entrusted to the head of one of the leading engineering firms in the district, and this gentleman represents the Minister of Munitions as organizing engineer. With the support and co-operation of other large firms, he has developed a vast scheme for the production of shell for guns of large calibre. The scheme includes three 'national projectile factories,' two factories working on ordinary contracts, and nine on 'assisted' contracts, which means that the plant is supplied by Government, and that half of any saving on the contract price goes to the Treasury. Some of these 14 establishments undertake forging, some machinery, and some both. They have been given names that have become famous in the war, such as Albert, Liege, Marne, Anzac, Mons, etc. All this is new work undertaken by commercial firms which have never made munitions before, and is independent of the large armament firm of the district, which is building two 'national projectile factories' in addition to its other work.

The West of Scotland is launching out boldly with a factory bigger than any yet projected. It covers 200 acres, and the correspondent of the

London Daily News says: "A special railway track is being laid from the main line, and the factory will have a station of its own for conveying the employees, who will be principally girls, to and fro. Material will be brought by rail into the centre of the area and distributed by trolley lines, of which there will be 11 miles. The building will be warmed by 22 miles of heating pipes, and a mile and a half of drainage has already been laid down. The erection of this vast and entirely new establishment was only begun six weeks ago, but so rapid has been the progress that it will be ready for occupation next month. The secret of this lightning speed is perhaps the best thing of all. The contractor, who is at the head of his business in Scotland, is doing the work for nothing; and the men, inspired by his lead, are playing an equally patriotic part. They are putting their backs into the job, and, as he puts it, are working at a piece-rate pace on time wages."

Evidently, the Chairman of the Steel Company of Scotland expressed the general national sentiment when he said, "To my mind there is something absolutely revolting in the idea of anybody making profits out of the nation's agony." And when production is on a basis of usefulness rather than profitableness, the co-operation of women and men in industry can transform conditions ad results.

### GRACE.

God does not give grace till the hours of trial come. But when it does come, the amount of grace, and the nature of the special grace required, is vouchsafed.

Do not perplex thyself with what is needed for future emergencies; tomorrow will bring its promised grace along with to-morrow's trials.—F. P. Macduff.

Mrs. Bilton—I think you're the dearest, sweetest man that ever was!

Bilton (suspiciously)—Were you at some millinery opening to-day?—Judge.

Philo—Did you say widow or widow?

Sopher—I said widow; but they are both very much alike.

Philo—How so?

Sopher—When I get near either of them I always look out.—Judge.

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## Girl Bravest in Shipwreck Party

Little Miss of Eight Cheers Despairing, Seamen During the Four-Day Battle With the Waves. Survivors of Submarine Attack Relate a Tragic Story of Their Sufferings.

A graphic description was given here last week of the suffering and heroism of the crew of the Italian steamer Ecsania, which was sunk recently by a German submarine 100 miles from Candia. The captain, the passengers and the crew embarked in five of the ship's boats. Four of these were picked up after having been adrift thirty-six hours.

The occupants of the fifth boat were adrift four days, buffeted by a furious wind and an angry sea. These comprised twelve of the crew, two officers, and seven passengers, including a woman and three children, the eldest a girl of 8, and her two brothers, one 3 and the other 2 years old. This boat was in charge of First Officer Carreni. He said the commander of the submarine promised to tow the boats to land. The five boats were made fast together in readiness for towing, whereupon the submarine disappeared. The Captain of the Bosnia ultimately gave orders to cast off, and the five boats parted company as night came on.

The fifth boat speedily fell into difficulties and was nearly swamped by a heavy sea which carried away three oars and the rudder. The heavily laden craft was hardly able to make any headway, and the provisions, consisting of bread and water, were damaged by salt water. The little girl cheered the flagging spirits of the sailors and clasped her little brothers in her arms to keep them warm.

"How could men feel disheartened," said the first officer, "when a girl of 8 years made light of her sufferings? Her example put us to shame."

On the third day the food and water were practically finished. When land was sighted the crew were too nearly exhausted to reach shore and a strong breeze drove the boat seaward. Despair seized every one except the girl, who exhorted the men to further efforts, and even took a hand at the oars herself. A young Italian suddenly went mad and attempted suicide by slashing an artery in his arm. Then he sought to attack his companions, during which the frail craft tossed like a cork in the mountainous sea, the madman was overpowered. The girl provided two handkerchiefs with which the officer in charge bound up the madman's wound. That night the wind dropped, and steering by the stars the boat made land, ultimately arriving in the little bay of Mikoros in the Island of Crete. The occupants of the boat had to be lifted ashore.

## Sir Edward Carson Flayed

The New York World pays its compliments to Sir Edward Carson for the role he has played since the war started in the following words: "Sir Edward Carson displays one of the qualities needed by a marplot and a rebel when he lectures the United States before an American audience in London for permitting international law to be 'abolished' by its 'impotence'."

"We seem to have heard of Sir Edward before. Was he not the man who organized the rebellion in Ulster against lawful authority; who armed his legions with smuggled arms 'made in Germany,' and who inspired mutiny not only in the British army but in the British navy? Is he not the Sir Edward who more recently tried to break down the Coalition Cabinet by resigning the office of Attorney General in the face of the enemy?"

When the moral of war is apportioned Sir Edward Carson must bear a heavier share than any other man outside of German and Austrian official circles. His Ulster rebellion was one of the reasons which convinced Germany that Great Britain could not go to the support of Belgium and France. The German Ambassador in London is said to have so informed Berlin.

"The man who for a whole year dared the government to punish him for open rebellion against the laws of Great Britain and whose activities were a guide to the tortuous diplomacy of Germany is a strange creature to lecture the United States on the obligations of neutrals."

"That telephone girl was very polite, I must say."

"How so?"

"Couldn't give me the number I wanted, but offered me the choice of several other nice numbers."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

When your nose itches something happens to vex you.

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We stock them to fit Men, Women, Children and Infants and price them reasonably. Before you buy your next stock get our prices, wholesale and retail.

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# NOTICE!

The FIFTH Annual Meeting of Trinity District Council of the F.P.U. will be held at Winterton, Dec. 17th. All Councils in Trinity District are requested to be represented by Delegates.

**J. G. STONE,**  
Chairman.

Catalina, Dec. 6, 1915.