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Principals: MISS ELGOOD, MISS INGRAM, MLLE. SHOPOFF School re-opens Sept 18th. Boarders return Sept. 17th.

England's Kindly King

Many stories have been told of the kindly, considerate nature of King George, but the following touching episode particularly emphasizes that sympathetic feeling which His Majesty has for every subject. A short time ago a widow living at Forest Gate, London, who has four soldier sons, was seized with a dangerous illness and craved for the sight of her boy, Cecil, who was a corporal in the Second East Anglian brigade, R.F.A., in France for some months.

Believing his mother to be dying, his sister wrote to Cecil, asking him to apply for leave and come home if he wished to see his mother alive. The corporal presented the communication to his captain who told him that there was no chance to leave, as he could not be spared.

The sister then made a direct adpeal to the captain, but again the message came through: "Sorry he cannot be spared." In the meantime the stricken mother was calling for her boy, and her grief so affected the daughter that she suddenly decided to appeal to the King.

To her great joy she received the following letter in a day or two:—

"Madam,—In reply to your petition to this department, I am commanded by the Army Council to acquaint you that a telegram has been sent to military authorities overseas, asking that leave be granted to your brother, Corporal C. Thuey, R.F.A., as an exceptional case. I am your obedient servant. B. B. Cubitt."

And thus it came about that one night, when the corporal was sitting on a bundle of hay, depressed and downhearted at the thought that he might never see his mother alive again, he was told that the captain wanted him. Then he learned that leave had been granted him. He was told to saddle up at once and a guide would take him ten miles across country to the railway, where he would catch a coast-bound train, and thus home. Needless to say, the corporal wasted no time, and a few hours later he was kneeling by his mother's bedside. The sight of her soldier son had a most beneficial effect on the old lady, who, although still very ill, has made a marvellous rally, thanks to the King, who heeded her cries.

Birmingham a Vast Arsenal

Before the war Birmingham was proud to be known as "the workshop of the world," but since the war it has become one vast arsenal. All her multitudinous industries were "scrapped" for the one supreme object of turning out war materials.

In the process of the evolution, which has marked these years, nothing is more remarkable than the dominant part women are playing. It is estimated that, in these Birmingham factories, out of every too operatives 80 are women and girls. They are engaged in almost every conceivable kind of work—heavy and laborious, as well as that requiring the most delicate touch.

Old and young are side by side doing their "bit." Whole families are at the same bench, from the grandmother to the grandchild, and all social grades are engaged in the common task. Not only English, Irish, Scotch and Welsh "lassies," but Belgian, French and other women-kind of the Allied nations are working together.

One of these products is a giant aeroplane, which carries four men as its ordinary crew, but can carry twenty with ease, and can lift more than its own weight. It can attain a speed of between seventy and eighty miles an hour, and can carry bombs of a size sufficient to devastate a decent-sized town.—Tit-Bits.

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