

# I.O.D.E. 35th ANNIVERSARY

THE DAILY MAIL, FREDERICTON, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1935

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## First Chapter Was Organized in N.B.

Mary Agnes Pease, Editor of "Echoes," Pays Tribute to Genius of Late Mrs. Clark Murray, Organizer of the Order--Mrs. John Black Organized First Chapter in 1900.

It is particularly fitting that the first Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire edition of a newspaper should be published in the Province of New Brunswick, for the reason that the first Chapter of the Order was organized in that Province on February 13th, 1900, by Mrs. John Black, of Fredericton, in immediate response to the request of the Founder, the late Mrs. Clark Murray, of Montreal.

The story of the founding of the Order and its development is an absorbingly interesting one. Its founder, the late Mrs. Murray, when asked what had inspired her to promote this organization, said that she was so impressed by the friendly attitude of the Canadian women to strangers when she came from Scotland to make her home in this country, that she thought it well to try to extend such friendliness by uniting the women of the Empire together for a better understanding of the British people and for service to King and country.

It is a tribute to Mrs. Murray's genius for organising that the system devised by her as a working basis for the Order is practically the same as that under which it still functions. Her plan was to have a series of primary Chapters located in the cities and towns in different parts of the Empire, these to be federated into Municipal, Provincial and National Chapters. Mrs. Murray lived to see the fulfillment of this plan in the organization of over 600 Chapters with a membership of some 25,000 in Canada extending through all the Provinces and as far north as the Yukon, and with additional Chapters in Newfoundland, in Bermuda, in the Bahamas, in India and in fifteen States of the United States of America, in which latter place the Order is known as the Daughters of the British Empire in the United States.

As the Order was organized during the South African War, its first activities were directed for the benefit of the Canadian soldiers taking part in that conflict.

### A War Memorial Which Affects The Living

During the years of the Great War, the Order collected and disbursed nearly six million dollars for the benefit of Canadian soldiers. Not satisfied with this colossal effort and financial strain, the members decided to establish a War Memorial which would benefit educationally the children of deceased or permanently disabled soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Of the Fund of over \$500,000 provided for this purpose, a portion was allocated to furnish bursaries in Canadian Universities for which only the children, born on or before Dec. 31, 1919, of deceased or permanently disabled ex-service men, may compete.

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MRS. J. R. INCE,  
National President of Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire. The first chapter of the Order was organized in New Brunswick.

## Carleton Soldiers' Memorial Chapter

Carleton Soldiers' Memorial Chapter of the I.O.D.E. was organized March 12th, 1920, by Mrs. E. Atherton Smith. This Chapter was an outgrowth of "The Soldiers' Comfort Association," which functioned in Woodstock during the war, hence the name, Carleton Soldiers' Memorial Chapter with the motto: "In hoc signo vinces" (under this standard thou shalt conquer.)

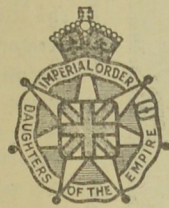
Since organizing we have had seven Regents, Mrs. A. D. Holyoke, Mrs. F. N. Currie, Mrs. I. B. Merriman, Mrs. G. Newham, Mrs. Gordon Bailey, Mrs. G. W. Gibson and Mrs. H. M. Belyea.

The Chapter was formed primarily to follow up war work and along with other Chapters devoted their energies to establishing a fund for bursaries as an I.O.D.E. War Memorial. Our Chapter stood high in the ranks of those contributing and was in second place among New Brunswick Chapters in the second year of the drive and maintained a high standard in succeeding years. Upon completion of this Memorial the Chapter was asked to stress educational work and this aim has always been kept in the foreground. Prizes are offered for patriotic subjects and an Empire Day programme has been given since the origin of the Chapter and later a history prize was added for the best work in this subject in the High School Entrance Examination; libraries to rural schools and calendars placed in the different schools, contributions yearly towards the completion of Poona School in India, and donations to the Public Library of our town.

We have also stressed charitable work, assistance to the ex-soldiers and their dependents, and child welfare work.

To their activities may be added donations to the Hospital for equipment, and also for furnishings for the living room in the Nurses' Home and the partial upkeep of the latter.

We have also taken pleasure in co-operating with military organizations in keeping alive the spirit of Remembrance Day.



## The Badge of the Order

The design is enamelled in colors, the Crown symbolizing Kingship, the seven-pointed star signifying the seven divisions of the Empire: the British Isles; Canada; India; New Zealand; Australia; South Africa; West Indies.

The Union Jack with its three crosses, the whole surrounded by a circle emblematic of the bond which unites the sons and daughters of the Empire in allegiance to the Sovereign.

The motto of the Order: One Flag, One Throne, One Empire.

### AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE ORDER

The aims of the Order shall be:

1. To stimulate and give expression to the sentiment of patriotism which binds the women and children of the Empire around the Throne and person of their Gracious and Beloved Sovereign.
2. To supply and foster a bond of union amongst the daughters and children of the Empire.
3. To provide an efficient organization by which prompt and united action may be taken by the women and children of the Empire when such action may be desired.
4. To promote in the Motherland and in the Colonies the study of the history of the Empire and of current Imperial questions; to celebrate patriotic anniversaries to cherish the memory of brave and heroic deeds and last resting places of our heroes, especially such as are in distant and solitary places; to erect memorial stones on spots that have become sacred to the Nation, either through great struggles for freedom, battles against ignorance, or events of heroic and patriotic self-sacrifice.
5. To care for the widows and orphans and dependents of British soldiers or sailors and heroes during war, in time of peace, or under sickness, accident, or reverse of fortune.
6. The attaining of any analogous object.
7. Members are pledged to promote unity between the Motherland, the sister colonies, and themselves; to promote loyalty to King and Country; to forward every good work for the betterment of their country and people; to assist in the progress of art and literature; to draw women's influence to the bettering of all things connected with our great Empire and to instill into the youth of their country patriotism in its fullest sense.

## PREMIER TILLEY PRAISES WORK OF I.O.D.E.

(By Hon. L. P. D. Tilley)

Since the inception of their organization, members of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire have been a power for good. They have held out a welcoming hand to new settlers, they have presented libraries and pictures to our schools, they have contributed to charitable projects too numerous to mention here, and they have, in general, worked for the betterment of Empire, Dominion and Province.

Therefore, it is with all sincerity that I take this opportunity as Prime Minister of New Brunswick, to extend, on behalf of the people of this Province, congratulations to the Daughters of the Empire upon their fine record of past achievement and upon their present activities. These women, who give so unstintingly of their time and energy to further worthy causes, are deserving of the fullest praise.

There is one thought I would like to pass along to the 1,200 members of the I.O.D.E. in New Brunswick. It is that they can be a considerable factor in helping this Province along the road to better economic conditions. We are at the present time sending outside our Provincial borders large sums of money for things which we can, and do, produce here. This money should be speeding up our business machinery and providing work and wages for our own people, instead of flowing elsewhere.

I would ask the Daughters of the Empire in this Province, therefore, to consider this seriously—and wherever possible insist on buying New Brunswick products.

## FIRST CHAPTER ORGANIZED IN CANADA AT F'TON

The Governor Carleton Chapter has the honor of being the first Chapter of the Order organized in Canada, Feb. 1st, 1900. The details of the organization have been given in "The History of the Order in New Brunswick," by the late Mrs. G. C. VanWart, and published in this issue. The original members of this Chapter (46) composed the Provincial Chapter in 1900, and continued to support all activities initiated by the National Chapter until 1910, when six primary Chapters were organized, three of which survive. It then became necessary to organize the Provincial Chapter on the present lines, and the first Provincial Chapter became a primary Chapter. It was named in honour of the first Governor of New Brunswick, Colonel Thomas Carleton.

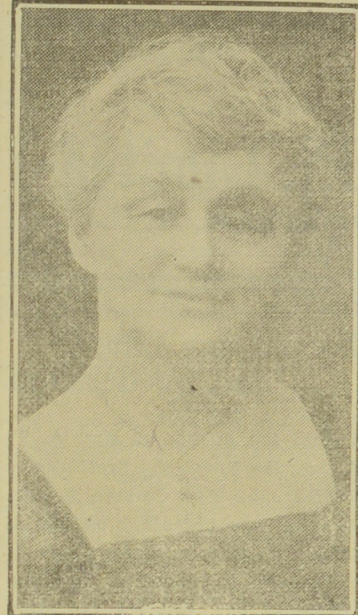
During the Great War its membership increased to 100. Mrs. John Black was the first Regent of this Chapter. Mrs. Black resigned in 1901, and Mrs. G. C. VanWart succeeded to the office, and continued when the Chapter became a primary Chapter to act as its Regent until her lamented passing on May 29th, 1929. This splendid record of devotion to the welfare of the country is unique in the annals of the Order. Mrs. J. Howard Richards was acting Regent until Feb. 1930, when Mrs. J. Harry Robertson was elected Regent. Mrs. Robertson had been the most efficient secretary of the Chapter for fourteen years.

Perhaps the most outstanding activity of the Chapter was the splendid service its members rendered during and after the Great War.

Three sets of War Memorial pictures (18 in each set) were framed. The first set was presented to the Fredericton High School. The Educational Work has been very generously supported. A large library and an up-to-date Encyclopedia has been presented to the Smythe St. School, a library to the York St. School, and Flag Wall Charts and Coat of Arms of Canada to every room in these Schools, and I.O.D.E. Calendars each year. Prizes are given in the seventh and eighth grades for the highest general.

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## History of Order In New Brunswick



LATE MRS. G. C. VANWART,  
Provincial President for 17 Years  
and Author of the Article on the  
History of the Chapter

## Loyalist Chapter, Saint John

This Chapter was organized on Oct. 17th, 1910, choosing the name in honour of the Loyalist City.

The Regents have been:

Miss Mary Trueman (Mrs. George Wood).

Miss Mabel McAvity (Mrs. John McKeigan).

Miss Winifred Raymond (Mrs. Geo. McNeillie).

Mrs. George Blizard.

Mrs. Hugh Mackay.

Mrs. G. Heber Vroom.

Miss Clara Schofield (acting Regent).

Mrs. W. L. Caldwell.

Mrs. J. Royden Thomson.

Mrs. John E. Sayre.

Miss H. Barnes.

Mrs. C. McN. Steeves.

We regret that minutes were not kept in the first few years, therefore, our early history is unrecorded; not until 1915 after the Great War had started do we find regular accounts.

In the short space allotted it is impossible to give anything like an adequate account of the work of 25 years. The first work was for the Free Kindergarten, supplying milk and biscuits daily and clothing, also sewing for the Evangeline Home and placing a tablet in memory of the Loyalists in Trinity Church; papers were read on Empire subjects at our meetings and the work though necessarily modest, was well sustained and thoughtfully directed, but with the clamor call for workers at the advent of the Great War, our members were found organized and ready for service. No undertaking was too large or too difficult. Seven members served Overseas as V.A.D. workers and two Nursing Sisters and many members wore the bar pin which showed a husband serving at the front.

Our National work at present, is to raise an Endowment Fund to place our Order on a firm foundation and provide a fund for expansion in numbers and usefulness.

Since the war generous help has been provided in the rehabilitation of returned men.

## History to 1926 Written by Late Mrs. G. C. VanWart—Mrs. Havelock Coy, Provincial Secretary, Continues Article To Date.

New Brunswick has the honor of having the first Provincial Chapter and the first enrollment of the Daughters of the Empire. On Jan. 13, 1900, Mrs. Clark Murray sent out her now memorable telegram to the Mayors of all the Provincial Capitals in the Dominion. A committee was formed and held one or two preparatory meetings and arranged for a general meeting to be held in the City Council chamber on Feb. 1.

### Organization in Province

To the auxiliary, later called the provincial executive committee and then Provincial Chapter, was entrusted the organization of the province. With the close of the South African War it was difficult to revive the interest or to convince people of the need of the organization. In 1901 the head office was moved to Toronto and many changes were made. We had a new constitution, a new badge and a new name. In 1902 we received our provincial charter. The first copy of Echoes was received February, 1902. Our Provincial Chapter carried on the work in New Brunswick alone until 1910. It contributed to and supported all national work initiated or approved by the National Chapter, the most important of which was the South African Patriotic Fund, South African Graves Fund, work in India and work in the schools. A great deal of local work was also accomplished, including hospital work, local improvement, school work, marking historic spots and twice petitioning the Government for the restoration of Old Government House as an official residence for the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province.

### School Work

The school work consisted of patriotic programmes in schools, presentation of flags, pictures, history and essay prizes, school linking, comrades' correspondence branches and the annual observance of Empire Day in the schools. (The first Empire Day celebration in New Brunswick was held in Fredericton, May 23 1900.)

In October, 1910, the national organization committee visited New Brunswick and organized six Chapters, but only three survived.

In 1913 the DeMons Chapter, Saint John, was organized followed later in 1914 by the Lord Dorchester Chapter, Dorchester, the Brunswick Chapter, Saint John.

At the beginning of the war we had in New Brunswick the provincial and six primary chapters. Three more were organized almost immediately.

### Hospital Ship Funds

As our first united work the New Brunswick Chapters forwarded through their Provincial Chapter almost \$10,000 for the hospital ship fund. In 1915 the individual and chapter members of the Provincial Chapter formed the Governor Carleton, primary Chapter. Since 1910 the Order in New Brunswick has raised

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