

NATIONAL SACRIFICE.

SIR GEORGE FOSTER TO ORGANISED WOMEN OF CANADA.

(From the War Zone.)

France has lost so many of her adult men, that women, perforce, have been obliged to take up the burdens of life formerly borne by these men and by other men who have been taken from all fields of service at the call of the war. So we find women at work in almost every vocation formerly pursued by men—in the factory, in the home, in the field, and otherwise—doing work with an efficiency and a cheerful spirit which surprises as well as satisfies. It is said that two women out of every three in France wear signs of mourning, which indicates what the homes have suffered and what grief has been borne by the women of the homes. But they go about their work with an even, steady courage, without complaint, and even with cheerfulness. How many pleasures have been cut off, how many little extravagances so dear to womenkind have been foregone, how many real privations have been suffered, is known only to themselves, and can never be computed by arithmetic or described by tongue or pen. In their hearts the iron of war has been sunk to its deepest, and every hour of their lives passes under a sense of loss and loneliness, that cannot be described, and is, in fact, impossible for one to imagine.

Do you wonder that, under these circumstances, the women of France have bowed to a discipline and risen to a conquest over self and learned a depth of sacrifice that have within two years of war practically recreated their ideals and their purpose?

Almost the same can be said for the women of England, though they are separated by miles of sea and land from the actual scene of warfare, and do not hear every day, sounding in their ears, the battering of enemies who, if they were successful, would bring speedy ruin on themselves and their homes. Yet, with the increasing numbers of British soldiers at the Front, the increasing lists of casualties, the increasing line of maimed and wounded, and still more the silence in death of so many of their bravest and best, the same work is

being done for British women that has already been done for French women.

They are learning what sacrifice means, and in every vocation of life, from all ranks, women are taking up the burden of service formerly performed by men, and in the factory, the field, the hospital, and the counting room, are pouring out their best, and a precious and valuable best it is. No history will ever record the wealth of unselfish service that the women of Great Britain are performing to-day, nor the sacrifices in habits of life, in pleasures, and in the luxuries of living which they are foregoing, and are cheerfully foregoing.

WOMEN'S NEW OCCUPATIONS.

In Scotland, women are now being employed in the Broxburn oil works for the first time, and are receiving a three weeks' course of training in candle-making, after which it is said they will be paid piece rates on the same scale as the men. In the boot trade, which normally employs many women, they are now for the first time being employed as clickers. "Clicking" is the cutting-out of boot and shoe uppers, and calls for more skill than any other process. As in the case of many other skilled trades, women are now doing, after a few weeks' training, work hitherto only done by men after three or four years' apprenticeship. With regard to baking, great opposition is being shown in Edinburgh by the operatives to the admission of female labour.

In Washington Territory the women enjoyed equal suffrage from 1883 to 1887 by Act of the Territorial Legislature, and they also served on juries. They were disfranchised by two successive decisions of the Territorial Supreme Court, which was generally believed to have yielded to pressure from the gambling and liquor interests. When the decision was announced the liquor-sellers and gamblers lit bonfires and rang bells. When British Columbia had a Suffrage Bill pending, Mr Robson, a member of Parliament, said: "The women are voting the gamblers and black-legs out of Washington Territory, and they are all coming over here." He declared that British Columbia would have to adopt woman suffrage in self-defence.

IN THE FIELD.

During my visit to Invercargill I ran up to Gore and met the friends there, finding they had not been meeting regularly for some time. Like all other branches, they are very busy with patriotic work, but it is a pity to let the interest in what the Hon. Lloyd George considers the patriotic work, i.e., fighting the drink traffic, die down.

Rangicra has for some time been in difficulties for lack of leaders. After spending a few days there, visiting the members and ascertaining their opinions, I called a meeting, and it was decided that the Union go into recess until election year. A very encouraging feature is the absolute loyalty of the members, one and all deciding that they would keep up their membership, and rally around a leader when one appeared.

Crossing the Straits, I found myself in Wellington during the progress of the Methodist Conference, and before boarding the Main Trunk train the same night attended the tea, and had the pleasure of greeting many old friends.

I am now working up a new Branch at Hamilton East.

M. S. POWELL,
Dominion Organiser.

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MAORI FUND.

The thanks of the Union are due to the following Branches for donations: Dunedin (March) £2 15s 9d, and (Dec.), 11s; Winchmore (Jan.), 15s 9d; Gisborne (June), £1 17s; Stratford (June), 6s 9d; Nelson (July), 14s; (Dec.), £3; Waipawa (Aug.), 5s 3d; Napier (Aug.), £1; Pahiatua (Aug.), 14s; N.E. Valley (Sept.), £1; Wellington Central (Sept.), £1; Christchurch (Nov.), 14s; New Plymouth (Nov.), £2; Kaiapoi (Nov.), £2; Waipukurau (Nov.), 9s; Tuatapere (Dec.), 9s; Ngaere (Dec.), 5s; Hawera (Jan.), £2; Auckland (Jan.), £1; South Invercargill, £1 12s 6d; Mrs G. Plummer (donation), £1; Miss Gausted (collecting card), 17s; Mrs Paterson (Wanganui, collecting card), £1 17s; Mrs Little (Devonport, subscription to literature fund), 12s. Will all those who had collecting cards from me last year kindly return them, whether filled or not, or notify me that they wish to keep them for next year.