

Timaru Herald. 9 July 1919 (Papers Past) [08 April 2017]

WAR MEMORIAL.

FREE MATERNITY HOME.

To the Editor of the "Timaru Herald."

Sir, — In voicing my humble opinion as to the most sincere monument to commemorate the signing of the world's peace, one which will fully embrace the awful waste of life which has been felt in every household of the world, and left maimed and stricken husbands and sons with very little energy to fight the present strenuous fight of life, I wish to add my tribute to Mr Craigie's idea, to erect something that will be useful besides being a worthy monument of the occasion, but the idea does not satisfy my view of this world-wide holocaust. The mothers of these brave men and lads to my mind are the only human beings who have suffered in mind and body, whose life-blood has been sacrificed on the fields of battle. We men are prone to belittle the sacrifices made by the mother and give to the father all the credit. It is time to change these ideas and to place women first in all the plans and schemes for physically, morally and intellectually advancing the race of mankind. Do not forget that already there are schemes to advance the birth-rate of the British population. The human mind cannot tell how far-reaching is the power of the birth-rate for war or peace, certainly the bigger the percentage the greater the power. Every land is now studying the safest means of keeping the mothers, hoping to create a bigger surplus of population. Richard Seddon is credited with placing the sum of £500 as the worth of each child born in the dominion. How many millions have been lost financially and how many thousands who would have made good in this world, have been hurried out for lack of help in the time of need. This peace movement must carry with it the voices of the women of the world, if peace is to have any real lasting effect. They bore the child, and in many instances laid down their lives when their child went West. Are we going to recognise the mother's value in this world? Financially, she is worth to the State £3000, or six of the population—cold facts but true. I want to see a Peace Monument large enough to allow all the women to have free accouchement in their most trying time of their existence, and service to their country. What mother does not look at the expense, and what home can bear the financial strain? I put forward the plea for the mothers of the country. — I am, etc.,

FRANK WADDELL.