

DEPENDABLES AND THEIR WORK.

DR. ELSIE INGLIS-WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS.

Dependability is winning this war.

That sounds good but not too good to be true. Facts warrant the assertion. The great question that faces every woman to-day is: "How many Dependables are there and how do I rank?" The answer to that question shows just how near each one is to the firing line. Women are, to-day, an integral part of the army and navy and are just back of the firing line in France. The reason is because they are dependable.

Some one will say: Oh! but I do not count! I can't do anything but knit and sew. It takes brains to be a Dependable. "Right you are about the brains but as wrong as can be about your not counting. The war would long since have been won by Germany had there not been, right here in Canada, an immense army of Dependables stretching all the way from Labrador to Alaska and every one of them knitting and sewing in the way known only to Dependables. That endless stream of Red Cross supplies that started as soon as war was declared and has never slackened is testimony enough to the existence of Dependables in Canada. The comforts for soldiers bear witness to the fact that there is a dependable generosity in Canada which links it right up to the trenches in spite of the intervening Atlantic.

Being a Dependable consists in the determination to be a Dependable. It was that one thing that marked the difference between Dr. Elsie Inglis, who died last November, and thousands of other women of equal ability and training. It was her dependability which caused her to accomplish a task which will forever be the high-water mark of a Scottish woman's devotion to duty and humanity. It was nothing but dependability that enabled her to lead 5,000 Serbian soldiers safely to England from Rumania by a circuitous route through Finland because of possible ambush laid by the revolting Finns. Transportation, housing, supplies, everything was experienced by this capable woman, and when the end was gained she paid for the success with her life.

"For every shell you fail to send over ten of us are killed," was the message from the trenches soon after the war began. Germany was sending ten shells to our one. English women read the message and read between the lines also. They knew that, sooner or later, it would be their work, their privilege to make those shells. Without even waiting to make sure that anyone else felt as they did about the matter they began preparing themselves to make munitions. They trained along the same lines as men. They were skilled workers when the munition factories opened their doors to women. There is the secret of the wonderful work of support and substitution carried on by British women the world over. They trained themselves and became dependable. One million English women volunteered for munitions making and Canada answered with her thousands of Dependables.

The world with difficulty accustomed itself to the thought of women facing real danger and doing arduous work. Women faced it because of some loved one in the trenches or some grave "over there." Scarcely had the army of munition workers commenced its magnificent work when another army of a quarter million organized to do whole or part-time work on the land. The same spirit of dependability that guided the other women workers characterized this new body. They prepared themselves for the work in hand and resolved to "see it through." Last summer saw the beginning of a land army of women in Canada and the coming summer will witness both an increase in the number of workers and a taking on of more kinds of work because of wide spread organization.

To-day, in England there is almost no branch of work in which women are not employed and in no place have they failed to make good. The quality of their work is excellent and, in some cases, the output has more than doubled that of men. Even quarrying and mining are open to women to-day and, in Canada the same condition will exist if the war continues. But every one knows that the Canadian woman is a real Dependable!