

WOMEN'S PART IN THE WAR

Following is an extract from a speech to be
delivered by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Minister Without
Portfolio, at Wembley Town Hall at 3 p.m. today
(Sunday):-

In this people's war women have an essential part to play as well as men. It is service and not sex that counts. Hundreds of thousands of women have eagerly responded to the nation's call and have taken their place in the women's organisations of the fighting services, in the civil defence and kindred services, and in wartime industry. We need the full time services of many tens of thousands more on war work. The factory is the supply depot of the front. Operations in the field cannot be separated from operations in the factory.

The advance in Libya, which is sending such a thrill of hope and expectation through the free and the enslaved peoples alike, could not have been mounted and undertaken with such bright promise of far-reaching success but for the growing outflow from war factories both here and in America. It is the workers in those factories who have made it possible for the Prime Minister to declare that: "For the first time British and Empire troops will meet the Germans with ample equipment in modern weapons of all kinds."

It is the workers in the factories who have made it possible for us to send large and growing supplies of war materials to the heroic armies of our gallant Russian ally. Supplies to the fighting front against the common enemy must not only be maintained but considerably increased. Output, more output, and still more output is urgently needed. We want more tanks, more guns, more shells, more planes, more bombs, more of everything that is needed to destroy the enemy's war machine. This increased output calls for increased labour power, and it is to the women that we must look for it. The women of England, like the women of Soviet Russia, can make a direct contribution to the crushing of the Hitler hordes by going into our war production factories and helping to bump up production to the victory level.