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Report on Red Cross Work is Very Interesting

Toronto, March 21.—The report of the work of the joint committee of the British Red Cross Society and the order of St. John of Jerusalem during the first six months of the war, which was issued recently, is an intensely interesting document and will be read with interest by all supporters of these societies in Canada. It points out that at present the society has on its list some 705 auxiliary home hospitals, containing 19,576 beds, the bulk of which have been organized, opened and staffed by voluntary aid detachments under the control of the military authorities.

Immediately upon the outbreak of war the societies received offers of convalescent homes for soldiers and sailors. In all, these have amounted to provision of 21,339 beds.

An interesting account is given of the work of the Voluntary Aid Detachment rest station at Boulogne, which has been doing invaluable work, the extent of which may be gauged from the fact that on November 22,300 wounded were fed during the day, and over two hundred dressings were done in the wagons. During the three months the unit has been working food has been supplied to 38,000 wounded.

The report details foreign service undertaken by the Red Cross workers in Belgium and France. Two units have been sent to Serbia which has suffered terribly during the war, and one to Montenegro. Both these little countries have witnessed the most appalling devastation and until Lady Paget went out to Serbia with a number of nurses and doctors, the wounded were dying in the streets of Belgrade. The Serbian Relief Fund, of which Sir Edward Boyle, Bart, is the treasurer, has been able to come to the rescue of this little kingdom, but they are still in a pitiable plight and need all sorts of medical and other supplies as well as warm clothing of every description. Those who are interested in Serbia or feel for her terrible state may send subscriptions

to Sir Edward Boyle at 28 Queens Gate, London, England.

The report states that during the six months 170 hospitals have been supplied with nurses and 450 requests for nurses have been met, some of them within an hour. Up to now, about three hundred convalescent officers have been sent to convalescent homes. About twenty-five officers, some of them with their wives, have been sent to Wengen in Switzerland, their travelling expenses and hotel accommodation being provided. Hospitality has been arranged for in London and different parts of the country for a number of Belgian officers and their families and the joint committee has handed over to the Belgian government a house with four hundred beds.

This house is now used as King Albert's Hospital, as well as another large house containing three hundred bedrooms, which will be used as a convalescent home for Belgian soldiers. In round figures, the stores department has made purchases to the amount of \$101,170. The Red Cross Society is continuously providing the many authorized hospitals in England in which British and Belgian wounded are being treated, with the supplies they need.

These facts will give the people of Canada an idea of the stupendous amount of labor that is entailed in connection with providing for the wounded and convalescent soldiers and the large amount of money and supplies that are required in order that the work may be satisfactorily carried on. As the war progresses the wounded will increase in numbers and still more supplies and warm clothing etc., will be needed. The society is sure that the appeals it is making to the Canadian public will be answered with the generous spirit that has been evidenced ever since the outbreak of war. The society will continue to appeal to the Canadian people as long as the war lasts and as long as supplies and money are needed.

Through the channels of the public press, which has splendidly supported the society both in the publication of news and in the organization of meetings, etc., the people of this country will be brought face to face with conditions as they really exist at the front and in the hospitals throughout Great Britain and France. They will be able to see for themselves what is needed and now that so many of our own men are at the front the appeal will come home with greater force than ever before.

In connection with comforts and supplies, etc., that are sent to the soldiers in England or overseas by parties in Canada, the following information from Colonel Hodgetts, Canadian commissioner of the Red Cross in London, is of interest. Colonel Hodgetts says:

"It must be stated for the information of the senders in Canada, that this office assumes no responsibilities for their safe delivery to the parties for whom they are intended. Our responsibilities cease with the delivery of the goods into the hands of the railway authorities. Further, our Canadian friends must understand that all railways of the War Office and the delivery of goods often is delayed and the railway authorities themselves will not guarantee the delivery of goods."

"In every case" continues Col. Hodgetts, "we notify by letter the party to whom goods are shipped and we have had instances of goods being shipped to Salisbury and upon hearing they have not been received have found that they have been delivered by the railway to Amesbury or some other station."

The Canadian Red Cross Society desires to point out that those who send comforts for the troops or supplies for the wounded and sick should do so through the society which will see that they reach their destination. It is not advisable for any one to send supplies to individual soldiers, but they should be sent to the different provincial branches or to the head office at 77 King street, East, Toronto.

The largest shipment of supplies ever sent from the offices of the Canadian Red Cross Society, larger by fifty cases than the last shipment of five hundred which was up to that time the record, left the head office in this city a few days ago en route for Halifax where they will be shipped to England and distributed a—ongst the hospitals in England and France. The field comforts will be distributed to the men in the trenches through the War Contingent Association under the direction of Sir George Perley.

This enormous shipment of 550 cases comprised shipments from all parts of the country and were sent from the different local depots and provincial branches. From Calgary came forty-two cases, from the Toronto branch thirty-two arrived and eighteen came from Vancouver as well as numbers of cases from numerous other towns throughout the dominion.

Mr. R. E. F. Dalton, manager of the shipping department, states that supplies are coming in in larger quantities than ever before but still an enormous amount are still needed. He mentioned that the goods that left this city on the evening of February 5th left Halifax on board the Hesperian on February 12th, which clearly proves that no goods are kept on hand either in Toronto or Halifax longer than is absolutely necessary.

At a meeting of the council of the Canadian Red Cross Society which was held recently at headquarters, interesting reports were received from Colonel Hodgetts, commissioner of the society in England, regarding the work of the society there and in France.

On the representation of Colonel Sir Henry Pellatt, C.V.O., deputy commissioner of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade in Canada, and on the recommendation of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, grand prior of the Order of St. John, a grant of \$25,000 was made for the purpose of sending orderlies or male nurses to the front.

It was also resolved at the request of Lady Perrott, chairman of the nursing department of the British Red Cross Society, to send abroad twenty nurses which may be increased to fifty at some later date. They will be supplied by various branches of the Red Cross Society in different cities of the dominion who will select them and guarantee their expenses for one year.

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