



Canadian Red Cross Society

ARMISTICE DAY IN FRANCE



CAPTAIN MURPHY, ACTING ASST. COMMISSIONER OF THE
CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY IN FRANCE, SUPERIN-
TENDING THE UNLOADING OF RED CROSS RELIEF
SUPPLIES IN A REOCCUPIED FRENCH TOWN,
ON NOVEMBER 11th, 1918

TORONTO, CANADA

The Canadian Red Cross Society

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Textiles—MR. T. D. WARDLAW

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Chairman of War Committee : MR. G. C. CASSELS

War Committee : MR. G. C. CASSELS, MR. F. W. ASHE, MR. C. CAMBIE

Commissioner :

LT.-COL. HARRY BLAYLOCK, C.B.E.

Assistant Commissioners :

LADY DRUMMOND, (England)

CAPT. D. J. MURPHY (France)

Information Bureau : LADY DRUMMOND

Inquiry : MISS EMILIA BOVEY

Parcels : MRS. DAVID FRASER

Newspapers : MRS. GIBB CARSLY

Drives and Entertainments : MISS SHILLINGTON AND MISS PERRY

Prisoners of War Department : MRS. RIVERS BULKLEY

Shorncliffe Depot : MR. AND MRS. HARCOURT VERNON

CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

Head Office: 123 BAY ST., TORONTO

No. 42

BULLETIN

FEBRUARY, 1919

Common Sense and Thoughtfulness Show in Hospital Service in Manitoba

To those Red Cross Societies, whether provincial, district or local which ask "How best can we help the returned men in our local hospitals?" the following report from Manitoba is submitted as the most complete answer possible to give. The report is an exact copy of the circular issued by the Manitoba Society.

MANITOBA BRANCH

Report of Hospitals Committee, January 7th, 1919.

Your Committee beg to report as follows :—

Five Recreation rooms at Tuxedo Military Hospital have been placed at disposal of our Society for equipment and maintenance. Four of these rooms are in the Administration building and are being fitted up as follows :—

- 1—Lounging and Reading room.
- 2—Billiard room.
- 3—Library.
- 4—Red Cross office.

One room in the Dairy Science Building is being fitted up as a combination lounging, reading and billiard room

All the above work is being done under the supervision of our representative—Sergt. S. Symondson, who is now a permanent employee of the Society. He is a returned man who has spent many months as a patient at the Tuxedo Hospital.

Your Committee, together with the Hospital Sports Committee (the latter composed of one man elected from each ward,—Sergt. Symondson and Capt. Bushfield, Chaplain), are now busy arranging a program for the ensuing year.

Already the following have been supplied at the Hospital :—

Revolving petty cash account for Officer Commanding and the Matron.

Diet kitchen—fully equipped.

Pianos and gramophones for Recreation rooms, gynasium and wards.

Easy and invalid chairs for Sun rooms.

Recreation rooms—decorated, furnished and supplied with popular magazines and daily papers.

Billiard room is now being furnished.

Library " " "

Red Cross office " " "

The room in the Dairy Science Building is now being decorated and is completely furnished.

Outdoor Sports—

A skating rink has been completed and is now in operation—twenty-four pairs of spring skates have been provided.

The Toboggan slide has been also completed and six toboggans provided.

Indoor games—

The following indoor games have been provided for Recreation rooms, etc.

Card tables and cards.

Checkers.

Chess.

Ping Pong.

Stationery—

Red Cross stationery is now in course of preparation for the writing tables.

Red Cross cars—

The Red Cross ambulance and Red Cross Touring car are now in constant use.

Your Committee found the men who had been provided by the Military Authorities as drivers of these cars (not under our direct control) to be unsatisfactory, and it was found necessary to employ a paid Red Cross chauffeur to run the touring car. He is in receipt of \$60.00 per month,—being in our employ is directly responsible to us. We have arranged with the Military authorities to provide him with board and room without cost to Red Cross. The driver of the Ambulance is still in khaki but, in order to establish some control, we are making him an allowance of \$15.00 per month in addition to his Army pay.

Street Railway Service

Your Committee found the street car service to Tuxedo Hospital unsatisfactory and, on taking the matter up with the Manager of the Winnipeg Electric Railway Company, have been successful in arranging for a loop on the east side of the Hospital, bringing the cars almost to the doors of the Wards. The Company have also promised to provide sufficient and regular service.

Christmas and New Year's—

Your Committee furnished a special Christmas and New Year's dinner and Christmas gifts to every soldier in hospital in Manitoba. These were greatly appreciated by the men and many expressions to this effect came to the Committee.

The providing of the above was a very considerable task, accomplished by the Ladies of the Society and direct credit for the success is due to them.

In addition to the patients of the hospital, every nurse, V.A.D., and all women workers of the military hospitals were presented with a box of candy and suitable Christmas greeting cards. Cigars were similarly provided for each officer.

Entertainment—

The Red Cross representative and your Committee have arranged to provide various entertainments from time to time, consisting of :—

Moving Picture shows.
 Pleasure outings.
 Theatre parties.
 Attendance at City Hockey Matches.
 Dances.
 Band concerts, and other platform entertainments.
 Billiard tournaments, etc. etc.

Theatre parties, moving picture shows, and attendance at hockey matches are provided by voluntary contributions of tickets by managers of various theatres and rinks.

As all the accounts are not yet in, it is not possible at present for your Committee to give all the particulars of items of cost, but will do so in a later report.

All articles of furniture, etc., provided by the Red Cross to the Hospital bear the Red Cross insignia and stencil.

Future Provision—

For next summer it will be necessary to provide outdoor sports such as tennis, basket ball, baseball, cricket, football, quoits, etc. Suitable grounds will have to be provided and equipment furnished.

All the above are now receiving the consideration of your Committee and the Sports Committee.

Other Hospitals—

Other hospitals in Manitoba treating military patients :—

St. Roch's.
 La Salle.
 Ninette Sanatorium.
 Deer Lodge.
 General.
 I.O.D.E.

are receiving similar consideration and requisitions are being obtained to cover requirements.

All requisitions for Red Cross supplies and services to Manitoba hospitals will receive the approval and sanction of the Officer Commanding at Tuxedo Military Hospital before being acted upon.

At the present time there are in Manitoba hospitals, military patients and staff as follows :—

	Patients	Staff
Tuxedo.	631	368
Deer Lodge	23	18
I.O.D.E.	19	8
La Salle	25	23
No. 3 Immigration Hall	23	15
General Hospital	4	
General Hospital I.S.C.	40 to 50	
St. Boniface	9	
Ninette	20 to 25	

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) D. R. FINKELSTEIN,
 Chairman, Hospitals' Committee.

Copies of communication from the Officer Commanding and the Matron, Tuxedo Hospital Winnipeg.

To : President, Canadian Red Cross Society,
Manitoba Branch,
Winnipeg.

The Special diet kitchens provided by the Red Cross Society has been in operation for some weeks and it is now desired to express appreciation of the services rendered.

Through this kitchen many delicacies, daintily prepared are provided for the very sick patients, for whom it was almost impossible to provide for suitably from our Hospital Kitchens, which are taxed to their utmost capacity. That the men thoroughly enjoyed the splendid dinner provided for them on Christmas and New Years Day was best evident by the cheers that were given. Your resident representative has, I consider, been most suitably selected. These services, together with the automobile, the ambulance, the motor truck, the skating rink, furnishing of the recreation rooms, billiard tables, pianos, and all supplies and comforts asked for which are always supplied promptly and in abundance, I wish to state are deeply appreciated and add most materially to the comfort of the patients, and the administration of the Hospital.

(Sgd.) J. J. FRASER, LT. COL.
Officer Commanding,
M.M.H. Tuxedo Park.

To : Secretary, Canadian Red Cross Society,
Manitoba Branch
Winnipeg.

Please accept the grateful thanks of myself, the nursing sisters and the whole female staff of the Hospital for the delicious chocolates you sent to us at Christmas. It was most kind of your Society to remember us and we fully appreciate your gift. I would also like to tell you how much pleasure you gave the men by those generous parcels you sent them. It seemed to be just what they wanted and that with the wonderful dinner you gave them, all helped to make their Christmas bright and cheery and they knew that they had not been forgotten by their good friend—the Red Cross Society.

With renewed thanks.

Faithfully yours,
(Sgd.) S. E. YOUNG,
Matron.

From George E. Scott, Esq., General Manager of the American Red Cross Society has come the following message to the Chairman of the Canadian Red Cross Society Council :

"I want to congratulate you on the wonderful work which your organization has performed during the long period of your participation in the war and to wish you much happiness and prosperity in this year of the new peace. Will you be good enough to extend to your associates our greetings and best wishes."

The Work Behind the Scenes in Red Cross Visiting

In connection with Red Cross work at the present time, one hears a great deal about the hospital Visitors, and the wonderful work done by them. It might also be interesting to know something of the organization that directs this work, in other words, the office side of hospital visiting.

On a form, supplied for the purpose, the visitor enters the name, number, regiment, needs and any complaints that the men may have. These lists or forms are sent to the office of the department, where an exact filing system is maintained. First the lists are gone over by the Convener to see if there are any complaints or special requests (if so they are attended to at once). The lists then go to the workers on the files to be entered.

A card containing the name, rank, number, regiment, hospital and visitor is made out for each man visited by the Red Cross, and on these cards is recorded all the articles given to the men. On looking up a man's card, it is sometimes discovered that he has had some of the articles requested only a short time ago; for example, a man asks, among other things, for shaving soap and a tooth brush. On his card he is credited as having had these articles two weeks ago, a line is drawn through both articles listed and the date on which he has had them marked on the list. As can be readily understood by this, instructions as to how often certain articles can be issued to each man are essential for an efficient department.

When all the names on the Visitor's list are entered, a small list giving the number of articles needed from the stores to supply all requests, also stating number of parcels on the list is made out. These articles, together with the original Visitor's list, are turned over to the staff of workers, whose duty it is to tie in separate parcels each soldier's request. When the list is complete, the individual parcels are tied together in one large parcel and addressed to the Visitor, and it is their duty to see that the parcels are delivered to the men, also to explain to them why certain articles are refused by the Department, such as the two articles referred to above.

As one can see from this brief summary, close co-operation between the Visiting and Office Staffs is very essential, for without this co-operation the results desired are very difficult to obtain.

MARIA C. MEADOWS,
Montreal.

The above brief outline of the actual work of the visitors who are responsible for the connection between the Red Cross and the men in hospital comes from a branch which was one of the first to inaugurate hospital service and put it on a businesslike basis. The various forms to which Mrs. Meadows refers in her article have been prepared for the work at the different hospital centres in Canada and definite instructions concerning the work sent out.

The following is the pledge card which is being used and the general instructions in connection with this important work :

VISITOR'S PLEDGE

I have read the regulations and suggestions governing the conduct of the official Hospital Visitors of the Canadian Red Cross Society, and by accepting the badge of a Red Cross Visitor, I pledge myself to do my best to discharge my duties for the benefit of those patients whom I have undertaken to serve, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Canadian Red Cross Society. I further agree to relinquish my position of Visitor at the request of the Committee in charge of Visiting, and in relinquishing my office will return my Visitor's Badge to the Society.

Date..... Signature
 Telephone No..... Address
 DUTY assigned to Visitor.....

(This card should be signed and filed for reference, at the Red Cross Office.)

N.B. All hospital visiting and service is subject to the consent of the O.C. of the hospital and care should be exercised to prevent Red Cross work interfering with the duties of the staff.

1. Each Branch in a hospital area should appoint a special committee to control local hospital visiting and other service. Visitors should be appointed by the committee and report to it on the forms provided for the purpose.

2. To ascertain the names of patients in any hospital two courses are possible :

- (a) To apply to the Officer Commanding for the Nominal Roll of a certain date with the request that after that date the O.C. should supply daily to the Red Cross Branch, first the Daily Admission State and secondly the Discharge and Transfer State *without diagnosis*.
- (b) To assign a Visitor to a ward and make that visitor responsible for getting the names and particulars concerning the patients.

The Branch should decide what policy is to be adopted and inform its visitors.

3. The Branch must settle upon a plan for Visitors and define the extent of their work. It is suggested that one visitor, either man or woman, should be assigned to each ward (generally about 38 beds) and should be regarded as being responsible for the visiting in that ward. It is wise to provide an assistant in case the visitor is unable to perform the necessary duties ; this had been found more satisfactory than two visitors in one ward.

4. The Branch or Visiting Committee should require visitors to sign the visitor's pledge and hand to the visitor the official badge. Each visitor on appointment shall receive the official Red Cross

visitor's badge to be surrendered at the termination of duty or at the request of the visiting committee. No visitor should be retained who refuses or fails constantly to comply with regulations.

5. The Committee in charge of Visiting should explain to visitors on appointment the regulations of the Society and of the Branch with regard to visiting and supply the necessary forms.

6. Visitors visiting out-patients should be supplied with the individual indent forms and have these countersigned by the Convener of the Visiting Committee, or person appointed by the Branch for this purpose.

7. The Committee or Office Department in charge of Visiting should be supplied with information with regard to Pay, Pensions and Patriotic Fund allowances so as to be able to assist the visitors in meeting difficulties raised by patients visited.

8. As the value of hospital visiting depends almost entirely on the visitors chosen Branches are strongly recommended to appoint visitors finally only after the latter have proved themselves suitable. When appointing visitors it should be clearly understood that the appointment is subject to cancellation. Branches are also reminded that the Council warmly endorsed the co-operation of the Red Cross with other Societies in the work of caring for men in hospitals. It is not necessary to select all visitors from among the members of the Red Cross Society.

Hopital Auxiliaire No. 2.

Wards 1, 2, 3, 4.

Troyes.

26, 11, 1918.

The Assistant Commissioner,
Canadian Red Cross Society.

SIR :

Having received the ten cases containing the precious things provided by your generosity, I am hastening to thank you for them from the bottom of my heart and send you herewith the lists signed and stamped with the Hospital stamp as desired.

Rest assured that although the Armistice has been signed nothing has arrived too late and these things so comforting and so well chosen have arrived so as to enable us to carry on till the end, for all our stuff is worn out and we lack a great many things.

With many thanks.

(Signed) MATRON.

Aide Aux Evacues de Hirson
Aisne.

30, 11, 1918.

Assistant Commissioner,
Canadian Red Cross Society.

SIR :

I have the honor to acknowledge reception of the two wagon loads of food sent.

In the name of our people who have been most sorely tried by four years of German occupation I wish to send you our warmest thanks.

I am deeply touched by the haste with which you have come to lighten our misery and I beg you to accept this expression of my gratitude.

(Signed by) THE MAYOR OF HIRSON.

GENUINE APPRECIATION

"Christmas here this year was a decided success, and in fact the best I have spent since leaving Canada, three years ago. And we have our Canadian Red Cross Society to thank for it all. Since entering hospital I can certainly appreciate this work. Though we were in English hospitals a representative of the Society called on us often and anything we wanted in the way of toilet or cleaning kit, tobacco etc., we got. The Canadians in any hospital I was in were far better looked after by their Red Cross than any of the other troops."

The above quoted tribute to the work of the Red Cross Society was written by Pte. F. B. Manuel of the 1st Can. Motor Machine Gun Brigade who spent Christmas in hospital at Epsom. The letter was not written to the Red Cross Society but to a military friend.

CASH DONATIONS RECEIVED BY HEADQUARTERS

from beginning of War to December 31st, 1918.

	BY PROVINCES				
	1915	1916	1917	1918	
Alta.....	\$40,729.88	\$ 63,914.75	\$107,724.65	\$271,936.20	\$484,305.46
B.C.	54,596.63	76,534.25	84,882.78	134,311.19	350,324.85
Man.....	89,034.45	147,156.60	230,196.77	497,990.95	964,378.77
N.B.	17,307.65	23,653.46	16,530.00	7,982.94	65,474.05
N.S.	23,744.74	23,642.16	11,939.30	333,055.48	392,381.68
Ont.....	707,204.40	542,098.10	555,299.46	1,378,704.34	3,183,306.30
P.E.I.	18,734.00	7,400.25	6,080.00	15,977.35	48,191.60
Que.....	78,886.45	28,195.25	167,854.15	212,347.14	487,282.99
Sask.....	72,606.19	217,452.40	332,978.01	1,116,560.27	1,739,596.87
U.S.A.	2,200.05	17,029.31	76,142.61	511,804.78	607,176.75
Yukon.....	3,429.24	10,506.02	8,209.82	7,332.06	29,477.14
Foreign.....		301.62		20,000.00	20,301.62
	\$1,108,473.68	1,157,884.15	1,597,837.55	4,508,042.70	8,372,138.08

Visiting Canadians in Hospital

By M. MACLEOD MOORE

When Lady Drummond was organizing the Information Bureau of the Canadian Red Cross, early in 1915, she asked a number of Canadian women in England, and English women interested in Canada, to hold themselves in readiness to act as hospital visitors to Canadian sick and wounded. There was thus a long list from which to draw when, after the never-to-be-forgotten Second Battle of Ypres, in April, 1915, there came to England a large number of Canadian soldiers who had been wounded in the fierce fighting of those days.

These visitors at once undertook certain hospitals and visited the Canadian patients in them. Later on there came to these hospitals Canadians who had been prisoners in Germany. As time went on and the Canadian forces in England and in France grew in size, more and more wounded Canadians were entered on the files of the Red Cross and were visited, receiving also from the Parcels Department many comforts and little gifts to cheer them in their shut-in state.

Now the number of visitors has increased so greatly that there are about twelve hundred on the roll, who visit over a thousand hospitals, looking for the sick and wounded to tell them that Canada never forgets them and that their own people are working for them and thinking of them.

Each official visitor chosen by the Red Cross is entered on a list and given a special badge. This is of crimson and white, bearing the Red Cross and a maple leaf under it, with the date of the first year of the war. Visitors wear their badges when they go to the hospitals, for the emblem acts as a passport, and also directs the attention of Canadians to the visitor. Each visitor is also provided with a number of stamped addressed envelopes and with special report forms. These have the name of the Red Cross at the head, and a space for the name of the hospital and of the visitor, with, below, spaces for the name, number, battalion of the man, and a space for notes about his condition. The visitors are expected to go to their hospital at least once a week and many of them go two or three times weekly. The letters home are based upon these reports.

From the Office one gets the list of admissions and picks out the names of Canadians, and their wards. It is also helpful to ask the Sisters if there are any new Canadians in, and to enquire among the men.

Most of the "Imperials," as our boys call them, take the keenest interest in the Canadians having visitors and receiving gifts from the Red Cross. They will take any amount of trouble to find a "Canada" when the visitor comes, explaining sometimes :

"He'll be glad of a visitor. He hasn't any friends here. It's hard on these chaps to be so far away from home."

And the Canadians themselves will always help a visitor to find men from the Canadian battalions.

"There's a new Canadian in the next ward. Have you found him yet?" says one man. "Hi, Jack," (to the orderly who happens to be passing), "didn't you say there was a Canada in Ward B?"

"Smith, in Ward D, was out when you came and he didn't know he could get some candy from the Red Cross. Could you get some for him, do you think?"

"The Red Cross is some society!" says a boy from the far West who has never been away from home before and has now been overseas for two years. "My mother and sister make things for it, and I guess they'll be glad to hear what a lot you do over here."

The men like to see Canadians.

"I knew you were one the minute you came into the Ward," said a man who was just over from France. "I was watching the door and saw you look all round and then speak to Sister, and I said to myself, 'I bet she's looking for Canadians!'"

It's almost impossible to find two Canadians who have not some point in common. The visitor asks, "Where are you from?" and at once the two are chatting like old friends about Toronto or Regina or New Westminster or Halifax, and examining together the family photographs.

The Sisters all like the Canadians. They are so cheery and so kind, and the nurses say, "they are so handy!" The patients well enough to be up often help to get the teas and to hand the cups and plates to the others and you generally find a Canadian assisting in the ceremony.

The Canadian boys are most determined "fans" for Canada.

"I guess I'm as good as any emigration agent," said one boy. "I have all these fellows with their eyes sticking out when I tell them about good old Canada. They all want to go there after the war."

Joking apart, it is a good thing for both countries that the men from Canada and those from the British Isles are thrown together, for it makes both sides sympathetic and friendly, which is to the advantage of the Empire.

No one can say enough about the courage and the patience of these wounded men and boys. They are marvellous. One sees them suffering pain and enduring monotony and loneliness without a murmur. Always ready to smile and reply to a question; never anxious to talk of their aches and pains; very appreciative, most grateful for attentions and presents from the Red Cross and from other friends who are interested in them; as brave in hospital as when they are fighting for Canada and for the Empire.

"Canadians must have very good mothers," said a nurse to the writer one day; "they are all so nice themselves." And we know both statements are true.

Educate, Agitate and Organize

THAT'S WHAT THEY DID IN SASKATCHEWAN

"You must be proud of your record," the departing visitor to the Saskatchewan Red Cross Headquarters was wont to murmur after having received facts, figures and printed matter in quantities. Statistics were apt to be hurled with embarrassing enthusiasm in the case of anyone who showed need of education in a cause so worthy of intelligent support.

The Saskatchewan Red Cross is indeed proud,—of three things. These are, first, of its right to claim recognition as an integral part of the world's greatest humanitarian movement and to spread by organized effort the simple truths and doctrines of the same; second, of a people who with almost 50 per cent. alien population and living in the most isolated and scattered communities would respond to education sufficiently to give their province first place in Canada for Red Cross organization, and first place in the world for Red Cross per capita giving; third, of a leader worthy of his trust and capable of inspiring the effort necessary for accomplishment. Every member and every worker for the Saskatchewan Red Cross must indeed be proud of these three factors.

Saskatchewan is a big province and covers much ground. The briefest review of its actual Red Cross work would cover much paper and would in the end fail in its purpose.

The actual business transacted through the provincial headquarters very often comes as a surprise. Divide \$50,000 into amounts ranging from \$1.14 to several thousand dollars but averaging from one to two hundred dollars, each amount a separate donation to be entered, receipted, credited to the correct community, which is not necessarily the town in which the bank is situated or the post-office from which the letter is mailed, and acknowledged with a personal note,—the personal element is an important factor in work conducted under conditions where so much is asked of volunteer workers in remote sections—and the financial showing for an average month of 1918 assumes proportions demanding respectful attention. Add to the \$50,000 in cash, shipments of supplies, ranging from 6 crocheted hospital ties to packing cases valued at several hundred dollars, sufficient to fill 200 regulation cases, each shipment acknowledged in detail from the packer's checked slip, each shipment recorded in a pretentious stockbook and credited to the organization as well as the community from whence it comes, and one becomes involved in mercantile problems which threaten to obscure other phases of the work. Add to the consideration of cash and supplies the constant need, which must exist in a province of such isolated communities as Saskatchewan, for accurate and detailed information, definite instructions, and encouragement, and one realizes the importance of keeping up the monthly letter and statement; the triweekly acknowledgements and notes in the daily papers of the entire province; the sending of speakers so generously provided in nearly every instance by the Great War Veterans' Association; and the promoting at special periods of campaigns with their attendant publicity, including sets of circulars for Reeves of Rural Municip-



Sir Richard Lake

Who, since becoming Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan, in 1916, has been President and guiding spirit of the Provincial Red Cross Society.

palities, teachers and secretaries of school districts, clergymen and other public men as well as posters and pamphlets to go into every town, village and hamlet to gather not only dollars but new branches and new recruits for the work.

To answer the daily mail requires not only a knowledge of the work of the Red Cross generally, provincially and locally but also a smattering of the latest quotations in the junk market, the freight and express rules and regulations as applied by each individual company, and a supreme self-confidence which will undertake advice on any problem which may be presented as the result of the linking up of many opposing types of human nature in a common enthusiasm.

"A released convict wishes to become a member of our Society ; what shall we do ? " is easier to answer than many simpler sounding problems. The constitution of the Society as it applies to local branches leaves much unsaid and it is to the Provincial Headquarters that in all faith and trust local societies turn for the interpreting of the unwritten clauses.

The executive of the Saskatchewan Red Cross includes one or more representatives of each judicial district in the province. Meetings of the executive committee have been held monthly since 1916, and have always been well attended. Journeys involving a three days' absence from home and business are cheerfully undertaken by the members of the committee living at remote parts of the province. This general representation and attendance has done much to impress the public mind with the importance of the work. In like manner the action of the executive committee in persuading the Provincial Government to bear all expense in connection with the Headquarters office, so that it can be said that every cent received goes forward for the purpose intended has done much to allay any feelings of doubt.

There are more than six hundred Red Cross charters in many varied sorts of Red Cross Club rooms throughout Saskatchewan. There are upwards of five hundred special junior charters, issued provincially, in schoolrooms both rural and urban. These charters represent service so splendid as to have left an indelible mark on the provincial character and an impression which must surely affect its future reputation. K.H.M.

(Colonel Noel Marshall, chairman of the Central Council was in Regina on January 16, for the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Red Cross Society. He brought back an excellent impression of the splendid work which has been done by that Society.—Ed.)

The following letter has been received from the I.S.C.:

Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment.

"J" Unit,

Vancouver, B.C.,

January 4, 1919.

Mrs. Margaret Mills,

Superintendent,

Red Cross Headquarters,

163 Hastings St. West.

DEAR MRS. MILLS :

I have been instructed by Mr. Geo. H. Deane, Assistant Director of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment for B.C. to convey to you on his behalf and in the name of the Department, our sincere thanks in appreciation of your very kind efforts on behalf of the men who are being cared for under our Department.

Many of our men have written here, and if their letters can convey an expression of appreciation, then your efforts have been well rewarded. The task which you undertook was an enormous one and must have entailed endless time, labor and expense, which you have given not only generously but lavishly.

We also wish to thank you for the many kindnesses that you have bestowed upon our Students and Patients throughout the year, in so far as attendance to their personal home comforts in times of sickness and stress is concerned, and, in fact, we feel that without

the assistance of your kind organization, we would not be able to accomplish half as well the task that lies before us. Personally, my own knowledge of your Organization has been most delightful and the knowledge that you so unselfishly and untiringly give at our request, oftentimes gives one the necessary courage to overcome what seemed to be almost insuperable difficulties.

Yours very truly,
(Sgd) W. A. ROBERTSON,
Supervisor of Industrial Re-training for D.V.O.

Societe De La Croix Rouge Russe.
Le Delege Russe Pres De L'armee.
D'Orient.
A.O.S.P. 510.
4, 11, 1918.

Assistant Commissioner,
Canadian Red Cross Society.

SIR :

In reply to your letter of the 16. 9. 1918, I have the honor of informing you that the fifty cases dispatched by you on the 18th September reached me the 21st October.

In the name of the Russian Red Cross and of our soldiers I thank you most sincerely for having so kindly remembered us.

At the same time I enclose the list required.

With many thanks.

(Signed) DIRECTOR.

Hopital Auxiliare No. 6,
Goutances (Manche)
November 17th, 1918.

The Assistant Commissioner,
Canadian Red Cross Society.

SIR :

How much I thank you for the magnificent gift of clothing, pyjamas, shirts, etc., that you have just made to this little hospital. All things that come from Canada are dear to us, and each one of the articles that you have addressed to us indicates further to us the affection that Canada has for the French wounded. In the name of all those who are located here, thanks ; thanks in the name of the Medecin Chef, the nurses and the personnel. Happy in the victory that our brother Canadians have bought with their blood for us, we shall cherish forever, the souvenir of your devotedness towards us.

God will bless all those who have aided in the task of caring for our "braves." That they may all be assured of our acknowledgments. My respectful thanks to the Comite of the Red Cross and to you Monsieur le Commissaire.

(Signed) SUPERIEURE.

Use Materials on Hand, But Don't Buy More

In view of the withdrawal of the privilege of free transportation accorded the Society, together with the relative needs of cash and supplies for the future the following policy is recommended by the central executive to its Branches :

(1) No further cash expenditures upon supplies and materials of any kind unless needed by the Canadian returned soldiers in Military or I.S.C. Hospitals in Canada.

(2) The collection by Provincial and District Branches of all supplies and materials in the hands of Local Branches and Auxiliaries before March the 15th.

(3) The shipment of all such supplies to the warehouse between that date and the 31st of March, retaining only such material and made-up goods as are estimated to be necessary, in each Province or District, for the needs of hospitals within its own area of jurisdiction.

A letter written by Mrs. Potter, matron in charge of Red Cross supplies in Vladivostock, on January 3rd, gives some idea of the distressing condition under which Red Cross work at that remote point is being carried on. The letter explains that no adequate quarters had at that time been secured for a workroom and in a corner of the Y.M.C.A. warehouse, the matron, assisted by a Russian and five men from No. 11 Canadian Hospital put up individual parcels in personal property bags for all the men, and sent 740 packages with a card of greeting in Russian, to Russians up the line. The non-arrival of the boat bearing the Christmas supplies from the Canadian Red Cross Society and the Canadian War Contingent Association, coupled with the lack of proper workrooms made it difficult to uphold the reputation of the Red Cross, but the best that could be done under the circumstances was accomplished.

Excellent advertising for Canada is found from day to day in the *Canadian Daily Record*, published in London, in facts and figures which appear concerning the Red Cross supplies which reach England from Canada, and are distributed throughout the various hospitals. For instance the issue of December 20th, proclaims a record Red Cross week with 10,000 cases of supplies from Canada which are enumerated province by province. Special stress is laid on 8,213 cases of apples and 50 cases of maple sugar. In the same number, another article gives an itemized statement of the cigarettes, socks, shirts, pyjamas, etc., which were shipped to England by the Society. These figures include 13 tons of candies and maple sugar.

Without this Help How Much More Must Servia Have Suffered

Detached statements and acknowledgements of gifts of money and supplies do not carry the same impression as one general statement. The following is the complete list of the donations which have gone from time to time from the Canadian Red Cross Society to the Serbian Red Cross and Serbian Relief.

The cash donations to Serbian societies during the period of the war amount in all to £10,507 18s. 10d. This amount is made up year by year as follows :

	£	s.	d.
1915.....	1,160	15	3
1916.....	5,559	4	7
1917.....	1,787	19	0
1918.....	2,000	0	0

The summary of supplies which includes 7228 cases covers a period from the beginning of May, 1917 to the end of 1918. The summary is as follows :

Cases	Averaging Items	Goods
20	3,672	Bandages, asstd.
20	3,728	“ chest
50	24,102	“ MT
10	913	“ Scultetus
20	3,580	“ Straight
50	8,378	“ T
20	10,456	“ Triangular
30	4,786	Binders (abd)
10	2,733	“ asstd.
10	2,404	“ cotton
10	1,000	Blankets
30		Dressing, surgical
10	50,000 yds.	Gauze
32	1,320	Gowns, Dressing
50	131,787	Handkerchiefs
6	2,088	Housewives
33	1,109	Jackets, Bed
48	2,002	“ Pneumonia
50	4,390	Pads, Bed
10	1,067	“ Surgical
100	600 7 lb. tins	Peaches, canned
89	26,602	Pillows
10	539	“ Rest
132	38,724	Pillow slips
900	5,400 7 lb. tins	Preserves
2,483	89,388	Pyjamas
7	56	Quilts

Cases	Averaging	Items	Goods
296	16,860	..... Sheets
1,384	62,280	..... Shirts, Day
25	1,500	..... " Hospital
20	7,077	..... Slings
14	2,012	..... Slippers
17	10,200	tablets..... Soap
1	204	..... Socks, bed
898	121,230	..... " day
1 Specially addressed
48	10,011	..... Stretcher caps
7	1008	..... Sweaters
229	51,609	..... Towels
23	4,998	..... Under drawers
24	5,004	..... " vests

The following is a translation of a letter received by the Canadian Red Cross Society :

Town of Douai,
November 12, 1918

To the President of the Canadian Red Cross,
Toronto.

Sir :—

On the occasion of his visit to the town of Douai on the 10th of November the President of the French Republic did me the honour to hand to me, for the benefit of our stricken town, the sum of ten thousand francs, on behalf of the Committee of the Canadian Red Cross, Toronto.

In the name of the Commission of our Principal Citizens, at present charged with the administration of the town, I have the grateful duty of conveying to the Canadian Red Cross Society, Toronto, the cordial thanks of our citizens for its practical assistance and for its generous and humane sympathy. Of this sympathy, which was proved on the field of battle as it is now proved in this work of humanity, we shall always preserve a grateful recollection. A record of it will be kept in the records of our Commission under this happy date.

For the Committee of Citizens and its President.

(Signed) HENRI DUHEM.

Valuable and historic documents have been received by the Canadian Red Cross Society in Toronto from the overseas office in the form of original letters received from the Mayors and Corporations of various towns in France and Belgium which benefitted by Red Cross assistance during the Canadian Corps' advance. In the words of the Overseas Commissioner : "Some of these, particularly that which is signed by the entire Consulate of Valenciennes, are of exceptional interest and value." Extracts from these letters are quoted in the report of the Overseas Commissioner which appeared in the January Bulletin.

Of Executive Concern

January 7, 1919.

Canadian Red Cross, Toronto.

Conditions Roumania and Serbia reported desperate. Legation here informs us cotton socks cost thirty francs pair Bucharest. We can use all socks, pyjamas and wool you can send. This applies to clothing of all sorts. Please advise by cable quantities and date of shipment.

BLAYLOCK.

Toronto, Jan. 10, 1919.

Blaylock, London.

Shipping sixty-five thousand socks, twenty thousand pyjamas, fifteen thousand property bags, ten thousand towels, two thousand sheets, twenty-five hundred shirts and other supplies.

MARSHALL.

AMENDMENT TO CHARTER :

It is expected that an International Red Cross Conference will be convened within the next three or four months, at which will be considered the extension of the powers and objects of Red Cross Societies under the Geneva Convention.

FREE TRANSPORTATION :

Upon receipt of an enquiry from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, enquiring whether there was any good reason why the present arrangement regarding free transportation of Red Cross supplies should not be discontinued on April 1st next the decision of the executive was that by that time the bulk of the shipments would have ceased and that the termination of the privilege would be quite satisfactory. At the same time was expressed the cordial appreciation of the Society for the generous treatment accorded to it by the C.P.R. Company.

CLEANUP OF FRUIT :

Since December the balance of the stock in hand at the Hamilton Fruit Kitchen has been shipped. This amounted to five cars to England, one car to Winnipeg and one car to Siberia and a half car each to Regina and Calgary. The value of these shipments amount in all to more than \$60,000, the car to Russia alone being over \$11,000.

The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Executive Committee on February 4th :

"That the Executive Committee of the Canadian Red Cross Society desire to record with feelings of deep regret their sense of the loss sustained by the Society through the death of the late Mr. John T. Small, K.C., and to testify their sincere appreciation of the faithful services rendered by him to the Society for twenty-six years as its Honorary Solicitor.

"Mr. Small was one of the original Charter Members of the Society, a Member of the Central Council and of the Executive

Committee. His long experience and knowledge of the work of the Red Cross, in which he ever took the keenest interest, were of great value, and his death deprives the Society of the advice of a faithful Counsellor.

"The Executive Committee desire to tender to his family their sincere sympathy in their bereavement."

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER :

Major David Law, Assistant Commissioner of the Society in France, has resigned his position owing to his having to return to Canada for private reasons. Captain D. J. Murphy who has been rendering valuable assistance to the work in France has been temporarily appointed as Acting Assistant Commissioner for the short period in which it is expected that the need will continue.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held on February 4th, Mrs. H. P. Plumptre was asked to accept the invitation of the American Women to represent the Canadian Red Cross Society at their Victory Dinner and Conference to be held on February 12th. A place on the programme was arranged for Mrs. Plumptre. Unfortunately, Mrs. Plumptre was unable to go to Washington.

D.G.M.S., Canadians,
133 Oxford Street, W. I.
11th January, 1919.

Colonel H. W. Blaylock, C.B.E.,
Canadian Red Cross Society,
London, W.I.

DEAR COLONEL BLAYLOCK :

I desire once more to express my sincere appreciation of the generous conduct of the Canadian Red Cross Society in their free distribution of Xmas gifts to the Canadian soldiers in hospital.

The gift of apples was most timely, and nothing could give greater pleasure to the men who have been so deprived of this peculiarly home-like fruit.

On their behalf I desire to offer formal and sincere thanks to the Canadian Red Cross. Happily, this is the last Xmas upon which the distribution of gifts will be necessary.

I am,

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) G. L. FOSTER.

D.G.M.S., Canadians,
133 Oxford Street, W. I.
11th January, 1919.

Colonel H. W. Blaylock, C.B.E.,
Canadian Red Cross Society,
London, W.I.

DEAR COLONEL BLAYLOCK :

Upon the opening of the Canadian Red Cross Officers' Hospital, Petrograd Hotel, I feel bound to write to you to express the great obligation this Service is under to the Canadian Red Cross Society, for the institution of this important centre for the care and treatment of sick and wounded Canadian Officers.

I appreciate to the fullest, the difficulties the Society has been obliged to face in equipping this hospital, and I am full of admiration of the courage with which these difficulties were so successfully met. The arrangements leave nothing to be desired, and this hospital will serve all purposes until the last casualty is evacuated.

Again assuring you of my appreciation and thanks,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) G. L. FOSTER.

Financial Statement

SUMMARY

December—1918.

Alberta.....	\$ 793 25
British Columbia.....	11,091 69
Manitoba.....	200,000 00
New Brunswick.....	196 35
Nova Scotia.....	25 00
Prince Edward Island.....	1,078 86
Quebec.....	76,565 63
Saskatchewan.....	333 00
Yukon Territory.....	225 00
U. S. A.....	691 75
Ontario.....	357,072 24
Cuba.....	20,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$668,072 77

January—1919

Ontario.....	\$ 26,646 58
Prince Edward Island.....	619 02
New Brunswick.....	25 00
Quebec.....	1,736 09
Saskatchewan.....	5,677 60
British Columbia.....	5,349 10
Yukon Territory.....	550 00
U.S.A.....	120 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 40,723 39

Personal Experience from the Information Bureau

No one dreamed, when our last report was prepared, that it would be the final one to be issued under circumstances of active warfare, that Peace was so near. Between the issue of that last report and this we have lived through unforgettable hours, days full of pride and glory and infinite pain, for when the maroons thundered and the streets of London filled, on the morning of Armistice Day, with cheering, happy, exultant crowds, there were many whose first thoughts of thankfulness and sympathy in the national rejoicing turned to a prayer for courage. For them the future would bring no sound of a well remembered voice, no cheery greeting, no footstep to make the heart beat—nothing but a proud memory. In the hour of victory one could not forget, here especially when we work among the wreck and aftermath of war, the men and women who have died to bring peace to a tortured world. Nor could we forget those who mourn them. Of them all it might be said : “They whose hearts are high—Those shining spirits by the world untamed, may at the end, unshamed, look on their days gone by.”

Since the conditions of the armistice have been enforced, there has been a constant stream of visitors at the Information Bureau, returning prisoners of war, some of them, poor souls ! looking, as one of our workers put it, as if they had just waked from a nightmare—wives of soldiers anxious to know how and when they might return to Canada ; wives of officers, many of them for a long time connected with the work of the Bureau, in a whirlwind of glad farewells since they were to be home by Christmas time, the wonderful Christmas to which we look forward with such strange hope and joy ; folks in search of missing relatives, men who have fallen among thieves, find themselves penniless and turn to their Red Cross as a friend ; all and sundry, have come to the Bureau and we hope, acknowledge its power, its sympathy and its practical methods. “Our Red Cross is the best there is,” said one of the men in Hospital the other day, and though his evidence could not be termed impartial the tribute paid to the organization was none the less sweet.

The sudden and terrific onset of work, following the opening of the August offensive, coupled with the influenza scourge, from which London has suffered in common with the rest of the world, resulted during November in about 50 per cent. of the workers at the Bureau going off duty. This will explain the delay in the issue of this report, for it can well be understood that it is humanly impossible to double, sometimes treble one’s duties, and at the same time collect statistics from under-manned departments. It is, however, a source of pride and gratification to the Bureau that in no branch of its service did the work fall below the average of efficient and prompt despatch, thanks to those who worked extra hours, or took a sick friend’s place at the office table. Since the middle of November work has appreciably slackened although there is still enough to occupy the Society in this special branch of its efforts, for an armistice does not suddenly cure sick or wounded men, and

the hospitals on this side of the Channel will continue to receive toll of the wounded from the hospitals in France. So although there is not the same undue pressure of work, the wounded and missing, Parcels, Casualties and Hospitality Sections, still find each day as full of work as the last, and none too long for all that has to be accomplished. Appeals for assistance vary from a request to visit some sick or lonely old mother, to furnish a character for some prospective bridegroom.

OFFICERS' HOSPITALITY

There has been no lack of invitations from kindly hosts and hostesses to officers, Scotland and Ireland being the countries most desired as a rule by the guests. The following letter from an officer, tells its own tale of appreciation :—"Just a note to say that Lieut. — and I have returned from our leave to Ireland where we had a perfectly delightful holiday. We are all unanimous that we have never before enjoyed a leave half so much, and loud praises for the kind hospitality of the Irish wherever we go. We spent four days in Dublin, ten days in Belfast, two days in Cork, visited Blarney where we kissed the Blarney stone, took the Killarney Lakes trip, and visited Queenstown. The families in Belfast were kindness itself to us, and couldn't do enough for us ; and we were delighted to know such nice people. In conclusion I want to express my hearty appreciation to you for the splendid work of the Canadian Red Cross in England, by which convalescent leaves for us are made so enjoyable and perfectly home-like."

HOSPITAL VISITING

The number of our hospital visitors increased greatly after the beginning of the August offensive and we received intimation from countless hospitals, hitherto unknown to us, of the arrival of wounded Canadians. Every effort was of course made to secure Visitors for these hospitals, and so far, in almost every case this has been done. As our men have passed into the Convalescent stages many of them have been assigned to British Red Cross Hospitals, where they have been brought into closer touch with English people, forming pleasant friendships and earning for themselves a reputation that reflects only credit on Canada. This is a clever bit of criticism written by one of our visitors, an Englishwoman :—"I should like to say that in my opinion, the Canadian authorities are pursuing an extremely wise course in allowing their men to sojourn for part of their care in Red Cross Hospitals about the country. The men are almost invariably popular. They show good-breeding and unselfishness, and a disposition to be just as helpful in little ways as their limited capacity allows. They are first class emigration agents, and get to know their British comrades in arms and the British get to know them in a way otherwise nearly impossible. People are always kind to them, and they make the best possible impression upon those they meet. It would be a great pity to interfere with the work of consolidating the Empire which these men are unconsciously performing all over the country, when they are allowed to remain a short time in our Red Cross Hospitals." Much kindness, as this lady says, is shown our men in hospital. There comes particularly to our mind for instance the continual courtesy of Mr. and Mrs.

Campbell of Finchley, London, N., who day after day called at the hospitals in their vicinity and take as many as five men at a time for a drive in their automobile. There are few treats so much enjoyed by a wounded man as a drive, which is of wonderful benefit to him. The swift run through the fresh air, the change of scene, the kindly interest of his driver, all help to send him back to the ward refreshed, so it may well be imagined how great a debt of gratitude we owe to Mr. and Mrs. Campbell for their unselfish kindness to our men.

The work of a hospital Visitor is not always as easy as it sounds, and in times of stress, like the big rush in August, one has to nimble both heart and mind. The wounded have perhaps arrived in shoals and each man needs prompt attention. Here is the description of how one of our visitors in the Midlands tackled such a problem. It reads amusingly now that the struggle is over, but must have required a deal of energy and good will to accomplish:

"One week between 200 and 300 Canadians arrived in the—hospital, the majority of whom did not possess so much as a tooth brush or a handkerchief. Two of the usual visitors (one of them possesses a motor) were away on a holiday. The hospital is six miles away, and my mother and I on the first day made several journeys by bicycle taking as many Red Cross "Kits" as we could carry. Next I appealed to a young married lady who has a small car. She agreed to be at the railway station at 2-15 p.m. where cases containing 200 kits awaited us. With the help of the woman porter these were opened. My friend had brought two light trunks and several dust sheets. We packed the kits into the trunks and hoisted them into a barrow, trundled it along the platform, lugged the trunks up the steps, and roped them onto the car. We reached the hospital at 3 o'clock. An orderly unloaded for us, remarking that he wouldn't care to carry the trunks very far! We piled them on a stretcher in a very unscientific way, for on trying to wheel it up it tipped—! and there was an avalanche of kits in the corridor. The Matron kindly came to our assistance, and a Sergeant volunteered to wheel the stretcher to the different wards, where I was busy distributing them till nearly 7 o'clock, and arrived home, tired, but happy that every man was supplied with necessities. It is interesting to note that the men usually chose a blue or flowery patterned bag in preference to khaki, though they are most grateful for all."

There are two sides to every page in a record, and it gives one pleasure to read and turn the following leaf which is among the annals of our Hospital Visiting Section:—

THE VISITOR'S SIDE: "The work has been a great pleasure and interest to me and I have much enjoyed it and the feeling I was able to help in ever so small and humble a capacity the splendid work of the Red Cross Society and of the Canadian Branch in particular."

THE SOLDIER'S SIDE: "Since my wound will now permit me I desire to write and express admiration for and deep appreciation of the Canadian Red Cross Visitors. Whilst in Hospital at—the official visitor came frequently to see us, brought us Canadian books and papers, invited us to tea, and, in short, showed us every possible kindness, did everything she possibly could to ensure our comfort and peace of mind. A more sympathetic, tactful, or woman-

ly woman it would be very hard to find, and I much regret that her health has not been satisfactory of late, owing perhaps to the untiring efforts, and successful ones, too, in many directions on behalf of my wounded brothers.

It makes me proud to think that we have the privilege of fighting for such dear women as these, and encourages and inspires us to carry on and fight harder when things are very dark. I feel deeply the inadequacy of mere words to convey my gratitude for the wonderful work you and your co-workers are doing for us daily."

The lady whose work reaped this golden harvest of gratitude is an Englishwoman, and one of the many who work with unselfish zeal for the Society.

LETTERS TO RELATIVES

These go out in their hundreds daily, and from across the sea there return the thanks of many an anxious wife, or mother, whose worry has been removed, or at any rate relieved by the prompt report of the Bureau acting on information from the hospital Visitors. A few extracts from letters will make pleasant reading: "I want to thank you for your trouble, and also for the information, for you know the boys always try to keep the worst from the home people. He says he is improving nicely now, and also speaks very highly of how the Canadian Red Cross looks after the boys over there, and says they should be well supported by the people. I can say I think every one in this town is trying to do their bit to help you all."

"I received your most kind letter, and I am very grateful to you for taking so much interest in my dear husband, also myself. I feel more settled now I have got to know he himself is alright."

The following was an answer to a letter from one of the Visitors to the mother of a very sick man. She lives in the far north of Scotland. "On behalf of my mother I write to thank you for your very kind letter about my brother. It is a simple matter to express thanks or gratitude, and doing the good work you do, you are no doubt used to receiving it; but if you were suddenly removed from the endless flow of life and activity in a great city to the infinite quietude of a little corner of the earth like this you would see in a flash how deep thanks can be, and how true gratitude. My mother has read your letter many times, and each time she is struck afresh with the kindness there can be in a world where, for years, there's been little but cruelty and suffering."

NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT

During the months of September, October, and November the work of this department has increased considerably owing to the large influx of the casualties to hospitals in England and France. Two hundred and thirty-five bags of mail have been received from Canada. The papers seem to be very much appreciated as is evidenced by the numbers of messages of thanks from the men and through the medium of the Visitors. "They were so pleased with the papers, and I cannot help thinking the newspapers are the thing they appreciate most of all."

"Many thanks for last bundle of papers received with gratitude and delight. Am losing no time in letting you know my change of address. Believe me it is a real treat to be able to get your home town papers in a place like this." "There are a large number of Canadians in this town (Rouen) and I assure you that they appreciate their home papers in a manner that would gratify you if you could see them." "The papers are appreciated beyond words."

PARCELS DEPARTMENT

Early in the month of November a letter came to this Bureau from a soldier who was serving in France. He said his sister in Canada had begged him to write something for her Red Cross Circle that might bring home to them some of the realities of war. He had had a "burst of inspiration" and had sent home as the result the description of a personal experience on the Somme in 1916 a stand-to, an attack,—a blighty,—and the sequel. As the sequel concerned ourselves we might like to have the enclosed copy of his effort. He was one of our devotees, and a devotee worth having to judge by the skill with which his tribute was penned. We cannot quote it *in extenso* but give its concluding paragraph:—

"On a train somewhere in England, a post card was handed to him 'From the Ladies of the Canadian Red Cross' wishing him luck and asking him to mail the card to them if he wanted anything. He put the card away. He was in England now. What more could he want?"

"For a few days he was content to sleep most of the time, waking for meals, or a wash or dressings. Then he found that he could get up and put on his hospital clothes. He began to take an interest in his appearance. He needed a shave badly, and he had no razor, he had no tooth brush. He wanted to write home and he had no paper. Also he had not a cent to buy anything with, and not an acquaintance in the country. Home and friends seemed very, very far away.

"And then he thought of the Ladies of the Red Cross. Wasn't this just what they gave him that card for! It was already stamped. He filled it in and dropped it into the mail box. A day or two later the parcel arrived, and he opened it eagerly. Everything he had asked for was there, and a bit more besides. Razor and brush, and soap, tooth brush and paste; hair brush and comb and knitted wash cloth, which was mighty handy for a one handed man. Handkerchief, bootlaces, writing paper and envelopes and pencil in a nice little case; chocolates, cigarettes, pipe and tobacco; he hadn't asked for half of it, and there wasn't one thing in it that he didn't need. The Ladies of the Red Cross, why that was the folks at home. Home was a long way off, but the folks were still looking after him.

"He sat down to the table and drew the new writing pad towards him, weighting it with a paper weight to take the place of the arm that was in the sling. If his thoughts had been put into words they would have been—"God bless the Ladies of the Red Cross."

In the light shed by this little human document the following figures are no longer statistics, they show the mercies dropped as the gentle rain from Heaven upon suffering lads who had done their best for Canada and the Empire. The totals are large—but the need

was great, and the Parcels Dept. often shorthanded or suddenly bereft of its workers, packed and dispatched comforts by the thousands, with no loss of time, for Hospitals in France or this side of the Channel. These were dispatched from this office :—

From October 14th to November 23rd, 19,068 parcels (Including comfort bags for France, 1,442,088 cigarettes, 8,438 pkts. tobacco.

"Parcels" may be translated as anything from chewing gum to grapes and champagne, or a pair of socks to a French dictionary. Anything a man asks for is sent to him, if the request can possibly be gratified. This is what a mother in Canada writes to say after hearing that her boy is helped from day to day with fresh eggs, soup, wine and fruit : "The Red Cross is truly a great institution. I have ever admired its working and have tried what I could to aid its noble work, but the experience of the past two months has made me feel I owe a debt I shall never be able to pay."

When brain and heart and body are flagging, in a rush of work it is pleasant to open the day's mail, and to come on this :—"One thing is certain—the name of the Canadian Red Cross is revered and admired by both Canadians and Imperials everywhere. There has been no other Society to even compare with it, and now to think the work will fairly soon be over ! but it certainly is crowned with glory forever and ever."

Our correspondent has made only one mistake in wreathing her beautiful wreath of immortelles. Our work is not nearly over ; not yet awhile at least, and as long as there is a Canadian wounded or sick this side of the Atlantic he will be mothered by the great mother of all—the RED CROSS.

London, 7th Dec., 1918.

I. C.

THANKS FROM THE FLEET

Lord Charles Beresford has sent the following acknowledgment to Colonel Blaylock, Chief Commissioner Overseas of the Canadian Red Cross Society :

"I am informed by our Honorary General Secretary, Mr. E. Jerome Dyer, of your renewed help again this year in the shape of 1,176 cases of apples for the use of the Fleet.

"I hope that you will accept and convey to the Committee of your organization my own and my Committee's very hearty thanks for this generous gift in which I am sure I may couple the grateful thanks of our Navy.

"It will interest you to know that as apples are invaluable to the men's health and so much liked by them, we decided recently to make a Special Thanksgiving to the Fleet of one million lbs. weight of this fruit. Owing to the failure of our home apple crop this year we are finding our effort a very difficult one and thus your welcome and most kind gift comes in very opportunely. If you are getting over any further shipments later on you may perhaps be able to spare a further lot for our gallant sailors.

"With our renewed warmest thanks"

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

"BERESFORD"

Red Cross Work Continues In All Overseas Departments

4th January 1919.

The signing of the Armistice has, as yet, made little appreciable difference in our work, for where the work is growing less, the number of workers is also diminishing, so that everyone is still busy. But now that the Christmas season is over we may look to a gradual easing off of the work, especially in the Parcels Dept. There are still, however, thousands of Canadian wounded in hospitals who have to be visited and to whom in many cases special delicacies are sent in addition to the much coveted Kits from Canada. Many of our enquiries at present come from repatriated prisoners who are anxious to know what has happened to a relative or friend while the prisoner has been shut off from the world and his people.

Each day letters of appreciation and gratitude are received from those who have been helped by some department of the Canadian Red Cross Society and who wish to express what the service has meant to them. The Secretary of the Junior Patriotic Society of Chilliwack, B.C., writes :

"DEAR MADAM :—One of the members of our Society has mentioned to us the great kindness received by her brother who died at the Royal Herbert Hospital in October last, and we are enclosing a small draft which we would like you to hand to your authorized Visitor and ask her to buy some fruit—or anything you think suitable—and give it to the patients who are in the same ward in which Pte.—passed away. We wish, on behalf of our Society, to thank you for the care and comfort given by your wonderful Society to the above mentioned lad who was one of our Chilliwack heroes."

Again a Red Cross worker writes from Cheshire :

"My memories of the Canadian Red Cross are very happy ones, and the friends I made during my three years' work there will always have a special place in my heart. It will be a sad day when the dear old office closes its doors—although one is thankful that by then the need for Red Cross work will be over. One thing I am certain of, and that is, that the C.R.C. having been among the first in the field, will be one of the last to shut down, and that the work will be continued until the last moment. I think that all our lives, those of us who even took small parts in the work, will be proud of the fact. Just lately I have been going about the hospitals here looking like Santa Claus with the beautiful Red Cross stockings and apples. The poor boys who were not well enough to get the 12 days' Xmas leave, or who have no friends to whom they could go, were very depressed until they saw that the Canadian Red Cross had not forgotten them, when their faces simply beamed!"

The Canadian Red Cross workers wish to thank the Ontario Government for a Xmas box in the form of delicious Canadian apples, which they so kindly sent and which were much appreciated and enjoyed by those working in the office at Xmas time.

HOSPITALITY SECTION (Miss Torrance)

The Hospitality Section has been expecially busy since the signing of the Armistice for leave is being granted more generally

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and London is more crowded than ever with men in khaki. Many of them wish to be sent away somewhere to spend their two weeks leave. An officer for whom we have previously provided hospitality, from France writes :

"I hope to get English leave within the next week, and would very much like to spend Xmas in the country. If you could arrange this for me I would appreciate it very much. I will call on my arrival in town."

Needless to say he was provided for, and sent to the country as he wished.

A house has been taken over in Edinburgh by the Canadian Red Cross so those who wish may have an opportunity of visiting Scotland, and seeing this most interesting of cities, under the most delightful conditions.

The house belongs to a Mrs. Thompson, and has been most generously lent by her—completely furnished—to the Canadian Red Cross for this purpose. Mrs. Fraser-Tytler, also an Edinburgh woman, is acting as hostess. The officers write most enthusiastically of their visits there. Our Officer writes on leaving :

"DEAR LADY DRUMMOND :—I wish to express my gratitude for having been sent here, and to tell you how really comfortable and satisfactory the Club has proven to me. The location is convenient, and Mrs. Fraser-Tytler is kindness itself. She knows so many nice people, and she and they have been most kind in providing entertainment, in giving information. All the Officers who have been here since I came are greatly pleased and gratified to have such a comfortable house during their stay in Edinburgh."

PARCELS DEPARTMENT (Mrs. Fraser)

Xmas, of course brought much extra work to this Department, for gifts were sent to every Canadian in hospital, which meant much labour for the workers here. A letter received from one of our visitors gives an idea of how much the Red Cross gifts were appreciated in one hospital.

She writes :—

"DEAR MRS. FRASER :—I know the only reward that you want for all your hard work and thought, is to know that the men enjoyed their presents, so I am writing to tell you how it turned out.

"Queen Alexandra's Hospital. There were only four Canadian Officers there, one (Capt. — C.M.R.) was awfully amused at the stocking and delighted to have "good old Canadian apples again." I also gave the stockings to the two Canadians who were with the Imperials and the other Newfoundland. That left a good many, and as you said that I could do as I liked, I gave two to the Sister in Charge of each ward to be raffled for by the Imperials as a gift from the Canadian Red Cross. Several of the Sisters said that the men loved it all. They all said that they were much obliged to us. The men were so funny, our men I mean, one did not put away his stocking at all, and when I was in late on Xmas Eve, finishing up the fun by giving them cigarettes, he said he had opened everything, and eaten everything at once, so that he knew that he had it ! In a world where things go wrong at times he thought it safer to eat

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the things at once. I left two stockings to be raffled for by the N.C.O.'s and V.A.D's at the Barracks, also gave one to Sergt. — who has worked so hard to help us.

Letters of grateful thanks for parcels are numerous. One Officer in the R.N.V.R. at Hull writes :—

"The comforts which you so kindly forwarded to me arrived safely and are now being issued to the men. Everything was splendid and I assure you was much appreciated by the men and I wish to convey their thanks as well as my own for your great kindness and interest you have shown on their behalf."

Another Officer writes from Hospital in London :—

"I wish to thank you all for your kindness to me and especially for the very nice parcel of Maple Sugar which I have received from you. I have often heard of the splendid work being done by the ladies of the Canadian Red Cross and can only add mine to the appreciation already expressed."

NEWSPAPER DEPARTMENT (Mrs. Gibb Carsley)

The work in this Department is almost as heavy as ever, and it will probably be some time yet before the demand for newspapers slackens to any degree.

During the month of December, 122 Bags of mail were received and distributed. In December 250 copies of Canada were distributed weekly. The number called for for the first week in January is 225. Also the weekly number of copies of the "Canadian Gazette" has slightly decreased, 160 being sent out weekly, in December, and now only 90 copies are asked for. 3000 copies of the Canadian "Daily Record" are distributed weekly to the Hospitals in England. An Officer of the P.P.C.L.I. writes to this Department :

"Please allow me to send my thanks and appreciation for the "Canada" magazines and Canadian newspapers which you have been so kindly sending me while I was in hospital at Oxford. I left Oxford about ten days ago, and all the time I was there the papers arriving each week were most welcome."

The Department for enquiries for those reported killed or missing, while not as busy as in the time of hostilities, is still very busy. Numbers of unofficial reports are still coming in as a final effort is being made to get information from repatriated prisoners— friends and relatives of men who have been reported "missing", are making fresh enquiries in the hope that some of the men just returned from Germany might have a story to tell. Camps for repatriated prisoners have been established in different parts of England, and "Searchers" from the Canadian Red Cross are being sent to each of these camps to find out if any more information can be gathered from these men who have been silent, some of them since the first months of the War.

Letters of gratitude from relatives of men killed in action are many, and one feels in reading them what a great service has been done. It means so much to a wife or mother, to know that someone was near her dear one at the last and can tell her how he died. A mother writes :—

"I am very grateful to you for your kind letter of yesterday's date and for getting me some details from the Captain. They tell

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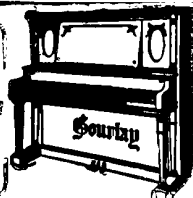
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me what I was anxious to know that is whether my son was unconscious at the end or able to send any message. I am thankful to know that he was spared suffering at the last."

Another writes :—

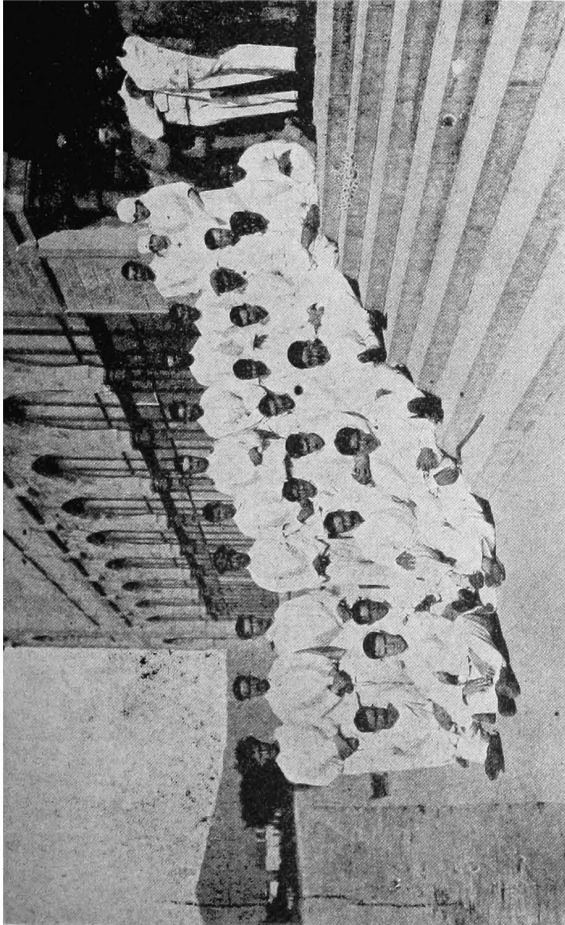
"I write to thank you with all my heart for all the trouble you have taken to find particulars concerning the death of my brother. I am deeply grateful to you and I do feel that the public cannot be too thankful or appreciative of such an untiring and splendid organization as must be yours.

With repeated thanks for your goodness."

There were 200 casualties among the Canadians during the month of December, mostly deaths in Hospital.

273 "Searchers'" reports were dealt with and 760 letters were written in answer to enquiries.

J. K. H.



A group of Portuguese sick and wounded in Hospital Militaire Portugais de Hendaye, wearing pyjamas donated by the Canadian Red Cross Society. Through the Chief Medical Officer of the Hospital the hearty thanks of these men come with their photograph.

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Side Lights on the Red Cross from Australia

(By J. M. C.)

Most people know how very 'flat' it is to arrive home after a long absence and find everything just as it was when you left. The "Welcome Home" Society of Melbourne grasped this fact. They could not tolerate the idea of men who had lived through some of the most stirring scenes of history, returning home and experiencing that 'flat' feeling. So they set to work to prevent it. The inexpressibly dreary surroundings of Port Melbourne are made gay with flags and banners, the waiting motor cars decorated with flowers and ribbons. On the pier itself, by special permission of the Defence Dept. as soon as ever their feet touched their native soil again, sprays of wattle (the national flower of Australia) gum leaves and boxes of cigarettes are handed to them with words of welcome. So much for a beginning. The gaily decorated processions of motors now starts on its triumphal progress through the main streets of the city. There is no particular organising of the traffic but by common consent ordinary vehicles make way for the Returned Boys, and the men themselves, hung round with a curious collection of kit bags and curios intermixed, the sprigs of wattle in their caps, wave and smile. Melbournians are not given to overmuch cheering and if the crowd is for the most part silent (except where a group of people acclaim some particular friend) it is none the less moved by the scene and here and there a "Well done boys" or "Welcome home" voices the feelings of everyone. One boy said to me, with genuine enthusiasm, "I have never enjoyed anything in my life as much as that drive. It was grand." Then the scenes at the barracks and at Red Cross Rest Home No. 1 where the immediate relatives of the men await them. No one who has lived through such a scene will ever forget it. Two or three hundred men snatched from the very jaws of death, many bearing marks of the struggle which they will carry with them to their graves, all showing signs of the strain through which they have passed, but inexpressible joy on every face seeking to express itself by looks and words. The laughter, the tears, the talk and chatter of children! Curios given away open-handedly to strangers who are working to welcome them and make them comfortable, as an expression of gratitude, or to their own relations for whom they have been carefully treasured on the long voyage. As each detachment reaches its native state each capital is the scene of similar rejoicings and so by one long triumphant progress they reach their own homes.

At the Rest Home, where men from other states may be spending the night, roll-call over, there is a rush for dinner, and then a still more impetuous rush for the office and the coveted leave pass. Here there is a fair share of fun. The Australian is nothing if not humorous. "Need I have a bed?" asked one. "It is usual you know" is the answer. "I'm used to boards." The sister considers. "For the credit of the Home you must. Take No. 88. Its your own affair what you do with it!" In the morning the night-orderly reports to the O.C. "No. 88 slept on the floor last night, Sir, beside his bed." Every man to his taste.

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A contrast this to a detachment of Remount men. They were all over military age, greyhaired weary veterans, who for two years had been serving their country amid the hot Egyptian sands looking after the horses while the Light Horsemen went to Gallipoli as infantry-men. The Sister found one of them in the dormitory looking at his bed. "I am just wondering" he said "if I will get into it now, or wait till to-night." He had not been in a proper bed for two years. Surely these older men have won their mead of honour as truly as if they had been in the firing line.

So much for humour. Pathos was represented as well. There was a tall, tragic-faced private, indescribably thin, suffering from shell-shock. In spite of all the care lavished on him week after week by the Red Cross he showed no improvement. Then the reason was discovered. He was living in terror that if he got too well he might be sent back again. Such a fate, however, was not in store for him. I last saw him in civies with a brighter, more hopeful smile.

Something of the spirit of adventure of the old settlers must have survived in a fourteen year old boy who came under the care of the Red Cross. An orphan and friendless he left Western Australia with the first contingent as a stow-away. The men adopted him as their mascot and with their connivance he managed to reach Gallipoli. Sent back from there by the Authorities and fearing to be returned to Australia, he ran away again in Egypt and stowed away on a transport taking British troops to Salonica. The British authorities sent him to England. Here he again evaded supervision and reached France. His extraordinary career came to an end here, for he was captured again by the Australians and this time failed to escape. At No. 1 Rest Home he proved worthy of his reputation, was constantly "c.b." and utterly spoilt by philanthropic ladies who admired his pluck. One of these offered to adopt him, send him to school and give him a good home. Thankful to get him off their hands the military authorities accepted her offer, and he was sent to his new home in Adelaide, S.A., with a detachment of returned men. For a time he lived in the lap of luxury but the wandering disposition was not to be so easily subdued. The last I heard of him was that he had again run away and could not be found. One wonders where such an extraordinary career will eventually end.

It is a curious fact that the blinded soldiers are some of the most cheerful of all. The A.R.C.S. has formed an After-Care Committee to work in close co-operation with St. Dunstan's. Australia has been more fortunate than Canada in the number of her soldiers who have been blinded. The total number last March was not more than fifty. Many of these men have had the advantage of training at St. Dunstan's, the general policy of the Government being that every such man should have the opportunity of going there should he wish to do so. Others who were wounded at Gallipoli, returned to Australia straight from Egypt. About eight live in or near Melbourne. Of these two are employed at the 5th A.G.H., one as a masseur and the other as a telephone operator. Two others live in the neighbouring suburb of Oakleigh, of whom one, an ex-St. Dunstanite, is a mat and basket maker, and the other a self-trained poultry farmer. The land on which their houses are built was given by the municipal

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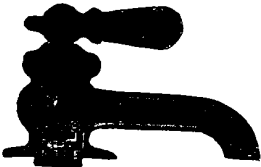


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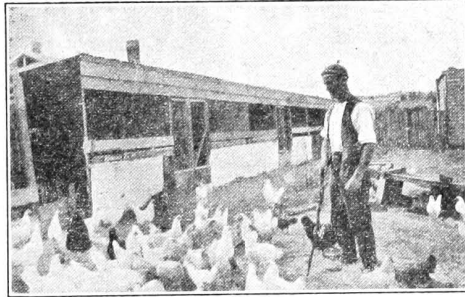
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authorities, the houses were built by the voluntary labour of other returned men, and the mayor of Oakleigh interested himself in starting them both in their respective trades. The Red Cross has been the means of obtaining various small additional comforts for them. Both men are married, one before he went to the front, the other after his return, blind. Two happier couples it would be impossible to find. The poultry farmer has a small son of whom he is inordinately proud, and he has proved himself an adept at looking after baby. The Red Cross has now provided him, out of a special fund for such purposes, with the means for purchasing a pig, and a dog and a white cockatoo complete the establishment. The basket and mat maker next door has quite as many orders as he can fill and he has now started squab-raising as a supplementary occupation. A third blind soldier has now taken up a plot next door again and I hope will prove a congenial third in the little colony. There is no lack of fun in these little households and their very blindness is often the subject of goodnatured jokes.

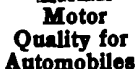


Although he has lost his sight, this soldier feels he has many compensations.

The Red Cross Society in Australia has an After Care Committee to assist the returned blind men.

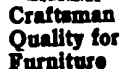
In N.S.W. there is another successful poultry farmer who received his training at St. Dunstan's. The After-Care Committee gives social evenings once a month to the blind soldiers and their wives and families (the expenses for which are subscribed privately). Recently returned men are welcomed home, the latest news from St. Dunstan's discussed, and the welfare of mutual friends enquired after. There is music, dancing, refreshments and much laughter. The Red Cross Society feels that this work is perhaps as important as any that it has taken up for returned men.

The stone-deaf man is more to be pitied than the blind man. The latter is sure to be in the midst of everything that is going on, the former lives alone a spectator of a silent show. There were two stone-deaf men in No. 1 Rest Home once. It was pathetic to see them. At roll-call they would stand with their eyes fixed on the V.A.D. sister so that they might not miss the glance she gave them



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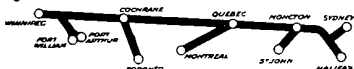
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when their names were called, which enabled them to answer as promptly as their companions. I have good hopes that one may eventually recover. He wrote from the country that a cow walked close up behind him and moo'd in his ear ! He heard and blessed that cow !

In many parts of Australia avenues of trees are being planted in memory of those who have fallen in the neighbourhood, thus forming a lasting and effective Roll of Honour. Each tree bears a brass plate and is planted by the next-of-kin of the fallen soldier, who also undertakes to keep the plate bright.

Thus do pathos, tragedy and humour meet together under the banner of the Red Cross and history will never tell one-half of the acts of kindness, or relate the story of one-half of the happy homes for which it is responsible in Great Britain and her overseas dominions.

Letter to H. Milburne, Dominion Superintendent of Red Cross Transportation from the Associated Field Comforts of Hamilton, Ont.

DEAR MR. MILBURN :

At a meeting of the executive of this Association a very hearty vote of thanks was moved to you for the many service rendered us. We deeply appreciate the tremendous amount of work you have done for us, but even more than that we want to thank you for your kindly interest in our work which has often been an inspiration to us.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) M. COUNSELL,

January 21, 1919.

Secretary.

Admiralty House,
Singapore, Nov. 26, 1918.

DEAR MADAM :

Major General Ridout, the General Officer Commanding at Singapore, has just handed to me a letter from Maj. Gen. Gwatkin containing a copy of yours of Sept. 24th, to him, giving a list of the warm clothing which your Society has so generously sent for the comfort of the troops in Vladivostock. On behalf of the Singapore "Vladivostock Comforts" Committee, of which I am President, I beg to convey to your Committee, out most grateful thanks for this extremely generous contribution. The consignment which you sent was all the more valued as so little real warm clothing was available at that moment and we had to wait for materials from Japan and Australia as, naturally there was no demand here for heavy flannel or wool and therefore the shops could not supply it. Since then, however we have been able to keep up a running supply of knitted things for our troops in Siberia.

Your timely aid has been fully appreciated and again we tender you our warmest thanks,

Yours sincerely,
"NETTA TUDOR."

(The foregoing letter is an acknowledgement from Lady Tudor for Red Cross supplies which have gone to Siberia in quantities sufficient for all demands.—Ed.)



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During a period of 9 months in 1918 the Paris Depot received 12,399 cases of Red Cross supplies and distributed 12,825 among 1,694 hospitals. During eight of those same months 15,590 cases of supplies were received at the Boulogne warehouse and 13,427 cases distributed. In distributing the supplies from Boulogne the Red Cross motor lorries travelled 78,619 miles.

The articles distributed comprise hundreds of items grouped under such heads as :

- Bandages and dressings.
- Bedding.
- Books and periodicals.
- Clothing.
- Furniture, hardware and cutlery.
- Games and accessories.
- Groceries.
- Jams, fruit and preserves.
- Medical supplies.
- Sundries and stationery.
- Smoking requisites.
- Toilet requisites.
- Electric lighting plants and accessories.

Clothing, which most concerns workers in Canada, distributed during the period of eight months included among other articles :

- 199,750 suits pyjamas.
- 265,353 pairs socks.
- 62,992 day shirts.
- 9,500 dressing gowns.
- 287,483 towels.
- 174,959 pillow cases, etc., etc.

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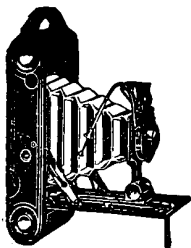
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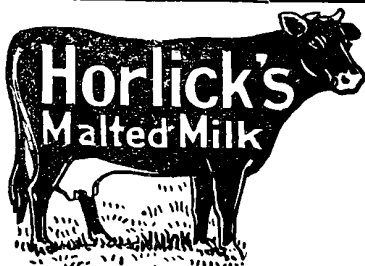
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