

Doing Their Bit.

We have heard in this country a little now and again of the speeding-up of the output of munitions in England. But Boyd Cable in his little volume "Doing their Bit" outlines the story of what is being done and gives vivid glimpses of the work that make it seem like some tale of magic. Mr. Cable, with the approval and assistance of the Ministry of Munitions, traveled all through the country to find out just what was being done, and he has written this account of it primarily as a reassurance for the men at the front. In explaining this side of the book's reason for existence he tells rather more than was known before, at least in this country, of how the British lines in France have suffered and been held back by lack of ammunition. He made his observations and wrote his account of them last winter, so that his references are to conditions at the front during the first sixteen months of the war. After telling how grimly the troops held on during the first winter in the hope of plenty of munitions in the spring he says:

"And I know too well the bitter disappointment and black rage that filled the front (Mr. Cable was with the front as a soldier in the trenches during all that time) when the spring came and brought us not a plenty of munitions, but tales of a great shortage, stories of strikes and shirkers, woe of a wasted winter. And when the spring dragged on into summer and the summer crawled past and brought us face to face with the certainty of another winter in the trenches. But these things are past, and, with the front, I am glad to leave them and let bygones be bygones."

There is all the satisfaction of a long half-starved man set down before an endless vista of square meals in the floating, deep-lying pleasure with which he sees the miles upon miles of plants and the armies of employees turning out a vast stream of shells and shrapnel and bombs. And there is revelation beyond words in the mingled patches and joy with which he tells "you men who cling to your battered and water-logged trenches that winter while the German shells pounded them and you to pieces and our own guns were making a cruelly feeble reply, that "we are never, never, never going to be short again."

It is an impressive picture Mr. Cable gives of the mobilizing of industry all through England to provide these huge streams of munitions and one that will have much interest for American readers, in view of our own tentative thoughts in that direction. The firmness and comprehensiveness of the grip which the Ministry of Munitions has taken on the whole industry of the country is no less than amazing. Mr. Cable says that it is "wide and strong beyond the widest dreams of the craziest autocrat." It seems to be quite as efficient as that portion of the German war machine under stress, and less cumbersome. It knows or learns about every barrow-load of old iron that is for sale, every lathe or machine for working metal that is imported, every new or second-hand machine that is for sale, and if it needs any of these things for making munitions it commandeers them. Mechanics are taken from their jobs and set to munitioning. If a factory for making motor cars is needed for making shells, the Ministry Inspector orders it to stop the work and make shells. In short, Mr. Cable declares that "the engineering resources of the country are mobilized and efficiently organized and turned full force on munition making."

Local business men were called on to organize their communities, form committees, and get the last ounce of munition work out of their districts. These committee men, chairmen, secretaries, works owners, managers, inspectors, are working twelve, fifteen, eighteen hours a day. To help erect and organize and run the hundreds of huge plants men have been called in from their jobs in Canada, the United States, Africa, railway surveys, in Brazil, oil fields at Baku, from bridge building, well boring, tunneling, dumped down at home and set to "planning, estimating, figuring, tearing up the foundations of the earth" all to increase the output of munitions.

Mr. Cable tells of one huge plant that he saw in process of erection, the area of its works covering a section twelve miles long and at no place less than a mile wide. It has water, drainage, and lighting systems, powerful pumping stations and a great reservoir, a big power house to carry electricity throughout the area, streets of workshops and workers' houses, stores, shops, churches, clubs, all solidly built of stone, brick, steel and wood. And all of this huge amount of construction, which ordinarily would have required at least three or four years, was being done inside of six months. Compare with this an instance he gives showing how eagerly the people of England are now "doing their bit" for the men at the front, of a "factory" in a top floor, back bedroom in which an old man runs a

knockwood, rheumatically lath making fuse parts out of a brass rod. The room not being long enough to hold the lathe and the brass rod, the old man had knocked a hole in the wall through which the end of the rod sticks out until it works in again through the lathe an inch at a time. And the old man's old "missus" takes her place at the lathe and keeps it going when he leaves it to eat or sleep. Tobacco factories and gramophone works, motor works and boiler-makers, any and every kind of factory, little or big, whether or not for the making of machinery, have been set to the making of munitions "throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain." And as to the efficiency with which all this vast network of factories works together, Mr. Cable says:

"Every scrap of work turned out by every firm or factory is done to gauge, and a screw made in a back room in Bermondsey and another turned at Clydebank will fill and fit a screw-hole bored in a Birmingham shop just as exactly as if the one man or machine had made the lot."

Perhaps the most wonderful part of the whole magic tale is the rapidity with which expert munition makers have been made out of all manner of men and women drafted from every imaginable occupation in so short a time. It is even more wonderful than the feat of Lord Kitchener with his raw recruits. Mr. Cable dwells at some length upon this phase of his story. He devotes a chapter also to the work of the British women, going into it with some detail, and giving many interesting incidents. In these munition works it is evident that the spirit of democracy is as steadily and efficiently "doing its bit" as are the workers themselves.

Mr. Lloyd George, former Minister of Munitions, contributes a foreword consisting of half a dozen lines which express in a single sentence the hope that Mr. Cable's book will be informing for both the public at home and the men on the battlefields.—Sydney Daily Post.

BIG DANCE FOR THE COIT FUNDS AT STAR HALL.

The members of the Firemen's Union are holding a Dance in the Theatre Flat of the Star Hall on the eve of the General Holiday, Tuesday, September 12th. Music by Myron, O'Grady, Bailey and Bennett. Tickets, 70 cents. Ladies' single tickets, 30 cents. Tickets can be had from the Committee, who are as follows: E. J. Woods, Chairman; Wm. Whelan, Secretary; Wm. Stamp, Jas. Wiseman, Michael Holder, Patrick McGrath and John Saunders. Music will include latest selections by the Myron-O'Grady orchestra, the foremost and most popular in the city. Tickets at A. S. Wadden, Water St. & New Gower St.; E. Harris, Barber, New Gower St.—sep8,21,f,m

The Street Car Service

Editor Evening Telegram. Dear Sir,—For the fifth or sixth time a street car has run away down Theatre Hill and brought up in Soper & Moore's shop and for the fifth or sixth time there has been no fatality. The question suggests itself—when are we going to have a change in the system or route? Since the street car lines were laid seventeen years ago the town has altered very much. The area from the top of Long's Hill half a mile north and west is thickly populated now but was vacant ground seventeen years ago. The street cars to-day serve only a small portion of those who are entitled to the use of this public convenience and it seems to me that the time has arrived when a change should be made. Rails are already laid along LeMarchant Road and they might be linked up with the new belt line very easily. I feel sure that Mr. H. D. Reid, the Vice-President of the R. N. Co., will give this his consideration. Yours truly, CITIZEN. St. John's, Sept. 11, 1916.

Household Notes.

Never allow soiled clothing in a bedroom. Old velvetene makes very good polishing cloths. When the skin is sun scorched give it a milk bath. If the fern drops its fronds, it is probably rootbound. Cereals and fruit make a good summer luncheon dish. Sifted flour is good for dusts because it leaves no lint. Scrambled eggs on toast make a very good breakfast food. Try browned breadcrumbs and cream for a breakfast food. The best nerve tonic in the world is a long walk out of doors. If it is necessary to keep beef for a time immerse it in beer milk. It is wrong to allow silver to stand over night without washing. When cooking beef in the fireless cooker, do not salt it until it is done. If the dahlia stalks are cut back now you will have better blooms later.

Memorial Service at Cochrane St. Church

For the Late Hon. H. J. B. Woods.

A very large congregation assembled in the Cochrane St. Methodist Centennial Church last evening at the memorial service held in memory of the Hon. H. J. B. Woods, P.M.G. The pulpit, communion rail and choir gallery were neatly draped in black. The service opened with the singing of that well known hymn, "Now I have found the ground wherein," followed by prayer by a former beloved pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cowperthwaite. The scripture lesson, the 14th chapter of St. John, was read by the Rev. Dr. Penwick. The pastor, the Rev. Dr. Bond, introduced the first speaker, Alex. Robertson, Esq., of the Presbyterian Church, who spoke of Mr. Woods' work from a Sunday School viewpoint, beginning with the history of the very small school in the old Temperance Hall and then branching out to the large and flourishing school of to-day. In 1883 a Sunday School Association was formed at a meeting held in St. Andrew's Church, and Mr. Woods had the honor of being elected President at the hands of such well known men as the Revs. Beaton, Percival, McNeil, Boyd and Messrs. G. W. Lewis, J. E. F. Peters, Barnes, Archibald, Punney, Martin and others. The Sunday School makes the church, and Mr. Robertson exhorted the workers to be faithful and loyal, and to work earnestly in the sowing of the seed of the Gospel amongst the young and rising generation. The choir followed by singing the anthem, "Vital spark of Heavenly flame"; seldom have we listened to this well balanced choir to better advantage than in the rendition of this touching and beautiful anthem. The next speaker was the Hon. Robert Watson, representing the Anglican Church, who paid a tribute to the late Mr. Woods from the standpoint of a public official who served the State for a period of twenty-seven years. First as a member of the Executive Government holding the portfolio of Surveyor General during which, Punter, Martin and others. In 1902 was appointed Postmaster General; during his term of office the increase of business in this department was over one hundred per cent. The speaker quoted some very interesting figures concerning the number of post offices, postal telegraph offices and the immense quantity of letters posted annually, showing how the work had increased. Mr. Watson being the then Colonial Secretary had ample opportunity of knowing how faithfully the late Mr. Woods served the State. In closing the speaker said he had admired the life work of one who sacrificed ease and comfort and his days of rest for imperative religious duties. Mr. Watson, on behalf of the Rector and congregation of St. Thomas's Church, expressed sympathy for the loss the Methodist Church had sustained in the passing of his honored friend the Hon. H. J. B. Woods.

The last address was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Bond, a life long friend, who spoke of his late friend, when he was a young man, telling of his striking qualities and character, eager and energetic and of strong convictions. The learned Doctor's tribute was very touching and spoke of the help he had received from his friend in his boyhood days and of the loss he had personally sustained through losing the Superintendent of his Sunday School and the oldest official in connection with his present charge. The hymn, "Rock of Ages" was sung, after which the Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. James Wilson. While the congregation remained standing the choir rendered as a "Vesper" hymn, "Now the laborer's task is o'er." A fitting close to this memorable service was the administering of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

During the Sunday School session held in the afternoon, loving tributes of esteem were paid to the memory of the late Superintendent by the following teachers: Messrs. Parsons, Soper, Burt and Millie.

Wonderful Film at Nickel Theatre.

One of the greatest pictures ever presented by the Vitagraph Co. will be shown at the Nickel Theatre to-day and to-morrow. It is entitled "The Sins of the Mothers," and is a wonderful story. Anita Stewart and Earle Williams who starred in "The Godless" are in the leading characters. Included in the cast also are Julia Swayne Gordon, Paul Scardon, Logan Paul, Ralph Ince and Lucille Lee. It is a thrilling tale of high life gambling and the acting is perfect. "The Strange case of Mary Page" will be continued. The chapter is entitled "Reconciliation" and is most interesting. On Wednesday there will be a grand holiday bill.

Portia Back.

Bank Fishery Has Encouraging Outlook—Poor Shore Fishery. The S. S. Portia, Capt. Joe Kean, returned from the Western route last night, bringing a full freight and these passengers in saloon: Messrs. G. Langmead, D. Coen, P. J. McEvoy, Gert. Gardner, W. Foresey, S. Foresey, E. McCarthy, W. F. Kelly, J. Keating, W. J. Penney, J. J. Ha-

gen, C. Abbott, Masters, B. Meaney and C. S. Linnien; Mesdames E. Bullock, T. Hardy, J. Hardy, E. Flemming and J. J. Meaney; Misses Hunt, Ryan, Roberts, Martin, Dyott, Harwood, Parsons, Turpin (2), Murray, Vigus, Mooney, Meaney, Maher (2) and 20 in staterage. The shore fishery along the southwest coast is drawing to a close. Both codfish and haddock are scarce there now. However, the bank fishery is more encouraging. Cod is reported to be plentiful on the banking grounds and

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The War

The strange absence of any important events that preceded Roumania's action seems to have been merely a hush before the storm, which is now broken with redoubled force. Henceforth we may count on intermittent activity in every theatre of war, for the policy of the Allies demands it, and it is the Allies who now dictate the course, if not the result, of the fighting. The struggle of the Somme goes on with even greater fury, Russia is on the move against Galicia, Italy keeps up the pressure in the Trentino and on the Isonzo while the near East bids fair to become the scene of a more desperate conflict than has yet been witnessed anywhere. Or, if not more desperate, at any rate attended with far more vital consequences.

Last week saw two of the greatest victories achieved by the French since the opening of the Somme offensive. Under the eyes of Hindenburg himself, the picked troops of Prussia were hurled back by the French on the 10th and 11th of September, and encountered at the Forest of Comblanchien which has had a twofold effect. It has first of all advanced the Allied line so that Comblanchien is virtually rounded, as was Guilleumont, and reduction only a question of time, and, secondly, it has demonstrated the superiority of the French soldier over the German in the open and on equal terms—a very comforting augury for the future. The operation seems to have been brilliant to the extreme, and its value will soon be apparent.

At the same time General Foch carried out with equal success a considerable movement south of the Somme. This has as its primary object the envelopment of Peronne. It also effects a great extension of the offensive which will combine with the draft on Germany's main-power to the East to add to the difficulties of a problem with which she is faced. Large forces have evidently been engaged. If this sort of thing continues it is certain to have speedy and important results. Nothing could so convincingly demonstrate the superiority of the Allies' artillery preparation and equipment. For this is essentially the combat of big guns, and that the French should be able to force his way through an attack over so great an area was engaged as they are north of

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