

## IN DANGEROUS WORK

### GIRLS TOIL TWELVE HOURS A DAY IN CORDITE PLANT.

Five Hundred of Them Are Engaged in a Lonesome Village in England, Where at Any Moment an Accident May Send Them to the Skies—They Wear Fireproof Khaki With Scarlet Hoods.

THE world was polished to brightness by an east wind when I visited the cordite factory, and shone with hard colors like a German toy landscape, says Rebecca West in The Toronto Star Weekly. The marshes were very green and the scattered waters very blue, and little white clouds roamed one by one across the sky like grazing sheep on a meadow. On the hills around stood elms, and grey churches, and red farms, and yellow ricks, painted bright by the sharp sunshine. And very distinct on the marshes there lay the village which is always full of people and yet is the home of nothing except death.

In the glare it showed that like so many institutions of the war it has the disordered and fantastic quality of a dream. It consists of a number of huts, some like the Government-built cottages for Irish laborers, and some like the open-air shelters in a sanatorium, scattered over five hundred acres; they are connected by raised wooden gangways and interspersed with green mounds and rusky ponds. It is of such vital importance to the State that it is ringed with barbed wire entanglements and patrolled by sentries, and its products must be kept secret to the death. And it is inhabited chiefly by pretty young girls clad in a Red-Riding Hood fancy dress of khaki and scarlet.

Every morning at six when the night mist still hangs over the marshes, 250 of these girls are fetched by a light railway from their barracks on a hill two miles away. When I visited the works they had already been at work for nine hours, and would work for three more. This twelve-hour shift is longer than one would wish, but it is not possible to introduce three shifts, since the girls would find an eight-hour day too light and would be concerned about being debarred from the opportunity of making more money; and it is not so bad as it sounds, for in these airy and isolated huts there is neither the orchestra of rattling machines nor the sense of a confined area crowded with tired people which make the ordinary factory such a fatiguing place. Indeed, these girls, working in teams of six or seven in those clean and tidy rooms, look as though they were practicing a neat domestic craft rather than a deadly domestic process.

When one is made to put on rubber boots before entering a hut, it might be the precaution of a pernickety housewife concerned about her floors, although actually it is to prevent the grit on one's outdoor shoes igniting a stray scrap of cordite and sending oneself and the hut up to the skies in a column of flame. And there is something distinctly domestic in the character of almost every process. The girls who stand round the great drums in the hut with walls and floor wash look like milliners in their caps and dresses of white waterproof, and the brass containing a white substance that lie in the dry ante-room might be sacks of flour. But, in fact, they are filling the drum with gun-cotton to be dried by hot air. And the next bit, where girls stand round great vats in which steel hands mix the gun-cotton with mineral jelly, might be part of a steam bakery. The brown cordite paste itself looks as if it might turn into pleasant honey-cakes; an inviting appearance that has brought gastritis to more than one unwise worker.

But how deceptive this semblance of normal life is, what extraordinary work this is for women and how extraordinary they are doing it, is made manifest in a certain row of huts where the cordite is being pressed through wire mesh. This, in all the world, must be the place where war and grace are closest linked. Without a strip of garden runs beside the huts, gay with shrubs and formal with a sundial. Within there is a group of girls that composes into so beautiful a picture that one remembers that the most glorious painting in the world, Velasquez' "The Weavers," shows women working just like this.

One girl stands high on a platform against the wall, filling the cordite paste into one of the two great iron presses, and when she has finished with that she swings round the other one on a swivel with a fine free gesture. The other girls stand round the table laying out the golden rods in graduated sizes from the thickness of rope to the thinness of macaroni, the clear khaki and scarlet of their dresses shining back from the wet floor in a perpetually changing pattern as they move quickly about their work. They look very young in their ivory, childlike dresses, and one thinks them good children for working so diligently. And it occurs to one as something incredible that they are now doing the last three hours of a 12-hours' shift.

### He Was a Doubter.

Lady Jellicoe says that this incident actually occurred when she was helping at the London Bridge free buffet for sailors and soldiers. One of the lady assistants asked a sailor if he knew who had served him. "No," he replied. "That was Lady Jellicoe," said the assistant. "Do you know who you are talking to?" then asked the sailor. "No," said the lady. "I am Winston Churchill," said the doubting sailor, with a grin.

## AUSTRALIA'S SHARE.

### Commonwealth Has No Opinion of Opinion Regarding the War.

The Hon. Andrew Fisher, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, arrived in England recently to take up his new duties as High Commissioner for Australia. He came at a moment when the public esteem for the Colony stands higher than ever before. The gallantry and self-sacrifice of the fighting men of the Commonwealth, the immense army she has put at the Empire's disposal—far greater in numbers than any public man in Britain dreamed she could raise for an overseas war—and the absolute unanimity of her peoples to utilize their whole resources to help the Allies to victory, have made a deep and abiding impression on the British public. Mr. Fisher, a Scotsman, who has on one previous occasion been called into the deliberations of the British Government, for he represented the Commonwealth at the Imperial Conference in 1911, met a number of journalists shortly after his arrival in London. He said that Australia had no parties in regard to the war, recognizing that the struggle was between nations supporting liberty, equality, and democracy, against an aggression which would have destroyed them. Australia had sent 200,000 soldiers to fight the Empire's battles, and another 100,000 would be ready in six months. He was authorized to tell you, "I am authorized to tell you," that the High Commissioner said, "that the policy of the Government and people will be to carry out to the full the statement that they will give their last man and last shilling without flinch. As regards the conduct of the war, the Government only ask that their opinions be considered, and that their views will not fit in with the views of his Majesty's advisers they will not press them. In other words, they do not wish to embarrass those responsible for carrying on the war."

Asked how recruiting was proceeding in Australia, Mr. Fisher said there was a lull just now because the colony was having the first bit of harvest after a bad drought, but the number of men who would volunteer would only be limited by the necessity of keeping going the productive industries of the colony. Australia was sending away men fully equipped and armed with weapons made in the colony, which produces a great deal of munitions. That work must be continued. There had been nothing in the nature of a "rounding up" of men for the army. It was not necessary to do that, because volunteers were so plentiful. "The girls have taken a hand in it, of course. They are 'game' girls over there, but they have not done it in an offensive way. They merely hint that 'Tom has gone, and so has Jim.' That is always effective."

Mr. Fisher remarked that all metals required for the purposes of war were found in Australia, which formed a great source of supply, and although the country had come through a big period of drought, a larger supply of wheat has been sent to this country than ever before. Their credit was good. They first set out to raise 25,000,000 at 4 1/2 per cent, to test the market. Over 215,000,000 was subscribed. The Government recently asked for 10,000,000, and he understood that it had been over-subscribed. There was much more money behind them, and he thought there would be no difficulty in raising 225,000,000 in Australia this year.

### How the Victoria Cross is Made.

Hitherto the most coveted British war decoration, the V.C., the intrinsic value of which is but a few copper pence, has been made from bronze from Russian guns. Russian metal, however, being now withheld, the medal is being made from Chinese gun-metal.

The origin of the medal dates back to the Crimean War, when the Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort decided on the Cross as the highest possible tribute to naval and military heroes "who should perform in the presence of the enemy a supreme act of valor or devotion to their country."

The award carries with it an annual pension of £10, and £5 for each additional bar, and when a soldier who has won it is totally disabled, the pension may be increased to £50. The actual design of the medal is said to be the work of the Prince Consort himself, the medal being made by the firm of Messrs. Hancock's, of New Bond Street.

The first process of manufacture consists of obtaining a rough cast die by melting the metal at a temperature of 2000 deg. Fah, and pouring it into a mould. The cast is then trimmed and chased, at which stage it has to be inspected by the War Office and passed. Then the Cross is sent back to Messrs. Hancock, who wait for the name of the recipient, the bar, and the ribbon being added—blue for the Navy and red for the Army.

### Rosebery's Judgment.

Two or three times a week Lord Rosebery is to be found lunching at Buckingham Palace, which merely emphasizes that King George, like his father, has the firmest faith in Lord Rosebery's judgment, and likes to get his views on important questions. Lord Rosebery has, of course, known King George since he was a child, and was a constant visitor at Sandringham. He was always a favorite with the young princes and princesses, and used to love to romp with them in the schoolroom to their hearts' content.

### Not for Sale.

It is related of Mr. Rudyard Kipling that on one occasion he received an offer of a thousand dollars from an American paper for an article of a thousand words on "Why America could not conquer England." He replied: "It is impossible that I should accept the commission, as it would involve discussing the armed strength of the Empire, a question on which no British subject has any information for sale."

## County Council

### FIFTH SESSION—FIRST DAY

Tuesday, June 6th, 1916

Council met pursuant to adjournment. All the members were present, with the Warden in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were then read.

Toohy-Root—That the minutes of the last meeting be adopted as read.—Carried.

The following communications were then read:

1. Chas. R. Bilgar, renewal of Bond of Supt. of House of Refuge.
2. Dept. Minister of Education re grant to Public School.
3. Union of Canadian Municipalities re sending Delegates.
4. Secy. of Jarvis continuation School re fees of Haldimand pupils.
5. Simcoe High School re fees of Haldimand pupils.
6. Canadian Patriotic Fund re increasing grant.
7. Empire Typewriter Co. re typewriters for 14th Battalion.
8. B. E. French re Avery Garage acc.
9. Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry re amendment to Highway Improvement Act.
10. Minister of Public Highways re by-laws for construction and maintenance.

11. Mrs. Wm. Harkins, Caledonia, re Patriotic Grant.

Roulston-Hart.—That Messrs. Toohy, Clark and Pyle be a committee on committee on communications. Carried.

That the Council do now adjourn to allow the different committees to meet. Carried.

Simenton-Anderson—That we resume business with the Warden in the Chair. Carried.

Pyle-Ingles—That the report of the special committee on communications be received and read. Carried.

Cayuga, June 6th, 1916. To the Warden and Members of the County Council.

We your special committee on communications beg leave to report as follows:

1. The renewal of the Bond of the Supt. of Refuge be placed with Chas. R. Bilgar of London & Lancashire Guarantee Co.
2. Re letter of Dept. Minister of Education be filed with Delegates.
3. The sending of delegates to the Union of Municipalities be left to the Council as a whole.
4. We recommend the usual grant of \$200 to Jarvis continuation school.
5. The communication from Simcoe High School be filed with the Finance Committee.
6. The communication from Canadian Patriotic Fund be left to Council as a whole.
7. The communication re Empire Typewriter Company has been settled by the Equipment Committee.
8. Re Avery Garage account be sent to County Road Committee.
9. Re communication from County Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry be referred to Council as a whole.
10. The communication from Deputy Minister of Public Highways be filed with Clerk and the necessary by laws be prepared.

11. The communication from Mrs. Harkins of Caledonia be read and dealt with by the Patriotic Committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted J. A. Toohy, Chairman of the Special Committee on communications be adopted as read. Carried.

That the subject of the matter of a Law Library as suggested by His Honor Judge Hopkins be referred to a Committee consisting of Messrs. Buckner, Toohy, Clark and the Members of the Building Committee to report to this Council tomorrow. Carried.

John Buckner.—That leave be given to introduce a by-law conferring by-law passed by the Township of Dunn on Dec. 15, 1915, for closing a road along lake shore, Township of Dunn, front of lots 5 and 6, also for the purpose of opening a new road through lots 5 and 6. That the by-law be read a first time. Carried.

Bain-Patton.—That a sum of three thousand dollars be transferred from the special account to the general account. Carried.

Stewart-Anderson.—That the equalization for the county for 1916 be left on file as a basis for the county and we have insured the dwelling house for \$100, on barn \$200, contents of barn \$100. We your Home Committee would recommend that the property be advertised and sold.

We would recommend payment of the following accounts: Dr. Yelland \$9.00, Harkins \$20.00, Rheuben Swantz 24.00, Harry Link 16.00.

We would recommend the purchase of a flag for the County House of Refuge as the old one is worn out.

We have examined carefully the different vouchers of the accounts for maintenance compared them with the accounts and find them correct. We would refer the same to the Finance Committee for payment.

All of which is respectfully submitted John Bradford, Chairman of Home Committee be adopted as read.—Carried.

Bain-Patton.—That the report of the Supply committee be received and read. Carried.

Cayuga, June 6, 1916 To the Warden and Members of County Council:

Gentlemen:—We your Supply Committee met and recommend that Sam Brooks be paid for 1 load of saw dust \$1 25.

Respectively submitted J. A. Toohy, Chairman Hart-Ingles.—That this Council do now adjourn to meet tomorrow at 10 a.m. Carried.

### FIFTH SESSION—SECOND DAY

Wednesday, June 7th, 1916

All the members were present. Bradford-Roulston.—That this Council resume business with the Warden in the chair. Carried.

Roulston-Bradford.—That the Bill to confirm the by-law of the Township of Dunn to close up a road in the said Township be read a second time. Carried.

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## WOMEN MAKING MUNITIONS.

### Few Men Employed in a Great English Ammunition Factory.

One thing struck me very forcibly—the small number of men employed at the works. I did not see a single man doing work that could have been done by a woman. I believe the Labor Exchange Bureaux have supplied them with many of their woman workers, and though, of course, very many of them are quite inexperienced and new to their work, they seemed to be managed pretty well.

There are men to attend to the furnaces, men to carry the heavy loads, men to start and to attend the machines, but everything else seems to be done by women.

Sorting, testing, using the machines, cleaning, packing, and kindred things are all women's jobs. Rows and rows of women I saw sitting at machines and benches, filling the great wooden cases with the finished bullets; women in rows everywhere, but men only in ones and twos here and there. It was somewhat of an object-lesson that way; it was new and pleasing to find women able to do so many things and so completely. Surely, when our wonderful coalition Government provides the workers to supply the materials, and these and kindred factories are needed more hands to cope with the increased work, there must be many women of all classes who could volunteer to take on this work of making munitions, and thus release each a man for service and help on the output of munitions.

It must be remembered, too, that the women's work is comparatively easy—that is to say, one does not instinctively feel that they must get, they are laboring under almost perfect conditions, and making very good wages. It is not hard labor that is required of them, but a mechanical and automatic efficiency. Physical strength is not an essential for most of the women's work, but intelligence, dexterity, rapidity, and care only.

With the few men employed of course, it is different; but, as I said before, they are only employed for the really physically hard work, and are paid accordingly. Most of them are making twice their peace-time earnings, and serving their country, too, though I fear of them realize and appreciate that.

It is a great work and necessary one, that of supplying the munitions of war, and every man and woman employed at it ought to feel proud and thankful to be allowed to do it. Between seventy and eighty women have appeared on the "buses" run by the General Omnibus Company. This number will be gradually increased as the needs of the situation demand.

The women will be paid at exactly the same rates, on a mileage basis, as the male conductors, and will have the same duties and hours. Their employment is confined to the period of the war, or to such time as the male conductors shall return.

Women dockers have been introduced on the Mersey. Recently the male laborers, under the advice of their union, refused to work with them, and the services of the women were demanded.

There are 150 women conductors on the metropolitan electric trams and 120 on the London United Lines.

"Sammy's" Lucky Stick.

By the recent death of Sir Samuel Way, Chief Justice of South Australia since 1876, the Commonwealth has lost one of its most interesting and picturesque personalities. "Sammy," as he was known in Adelaide, was born at Portsmouth nearly eighty years ago, his father being one of the leaders of the English Christians, and pioneer minister of the sect in Australia.

One of "Sammy's" most cherished possessions was a lucky stick, originally owned by Mr. W. B. Dalley, first Australian Privy Councillor, who gave it to Sir Alfred Stephen. Sir Alfred, the second Australian Privy Councillor, bequeathed it to Chief Justice Way, and not long afterwards he was raised to the same dignity. "Sammy" carried the stick with him when he went to Windsor to be sworn in, and also when he took his seat in the Privy Council.

Sir Samuel was the hero of a love story which Australians liked to tell. It began when he was a poor young man at the Bar, but as the years ran on the girl married another.

Many years later he found her a widow, and his early love became Mrs. Way—for the Chief Justice had refused knighthood again and again because he had no one to share the honor with him. When a baronetcy conferred him he accepted it. Lady Way died in 1914.

Soldiers' Etiquette.

Our civilian soldiers have picked up military etiquette in a surprising short time, and it is not often that they are puzzled in regard to saluting. In case there are any who fear to make a mistake, here are a few hints on when not to salute.

There are a good many regulations about whom a soldier must salute, but he is left comparatively free concerning those he may not salute. This is because he may not salute his hat, and a salute is the only way he has of recognizing the greeting of a lady, or a civilian friend, or superior.

A soldier must never raise his hand to his forehead in salute when he has his head uncovered. If he is cooling his heated brow and an officer approaches, he must put on his hat before saluting. Even when in doors the hat must be kept on when addressing or saluting a superior officer.

The only other occasion when a soldier must not salute is when on outpost duty. He must pay no compliment to anybody then, not even the King.

"Sammy" Typewriter.

A typewriter is being introduced into India, which will write the 300 characters and signs of the Bengali alphabet.

# The Store That Has Something New to Offer Every Day

## June is the Rain Coat Season, and the Coats are here a-plenty.

For Men, \$2.48 to \$15 each.   
For Women, \$3.95 to 17.50 each.   
For Boys, \$2.48 to 8.00 each.   
For Girls, \$3.50 to 7.00 each.   
Including a special Tweed Effect Rain Coat with Cap to match, the outfit complete \$4.00.

Boys' Southwestern Rain Caps, each 25c.

Iron Rust Soap removes almost any kind of stain except reputation. 15c per cube at the notion counter.

New Sport Hats coming constantly. Those displayed this week were not here last week. \$11 to 4.

A LITTLE INFORMATION—If you own a Raccoon Coat, take the best of care of it. This particular fur has gone up, up, up, so much so that it would take nearly \$100 to do the work of 50 a couple of years ago.

## The BOYS:—His Summer Clothes

### Assortments are very liberal here

Boys Wash Suits, 75c to \$3.   
Boys Cotton Jerseys, long sleeves and sleeveless, all sizes 25 cents each.   
Boys Wash Blouses, 40c to 75c each, all sizes.   
Boys fine all-wool Sweaters, colors are tan, cardinal, grey and navy, all sizes to fit boys up to 16 years, each 85c to \$2.   
Boys Balboigian Combinations, short sleeves, all sizes, the suit 50c.   
Boys Porus Knit Combinations, all sizes, the suit 60c.   
Boys Crush Oiling and Straw Hats, each 25c to \$2.   
Boys Bathing Trunks, all sizes, each 10c.   
Boys Bathing Suits, all sizes, each 35c to 50c.   
Boys Scout and other Belts, each 15c to 50c.   
Boys heavy, medium and fine ribbed Hose, all sizes, the pair 15c to 25c.   
Boys Wash Knickers, many kinds, the pair 25c to \$1.

More new summer Rugs in the Home Furnishing Department. All the wanted sizes, each \$5 6, 7.50, 10, 12, 15, and 20.

Women's Sample Knitted Silk Sweaters, 22 only of them, no two alike, made to sell at \$12 and 15. For a quick clearance, your choice \$9.00.

## A month ahead of time came these Knitted Sport Sweaters

### See Window Display of Them Saturday. 5 Styles

Style 1 Angora Wool Sweater Set, trimmed collar and cuffs with imitation Fur. This makes a striking outfit with cap and scarf to match, the set \$7.50.

Style 2 A charming little Coat of Angora Wool. This comes in very attractive shades of Paddy, Saxe, Purple, with white collar and cuffs. This Coat can be had with or without cap and scarf. The Set complete \$7.50.

Style 3 A Plain Knitted Coat of fine Wool, a neat little style, splendid value, the coat itself \$5. With Cap or Scarf \$6.

Style 4 Something entirely new. Heavy Wool Sweater Coat, perfect combination of color, Saxe and Orange, a comfortable and stylish Coat for the lake, very Special, \$8.50.

Style 5 Here is a delightful Coat of fine Wool, perfectly plain Knit, straight fitting Coat, suitable for misses or grown-ups, very attractive shades for the Golf or Tennis Court, with or without girdle, \$5.00.

The New Striped Sport Skirts are expected for Saturday's selling at \$2, \$3, and \$4.

More New Cedar Chests are here, each \$5, \$6 and \$7.

Dinner Sets for any home and in splendid choice at very favorable prices. English dinner Sets, each \$10.90, 13.90, 20.00, \$22, \$25.00, 28.20, 33.00, 40.00, 49.00.

French Dinner Sets at \$25, \$29, \$35, \$42, \$50, \$60 and \$85.

The backward nights of June call for Flannelette Blankets. Very fine ones selling here at a pair \$1.50, 1.75 and \$2.

Our last delivery of men's fine Navy Blue Serge Suits to sell for \$16, reached us a few days ago. These Blue Serge Suits are all-wool, through and through, and the dyes are guaranteed, workmanship is of the high grade, and the style is irreplaceable. Further shipments of the same Suits will have to sell for \$20.

## Railway Fares Paid

During June the H. S. FALLS CO., of Simcoe, Ltd., will refund Railway Fare fare from Jarvis to Simcoe on a purchase of \$7.50 and over.

# H. S. Falls Co

## OF SIMCOE, LIMITED.