



# **CANADIAN RED CROSS**

**IN**  
**WAR AND PEACE**



Issued by  
**THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY**

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**THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY**

National Headquarters - - - Toronto, Ont.

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## SECTION I

### THE PRESENT WAR

#### RED CROSS IS WORLD-WIDE

When war breaks out, a nation looks first to its armaments for the destruction of its enemies, and next to its Red Cross for the healing of its wounds and the translating into action of its sympathies and broad humanitarian impulses.

Tempest, catastrophe, flood, fire, famine—war. Through more than three-quarters of a century of unceasing effort on behalf of distressed humanity—of binding up their wounds, lessening their pain and suffering, restoring their health—the Red Cross has become the universal symbol of mercy and succour and help to all peoples in all lands.

The Canadian Red Cross is proud to be the representative of one of over sixty nations subscribing to the world-wide confederacy of Red Cross Societies and to have had a share in the building up of its great humanitarian traditions.

These many national Red Cross Societies carry out their important wartime obligations through a central committee, restricted entirely to Swiss citizens, which is known as “The International Red Cross Committee,” and which has its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland. (Formation of this Committee and its general functions are described briefly in the historical review under Section II.)

Backed by hundreds of years of neutrality and holding the respect of all nations, the Republic of Switzerland has proved universally acceptable as the centre through which international humanitarian conventions between belligerent nations should be observed and maintained.

The world owes much to the Red Cross for the Geneva Convention to Ameliorate the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in the Armies on the Field, which was revised in 1929, and for the Convention Relating to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, which came into being in the same year, largely as a result of the experiences of 1914-1918.

The first article of the 1929 Geneva Convention shows the trend

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of these Conventions and what they mean to our own men who may be wounded or captured in this war. It begins: "Officers and soldiers and other persons officially attached to the armed forces who are wounded or sick shall be respected and protected in all circumstances; they shall be treated with humanity and cared for medically, without distinction of nationality, by the belligerent in whose power they may be."

The International Red Cross Committee appoints its own Swiss delegates in all belligerent countries whose duties are regularly to inspect the prisoner-of-war camps, check on the safe delivery of food and other parcels, and see that the camps are being conducted and the prisoners cared for as laid down under the provisions of the above-mentioned Conventions.

This supervision is further augmented by personal visits from members of the International Red Cross Committee, all of whom enjoy diplomatic privileges and travel upon diplomatic passports, which give them entree into all countries.

Thus, the Canadian Red Cross, through this international affiliation and through its sister societies, is able to extend its services into every quarter of the world, and bring care and comfort and supplies to our Canadian forces wherever they may be.

### CANADIAN RED CROSS ENTERS THE WAR

In its historic role of mercy and help for the suffering, the Canadian Red Cross was Canada's first organization to enter this war. Twenty-four hours before the late Lord Tweedsmuir signed the order-in-council which formally sent Canada into action, the Canadian Red Cross had cabled \$25,000 to England for the use of relief workers who were helping survivors of the ill-fated Athenia, torpedoed by a German submarine off Ireland.

### BUILDING A WARTIME ORGANIZATION

The two major problems which faced the Society on the outbreak of war were the acquiring of workers and the collection of funds as quickly as possible.

The problem of building up a vast network of wartime branches and auxiliary units was greatly facilitated by the active peacetime organization which was already functioning in all parts of the Dominion. Before many months had passed, nearly every hamlet and crossroads had mobilized its forces behind the Red Cross. Women

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by the hundreds of thousands in cities, towns and villages, on farms and in backwoods settlements, were soon working industriously for the common cause.

The raising of funds to buy materials and finance the immense undertakings devolving on Red Cross in time of war was solved through national campaigns and the fine generosity and assistance of Canadian citizens. The first national appeal for \$3,000,000 and the second for \$5,000,000 were oversubscribed, receipts totalling approximately \$5,000,000 and \$6,250,000 respectively.

### RED CROSS MANDATE IN WAR

Before describing the various war undertakings of the Red Cross, it might be wise to briefly review here the authority, purposes and objectives of the Society in wartime.

Under its Charter, authority is given to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war and, in affiliation with the British Red Cross, to perform all duties devolved upon a national society by each nation which acceded to the Geneva Treaty; further, in peace and war, to carry on and assist in the work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world.

The by-laws provide that the principal objects of the Society shall be—"In time of war to co-operate with the Department of National Defence of Canada and with the British Red Cross Society."

The Society by its Charter and By-laws is constituted, therefore, as the designated channel through which voluntary gifts shall reach the Department of National Defence.

Under requisitions from the Director-General of Medical Services, the Red Cross furnishes extra comforts to sick and wounded soldiers and generally supplements and augments the work of the Army Medical Services.

As an auxiliary of the Department of National Defence, the Red Cross also takes a major part in the collection and distribution of field comforts.

### INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

The organization of the Society is divided generally into the following classifications: (1) National Body, with its Canadian and Overseas Offices, (2) Provincial Divisions, and (3) Local Branches

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with their affiliated Units or Auxiliaries. Fully democratic, these various bodies all follow the representative type of government.

With over one million adult members and some eight hundred thousand or more Junior Red Cross members, the Canadian Red Cross can count approximately one sixth of Canada's total population among its active wartime membership. The Society has upwards of 2,600 Branches located in nearly every community of the Dominion from Cape Breton to Vancouver Island. Working with these Branches are upwards of 10,000 Units or Auxiliaries, and the whole organization embraces a working force of about 750,000 Canadian women. There is no better medium for maintaining the patriotic spirit of our people than through the united, continuous and zealous service of over 12,500 groups of women in every part of this Dominion.

It should be kept in mind at all times that one of the most fundamental and important aspects of Red Cross work is its **voluntary** character. While it has been necessary in Canada, as elsewhere, to employ a small paid staff, the work of the Society as a whole is directed and carried on almost entirely by voluntary service, officials and all other workers throughout the Dominion giving their time and effort as a free and willing gift to the Red Cross. Service of this type is beyond price.

Upon the outbreak of war, very important committees were appointed to administer the national work of the Society. A brief description of these and their functions are given in the following pages.

### NATIONAL WORK COMMITTEE

This committee unifies and gives national direction to the Red Cross women's war effort across the Dominion. From it emanate patterns and directions for the making of the many different kinds of supplies for the comfort of the armed forces, hospital patients and bombed civilians. Before patterns or directions are sent out to Divisional Committees and hence to Branches and groups throughout Canada to be made up into finished articles, this Committee requires that every one of them be exhaustively tested in the National Workroom. This Workroom is really an experimental laboratory for testing and determining the best types of materials and patterns to meet varying conditions of warfare. In a little over one year, no less than 63 different articles were perfected, not counting knitted goods or samples for civilian clothing. In the same period, directions for 54 different knitted articles were prepared and over half a

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million copies of knitting instructions issued. Many millions of articles have been made to these uniform and proven patterns for use both in Canada and overseas.

### NATIONAL PURCHASING COMMITTEE

Leading Canadian experts on purchasing, warehousing and distribution sit on this important national Committee, and voluntarily contribute their experience and assistance to ensure that Red Cross buying is not only done wisely but as economically as possible, and that the best known principles of warehousing and distribution are followed. This Committee alone has placed orders amounting to some millions of dollars, which entailed purchase in the best markets of tremendous quantities of wool, fabrics and many types of equipment and supplies.

### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

To ensure the economical and efficient handling of Red Cross shipments, the National Transportation Committee was formed. The chairman and members of this voluntary Committee, backed by years of experience in the transportation field, have not only facilitated the fast and effective shipment of Red Cross supplies, but have obtained valuable rate concessions from the railways, certain airways and steamships. During one year alone, over 200 steamers were used in transporting Red Cross supplies to Britain. In addition to its own shipments, the Canadian Red Cross has placed its shipping facilities at the disposal of the I.O.D.E., various War Relief Associations, Regimental Auxiliaries, Red Cross Societies of our Allies and other specified organizations.

The handling of Red Cross supplies from many thousands of centres across the Dominion is a big undertaking, requiring extensive and efficient organization. National and Provincial Warehouses have been set up to receive the raw material and to distribute it, on requisition, to work centres throughout the Dominion; to receive back from these centres the finished articles for checking, packing and shipping overseas; and also to receive and distribute supplies for Canadian and allied forces in Canada. Not only is every article carefully scrutinized upon receipt to see that it is satisfactory in every way, but all goods for overseas are packed in carefully constructed cases to sizes which will make the maximum use of shipping space available. Great care is taken to see that food, clothing and medical supplies arrive in first-class condition. For this purpose certain supplies are shipped in special waterproof

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envelopes which in turn are placed inside wooden boxes. Blankets and quilts are packed in bales. Parcels for prisoners-of-war are individually packed in sealed cartons which in turn are put up in cases for bulk shipment. Hospital dressings are sent to a central hospital depot, where, under medical supervision, a definite technique for checking and sterilizing these dressings and sealing them in tin containers has been devised. As a result of all this care, practically 100% of Canadian Red Cross supplies, outside of a very small percentage destroyed by direct enemy action, have reached their overseas destinations in as good condition as they left Canada.

### SERVICES FOR OUR FORCES IN CANADA

Hundreds of thousands of "comforts" have been given to members of our Navy, Army, Air Force and Merchant Navy in training or stationed in Canada. Grants have also been made towards hostels for the use of the men of these services. All Red Cross Branches which are adjacent to any unit of our forces appoint their liaison officers who keep constantly in touch with and do everything possible to meet the needs and add to the comfort of the personnel of these units.

As an extension to its peacetime service, the Red Cross regularly visits all patients in Military Hospitals throughout Canada and, besides distributing supplies for their comfort, arranges all manner of cheer and entertainment.

Ambulances and other mobile equipment have been supplied to the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, and other units of our forces.

### SPECIAL AID FOR THE MEN OF THE SEA

Red Cross distributing centres set up at ocean ports have had the privilege of assisting many members of the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy with warm clothing and other supplies specially made for the comfort of seamen. One particularly gratifying token of appreciation for this help was a voluntary donation of \$500 from the men of a battleship; another was a letter from the late Captain Fogarty Fegan of the gallant ship "Jervis Bay" just before he sailed on his last voyage, expressing his own gratitude and that of his men for what the Red Cross had done for them. The Red Cross also supplies dunnage bags filled with clothing and necessities for the refitting of shipwrecked survivors picked up at sea.

In addition to the service in Canada, a monthly grant of \$10,000

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has been made to the British Navy League and nine other societies in Britain since the beginning of the war to be expended on material and supplies for the men of the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy.

### DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION IN WAR

Disaster relief organizations, supported by strong committees, have been set up on the seaboards and at other vulnerable points, ready to go into instant action in the event of air raids or other war emergencies.

### THE SUPPLYING OF BLOOD SERUM

Co-operating with the Department of National Defence and the University of Toronto, the Canadian Red Cross inaugurated its Blood Donor Service in January, 1940. Through a chain of Red Cross Blood Donor Clinics, thousands of patriotic citizens have made voluntary contributions of their blood. This blood, after processing, is shipped to Britain in the form of pooled and dried blood serum for use among armed forces and bombed civilians, and has proved an invaluable ally to medicine in cases of shock and haemorrhage.

The blood from the various clinics is shipped to a central laboratory for final processing. The process of transforming fluid blood into a solid is one requiring the greatest care and skill. Blood is first allowed to clot; samples are then taken for typing and serological tests. It is then put in a refrigerator overnight. The next morning the clear serum is separated from the red blood clot by means of a centrifuge. Serum from donors of four groups is mixed in certain proportions, and this serum is passed through a very fine filter and transferred to sterilized bottles for the final step. It is then frozen solid in dry ice and alcohol. During the freezing the bottles are rotated so that the frozen serum is deposited evenly on the walls. The temperature falls to 50 degrees below zero Centigrade. The bottles are then transferred to a vacuum cabinet where the vacuum is so effective that the serum boils at 10 degrees below zero Centigrade and all moisture removed. Each bottle is then capped and sealed in a tin.

Dried serum in this form can be kept for long periods of time and given as a transfusion to a person of any blood type by simply dissolving in distilled sterilized water.

### PARCELS FOR PRISONERS-OF-WAR

Upon advice from the British Red Cross that, due to air raids and food conservation, they were finding it increasingly difficult to

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supply food parcels for British prisoners-of-war in Germany and elsewhere and would welcome assistance from Canada, the Canadian Red Cross immediately opened a packing depot in Toronto and another, later, in Montreal. Volunteer staffs at these depots were soon packing and shipping thousands of parcels daily. Within eleven months after opening of the depots, the 500,000th parcel rolled off the conveyor belts and was on its way to the prison camps of Germany.

The output of parcels has more than doubled since the work began, and it is the hope of this Society that before long it may be able to relieve the British Red Cross of the major part of the packing of food parcels for all British prisoners-of-war. At approximately \$2.50 a parcel laid down in Geneva, Switzerland, the financing of this service alone runs into some millions of dollars annually. In addition to packing and financing a considerable portion of the parcels for the British Red Cross, parcels are also being packed for the Australian and New Zealand Red Cross Societies at their expense. This service has therefore become one of the most important and appreciated war undertakings of the Canadian Red Cross.

The completed parcel weighs 11 pounds and contains some seventeen items which have been selected by nutrition experts as having sufficient caloric content to sustain a prisoner on light physical work for one week. The parcels are packed sixteen to a case and shipped to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, Switzerland, who in turn distribute them to the prison camps in Germany and elsewhere.

In each parcel sent off is included a post card representing a receipt. As the prisoner-of-war receives his parcel, he is requested to sign this card as an acknowledgment that he received the parcel. A large percentage of these cards have now been returned to the Canadian Red Cross, individually signed by many thousands of prisoners.

Many of these cards carry an additional note from the prisoners expressing their gratitude for the food. Delegates from the International Red Cross tour the prison camps at least once every two weeks to check the delivery of food and parcels, and additional proof is thus provided that these gifts from the people of Canada have reached their proper destinations.

### **Supplementing Personal Parcels for British Prisoners-of-War**

Once every three months, the official next-of-kin designated by the prisoner may send him an 11 lb. "personal" parcel free of charge

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through the Post Office, which Department strictly defines the size, weight and contents of such parcels. These personal parcels are opened by the Postal censors and contraband articles are removed at the Post Office. With the removal of such articles, the parcels concerned become under-weight. Arrangements have been completed with the Government whereby the Canadian Red Cross will co-operate with the postal authorities in bringing all under-weight personal parcels for British prisoners-of-war up to their maximum weight by the addition of needed supplies.

### **JAM FOR BRITISH CHILDREN**

Few Red Cross gifts have been more appreciated than the jam sent to Britain. Because of its wartime scarcity, its high nutritional value, and the pleasure it would bring to British children, the Canadian Red Cross, with the help and co-operation of the Women's Institutes, has shipped considerable quantities overseas, the total for one year alone exceeding 400,000 lbs. The jam is distributed to nurseries, orphanages and bombed victims in many parts of Britain.

### **CASH GRANTS TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

Besides donations of materials and supplies, the Canadian Red Cross has made substantial cash grants to such organizations as the British Red Cross and Allied Red Cross Societies, the British Navy League and Merchant Navy Welfare Organizations, and the St. John Ambulance Association, to help them in their war work.

### **OVERSEAS SHIPMENTS**

Some idea of the extent of voluntary work accomplished by the men and women of Canada can be gleaned from the following. Canadian Red Cross supplies which were shipped to Britain up to December 31st, 1941: 8,729,000 articles of comforts and supplies for the Forces, Military Hospitals and Civilian Relief; 5,000,000 surgical dressings; 3,115,000 articles of relief clothing; 71,000 cases of canned goods, honey, biscuits, coffee, jam, butter, cigarettes, tobacco, etc.; 232 ambulances, 9 station wagons, 3 trucks and 1 car; 1,130 cases of clothing and supplies for allied Red Cross Societies and evacuee children; and some hundreds of thousands of food parcels for British prisoners-of-war in enemy countries.

### **SPECIAL APPEALS FOR MOBILE EQUIPMENT AND BLANKETS**

It is worthy of note that when the British Red Cross intimated that mobile equipment, such as ambulances, utilicons and station

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wagons, as well as blankets and quilts, were badly needed, the Red Cross received from Canadian citizens many times more than were asked for—simply as a result of an appeal through press and radio. The ambulances and other equipment have given fine service in the bombed areas of Britain, while the blankets were “life-savers” to men, women and little children, especially during the first great blitz on London. Canadians also voluntarily contributed towards the purchase in Britain of a considerable number of giant mobile field kitchens, which have been turned over to the National Fire Fighters for service during bombing raids and other emergencies, these kitchens being capable of feeding 250 workers at one time.

### OVERSEAS WORK AND COMMITTEES

Canadian Red Cross work abroad is directed by an Overseas Advisory Committee composed of outstanding Canadian citizens residing in Britain, and by an Overseas Commissioner and staff, all appointed and directly responsible to the Canadian Red Cross Society in Canada. Under their direction, the organization and committees mentioned below have functioned smoothly and efficiently.

### CANADIAN RED CROSS HOSPITAL

This hospital, known as No. 5 Canadian General Hospital, was built, fully equipped, and turned over to the Government of Canada by the Canadian Red Cross in July, 1940. Costing \$755,000, the people of Canada can be proud of this institution which owes its existence to their contributions and is now serving our sick and wounded forces in the theatre of war. This hospital has been the mecca of the medical profession in England since its opening. The general opinion expressed is that there is no Military Hospital of its size in Britain which surpasses it, and that, in so far as operating room facilities and general layout are concerned, very few civilian hospitals are considered its equal. In its layout are included modern laboratories, plastic unit, and the most up-to-date surgical and ward equipment. Plans already have been made whereby this hospital will continue to function after the war and remain a lasting monument to Canadian generosity.

### WAREHOUSING OF SUPPLIES

The millions of articles shipped by the Red Cross from Canada fall into two general groups:

1. *Supplies and comforts for members of our armed forces,*

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*military hospitals and soldier patients.* These supplies are divided among a number of Red Cross warehouses, which although decentralized, are in comparatively close proximity to the hospitals and troops they serve. Each warehouse contains a representative stock of Red Cross supplies, so that, should enemy action affect one or more of these buildings, specific items would be readily obtainable from the other warehouses.

2. *Relief clothing and supplies for bombed civilians.*

Arrangements have been effected whereby the Women's Voluntary Services for Civilian Defence (W.V.S.), an organization distributing relief to bombed civilians in all parts of Britain, acts for the Canadian Red Cross in this type of civilian relief. The British Isles are divided for purposes of civilian defence into twelve regions, and the W.V.S. have organized on the same regional plan. Canadian Red Cross civilian relief supplies are sent direct from the Port of Entry to designated W.V.S. Regional Centres, where they are immediately broken down into ages, sizes, etc., and further distributed to cities and towns within each region. It will be seen, therefore, that a maximum of dispersal of this type of Red Cross supplies has been effected and that the supplies are usually very close to any location in which they may be hurriedly needed.

### DISTRIBUTION OF FIELD COMFORTS AND HOSPITAL SUPPLIES

Arrangements with the Canadian Government and Military Authorities for the distribution of field comforts and hospital supplies provide that the Red Cross will forward requisitions to all combatant and ancillary troops in the Canadian forces in England, as well as to General Hospitals, Casualty Clearing Stations, and Field Ambulances; and that these requisitions, before being returned to the Red Cross for filling and delivery, will be signed by the commanding officers of the respective formations and also approved by the District Medical Officer or Auxiliary Services Officer as the case may be. Upon receipt of the requisition properly completed, the supplies are delivered quickly, usually by truck, to the unit concerned, where they are taken into stock and signed for. It will be observed that under this system Red Cross goods go directly from the warehouses to the units, and the distribution to the individual soldier, sailor or airman is handled by their unit, not by the Red Cross. The Society believes this to be the fairest method of distribution. The only exceptions to this rule are in such instances as hospital visiting, where the visitor personally gives some needed supplies to the sick patients.

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### DISTRIBUTION OF CIVILIAN RELIEF

In the evacuation of Dunkirk, the British Red Cross lost a large part of its supplies. This would have caused great difficulties during the intensive bombing of Britain, particularly London, in September, 1940, and the following months, had it not been for Canadian Red Cross supplies. These supplies, totalling millions of articles of clothing, blankets and other comforts, were poured into the breach and distributed first through the Charity Organization Society in London and later through the Women's Voluntary Services for Civilian Defence for the whole of Britain. As all of these articles had a Canadian Red Cross label affixed to them, thousands of letters of appreciation have been received from grateful recipients, testifying not only to the need filled by these articles but also to their fine quality.

The Red Cross overseas department directly responsible for this work is known as the "Relief and Workroom Department," and deserves great credit for what it has accomplished. One conspicuous piece of service was the provision of clothing for several thousand children evacuated from the Channel Islands in June, 1940.

It should be stated that assistance to children in all parts of Britain has been an important part of the overseas civilian relief programme. For instance, when Coventry was destroyed, one Canadian Military Hospital had just been set up in a near-by Midland town. It had not yet been opened or supplied with nurses. The medical staff was on hand but had only the equipment required for a men's military hospital. Imagine their surprise when 150 babies of Coventry, under two years of age, were brought to the hospital on the same morning. Immediately they turned to the Canadian Red Cross for assistance and, within two hours, a staff of 14 nurses, together with layettes, 100 feeding bottles and all the requirements for the care of babies, were on their way to relieve the emergency.

When the bombing of Britain was at its height, the following cable, received from the Canadian Red Cross Overseas Commissioner, tells in a few graphic words the type of work being carried on: "Since first November Canadian Red Cross has shipped supplies to many parts of the south coast and midlands for the relief of air-raid sufferers. The afternoon following the first raid on Coventry our supplies were delivered and distributed. Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Liverpool and many other locations were helped similarly immediately following bombing. 32,167 blankets, 23,010 infants', 52,139 children's, 18,803 adults' clothing, 9,832 pairs of boots have been distributed to evacuee children and adult air-raid

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sufferers. Thousands of Red Cross quilts and blankets are being used nightly in subways and other air-raid shelters in London. For the last month we have been supplying the Women's Voluntary Services with a proportion of their weekly needs for evacuated children throughout the British Isles."

Considerable assistance in the form of comforts, medical supplies and clothing, has also been rendered to the nationals of our allies, both civilian and military, who have found refuge in Britain. Close co-operation is maintained as well with the Red Cross organizations of their respective countries.

### HOSPITAL SERVICE

Besides hospital buildings, hospital equipment and enormous quantities of operating room and other hospital supplies, the Canadian Red Cross has also contributed to overseas military hospitals a "personal" service to patients which has been greatly appreciated. The purposes of this service are to provide extra comforts, arrange cheerful occupations and, through friendly visits, to make sure that no member of our Canadian forces overseas feels lonely or forgotten while in hospital.

To achieve this objective, it was necessary to organize a network of hundreds of hospital visitors around nearly all of the hospitals in the British Isles which receive military casualties. Immediately upon receipt of advice from the Canadian Records Office of the reception into a hospital of a Canadian soldier, sailor or airman, the appointed visitors for that hospital are advised by Red Cross Headquarters and his wants and needs ministered to by these understanding women. This service may be carried on at anywhere from fifty to one hundred hospitals throughout the British Isles during a single month, the total number of visits running into the thousands.

The following letter from a Canadian gunner portrays the fine appreciation of the patients for this personal and friendly service:

"The nurses and doctors were grand, but it was pretty awful lying sick there, so far from home. I was very lonely. Then one day a cheerful woman came up to my bed and, much to my surprise, called me by name. She said she was a Canadian Red Cross Hospital Visitor. I asked her how she knew I was there, and she told me that the Canadian Red Cross kept track of all its soldiers and knew immediately when one was admitted. She was a Canadian, and she brought me home-town newspapers and then offered to write a letter to my wife for me. I was able to write myself, but there were other Canadians in the hospital

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who were too sick to write, and she wrote letters back home for them. She wanted to make sure that we were all comfortable and had all the things we needed. I have an uncle in London and he used to keep me well equipped with cigarettes and other things, but the Canadian chap in the next bed to mine didn't have an uncle or anyone else to give him things, and the Canadian Red Cross Visitor brought him cigarettes and comforts. He certainly enjoyed the maple sugar she gave him.

"When I was transferred to another hospital, I was sorry I wouldn't see the Red Cross Visitor any more. But no sooner had I been moved to the second hospital than another Canadian Red Cross Visitor called on me. She was just as nice as the other one and wanted to do everything she could for all the Canadians. It was the same way with the other hospitals where I was a patient.

"If the other chaps who were with me in those hospitals in England were standing beside me now they would tell you that The Canadian Red Cross is right on the job in England looking after the men who go over from Canada."

At our own Canadian hospitals, the Red Cross also has organized occupational therapy and library services. Reports from the hospitals indicate that, under trained supervision, many of the patients have become adept in such handicrafts as leatherwork, beadwork and rug-making. The organization of libraries provides interesting reading matter for them.

### INQUIRY SERVICES

One of the traditional Red Cross services which is being maintained in this war, as it was in the last, is the Inquiry Service. This is a service through which citizens in Canada are assisted in obtaining information about relatives and friends overseas.

Inquiries in regard to prisoners-of-war or persons in occupied or foreign countries are referred to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, which acts in time of war as the central agency through which pass all communications between governments of belligerent countries. With the help of this body, an Inquiry Service has been available to Canadians since the beginning of the war, Red Cross Forms 1609 and 1609A being used for the transmission of inquiries to and from relatives and friends in enemy-occupied countries.

A Canadian Red Cross Information Bureau has been set up at Ottawa which works in close collaboration with various departments of the Government in obtaining quick and authentic information for

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relatives and close friends of Canadians who have been reported wounded, missing, or prisoners-of-war.

Likewise in Britain, the Canadian Red Cross and the British Red Cross receive thousands of similar inquiries and every possible effort is made to obtain and quickly transmit the required information. These inquiries may be in regard to the health, welfare, or whereabouts of Canadian, British or Allied soldiers, sailors, airmen, or civilians. In Britain, as in Canada, governmental and other agencies co-operate with the Red Cross in obtaining the required information. All of this information, including particulars in regard to all members of the Canadian forces in hospital, is kept on extensive card index files.

At the International Red Cross Committee's offices in Geneva this service is on a tremendous scale, requiring a staff of over 3,500 clerks to handle inquiries in a score of different languages from all over the world for lost men, women, children and families. The quantity of mail which passes through this department sometimes exceeds 60,000 pieces a day. Thousands of replies to these inquiries are sent daily to every part of the globe, the information for these replies being obtained by the Committee through its world-wide connections. It is only necessary to think of the millions of refugees who have had to leave their homes and their countries and who have since dispersed into many lands, to realize the gigantic task faced by the International Red Cross Committee in tracing these people. The card index for lost persons and families established since the beginning of the present war had exceeded five million names at the end of March, 1941.

Thus, in Canada, in Britain, and in Geneva, a vast army of volunteer workers is continually striving, through these means, to bring comfort and lessen the worries of distressed people throughout the world.

### MAPLE LEAF CLUB

The Maple Leaf Club was opened by the Canadian Red Cross in the spring of 1940, and has proved a popular home for members of the Canadian forces while visiting London on leave. Bombed and temporarily put out of operation by enemy action at various times, the Club has always managed to re-open and carry on its much-appreciated services. Not only does it provide residence and recreational facilities of many kinds, but also operates an Information Office to assist our men, when outside the Club itself, to make the most of their leaves, according to their various tastes.

## CANADIAN RED CROSS

### THE CANADIAN RED CROSS CORPS

The Canadian Red Cross Corps was formed early in the war to provide a trained and disciplined body of voluntary Red Cross women workers, wearing an identifying uniform, who would be available for Red Cross and other forms of National service, both in war and peace. By the end of 1941, 65 Detachments of the Corps had been formed in 45 cities across Canada from Victoria to Charlottetown, their membership totalling 2,500.

Subject to the general direction of the National Executive of the Canadian Red Cross Society, which appoints the National Commandant and the National Corps Committee, the Corps operates through four sections:

**1. Transport Service:** This Section has for its object the formation of a voluntary corps of women, highly trained in such transport work as may be of service to the Red Cross and, when the necessity arises, to perform certain duties in wartime, thereby releasing men for Active Service. The intensive training has fitted members of the Corps for overseas duty, and a great many have been accepted by the C.W.A.A.F. and C.W.A.C.

**2. Nursing Auxiliary Service:** The purpose of this Section is to provide the Red Cross with a group of trained, disciplined nurses' aides to assist in disaster relief, emergencies, epidemics and for duty in Military and Civilian Hospitals, when required. The members of this Section are trained primarily to aid the sick and wounded in the community, or wherever they are called for this particular work.

**3. Office Administration Service:** This Section was formed to provide Red Cross and, if needed, the Government, with a trained, disciplined body of women ready to do all types of office work.

**4. Food Administration Service:** The purpose of this Section is to provide a group of trained, disciplined women who will serve as dietitians, nutritionists, volunteer assistants, cooks or helpers according to their education and training, for the Canadian Red Cross Society.

Each Section, or Service, of the Corps is headed by a National Section Commandant who is an expert in the service or a member of the professional group represented by the Section, and who is responsible for the training of the Section. Composite Units are formed where local conditions do not warrant a full Section being recruited, and may be composed of any or all of the four Sections.

Upon request, training detachments have also been sponsored

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by the Corps in a number of universities for the purpose of training and fitting girls for future service in the Red Cross or Government Auxiliaries.

### SECTION II

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The history of warfare contains many references to the suffering of wounded soldiers due to lack of organized medical services on the battlefields of the past. Nothing of a permanent nature was done to remedy this situation, until the Crimean War (1853-55), when the searchlight of publicity for the first time was turned on the pitifully inadequate military medical service which had been set up to care for thousands of British wounded in that war. Despatches from war correspondents described in gruesome detail the insufficiency of the medical arrangements and aroused such a storm of public indignation in Britain that army authorities were at last convinced of the need for drastic changes in the army medical services.

#### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

By fortunate chance, Florence Nightingale had just completed an intensive course of nursing in Germany and France. When her friend, Sidney Herbert, then Secretary of State for War, suggested that she take a band of volunteer nurses to the Crimea, she enthusiastically agreed. Her reports, later, from the Crimea obtained wide publicity, not only in England but also on the Continent. They made clear to the whole civilian public of Europe that much more service was required for sick and wounded soldiers at war if intolerable sufferings and unrelieved misery were to be prevented. She urged further that groups of volunteers should be organized to act as assistants to army doctors. Thus in her mind was born the idea which soon afterwards found its fruition in the Red Cross.

#### HENRI DUNANT — FOUNDER OF RED CROSS

During the war in Northern Italy in 1859, when France and Sardinia joined forces against the Austrians, Henri Dunant, a Swiss author and philosopher, who had been profoundly impressed by Florence Nightingale's reports from the Crimea, had the opportunity, first-hand, to verify her conclusions regarding the neglect of the wounded in war. He arrived on the battlefield of Solferino within

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a few hours after the retreat of the Austrian army. A scene of terrible carnage met his eye. Among many thousands of corpses, lay some 40,000 wounded men who, a few hours earlier, had been in the prime of health and strength and were now dying in agony, uncared for and unattended. He immediately organized the local villagers and peasants and did all that was possible to cope with the gigantic task of alleviating their sufferings, without distinction of rank or nationality. Then and there he determined to devote his whole time and energy to prevent, as far as might be possible, a repetition of what he had witnessed.

Returning later to Geneva, he wrote a vivid description of his experience, calling his book "Un Souvenir de Solferino." Like Florence Nightingale's Crimean reports, this book made a profound impression on public opinion. It was translated into a number of languages and read by many thousands of people. It contained the concrete suggestion that groups of volunteers should be organized in every nation whose duty it would be to follow armies in the field and provide the care so terribly needed by their sick and wounded. He also emphasized the desirability that all those, both civilians and soldiers, whose task it was to care for the sick and wounded, should be recognized as neutral by the fighting forces.

### THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONGRESS

The idea was taken up by the Geneva Committee of Public Utility, a small group of philanthropic men vitally interested in human welfare. This Committee succeeded in 1863 in arranging for an International Conference to consider Dunant's proposals. There was general agreement at this Conference that these proposals should be cast in the form of an International Convention or Treaty, and in 1864, at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland, the official representatives of fourteen governments, together with a number of delegates from philanthropic bodies, met in Geneva. This International Congress drafted what is known as the Treaty of Geneva. By this treaty, the first truly international agreement of a purely humanitarian nature, the Red Cross was born.

### THE TREATY OF GENEVA

The essential features of the Treaty or Convention of Geneva were: first, the authorization of national voluntary associations which in time of war would co-operate with the military forces and in time of peace would train volunteer nurses for service in war;

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second, the recognition of the neutrality of all military and volunteer medical personnel and equipment, including hospitals, first aid stations, ambulances and the like; and third, the adoption of a distinctive flag and emblem for medical personnel and hospitals. As a tribute to the Swiss Government, at whose instance the Congress had been assembled, it was agreed that this emblem should be the flag of Switzerland with its colours reversed.

### THE GENEVA OR RED CROSS

The Swiss colours are a white cross on a red background. In reverse, they became a red cross on a white background. Little did those present at the Conference of 1863 and the Congress of 1864 realize that within two generations the emblem they were choosing would gain for itself recognition and admiration in every quarter of the globe.

### THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE

The general direction of the newly formed body was placed in the hands of a committee composed of Swiss citizens and described as The International Red Cross Committee of Geneva. This Committee has continued ever since to exercise the duties and responsibilities then placed upon it. It is the custodian of the Treaty bearing the signatures of the original sixteen nations who agreed to it in 1864, as well as the others which have been added since. Its function consists mainly in seeing that all units operating under the emblem of the Red Cross constantly observe the principles of humanity and neutrality. It promotes the development of and respect for humanitarian Conventions, such as the Geneva Convention to Ameliorate the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in the Armies on the Field, revised in 1929, and the 1929 Convention Relating to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, to which reference has already been made. It sets up international agencies in wartime to aid prisoners of war, refugees, and other war victims. Through this medium, parcels of food, clothing, etc., are transmitted to prisoners of war in all belligerent countries; prison camps are regularly visited by their own inspectors to see that the prisoners are being cared for as laid down under the Conventions mentioned above; a vast card index system is maintained of all prisoners of war and communication is arranged between prisoners and their families; arrangements are also made between belligerent countries for the exchange of seriously wounded prisoners. The Committee is constantly on the alert to prevent any abuse of its distinctive name

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and emblem. Among its many other duties, it acts as a neutral intermediary in both peace and war between governments or national Red Cross Societies in performing or aiding charitable undertakings, wherever there is human suffering.

### "RED CROSS" SOCIETIES

At first the national voluntary associations formed in accordance with the terms of the Geneva Treaty did not call themselves "Red Cross Societies." They were known by the cumbersome title of Societies for Aid to Sick and Wounded Soldiers in War. The Dutch Society was the first to adopt the name "Red Cross" and this name gradually became generally accepted.

### THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

Great Britain was represented at the Congress in 1864 and was one of the original signatories to the Geneva Treaty. During the Franco-Prussian war, six years later, a British Red Cross Society was formed. It was known as the British Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded Soldiers in War. In 1898 a Central Committee began to amalgamate the British Red Cross and the Army Nursing Reserve, a voluntary organization sponsoring the enrolment of nurses. The official charter of the British Red Cross was granted in 1908.

### THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

The year 1896 saw the birth of the Canadian Red Cross Society. Eleven years earlier, Doctor (afterwards Major-General) George Sterling Ryerson had displayed the first Red Cross flag ever flown in Canada. Serving as a Medical Officer in the Riel Rebellion of 1885, he improvised this flag by using a square of white factory cotton and having a red cross roughly sewn on it. (It is now among the treasured possessions of the Museum of the Toronto Public Library). This flag was attached to his hospital wagon so that the sick and injured of the column would know where to come for medical attention. His interest in the military medical service later became intense and he had much to do with the building up of the Canadian Army Medical Corps.

At the same time he realized the value of voluntary assistance to the official medical service. When an opportunity presented itself in the middle nineties to meet officers of the British Red Cross, he seized upon it with enthusiasm and arranged for the organization of the Canadian Red Cross Society, enrolling as founder members

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a large number of distinguished Canadian citizens from all parts of the Dominion. Though the Canadian Red Cross was known by this name from the beginning, it was officially, at that time, the first overseas branch of the British Society for Aid to Sick and Wounded Soldiers in War. Later, by its Charter, the Canadian Red Cross, as noted below, became a corporate National Society, affiliated in its work with that of the British Red Cross.

General Ryerson served as Canadian Red Cross Commissioner during the South African War and was the second President of the Society, serving from 1914 to 1916. The office was first held by Major-General Sir John Gibson, K.C.M.G.

### SOUTH AFRICAN WAR

The newly formed Canadian Red Cross Society spent the first few years of its existence in improving its organization. When the South African War broke out in 1899, it established branches in a number of Canadian cities and towns. A substantial quantity of supplies was collected for the troops and about \$50,000 was received in contributions. When the war ended in 1902, the Canadian Red Cross became quiescent and remained so until the outbreak of the Great War in 1914.

### CANADIAN RED CROSS CHARTER

Though quiescent during this period, the Society by no means went out of existence. Its Central Council met regularly and new members were recruited. In 1909, by an Act of the Dominion Parliament, it obtained its first Charter known as "The Canadian Red Cross Society Act." The Act, after quoting the recommendations of the International Conference of Geneva of 1863, "That there should exist in every country a Committee whose mission consists in co-operating in times of war with the hospital service of the armies by all means in its power," created the then members of the Society a corporate body in and for the Dominion of Canada under the name of The Canadian Red Cross Society. The Act also specified that the functions of the Society were:

- "(1) To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war in accordance with the spirit and conditions of the conference of Geneva of October, 1863, and also of the Treaty of Geneva of August 22, 1864, to which Great Britain has given its adhesion.
- "(2) To perform all the duties devolved upon a national society by each nation which has acceded to said Treaty, but in affiliation with the said British Red Cross Society."

# CANADIAN RED CROSS

## SECTION III

### THE GREAT WAR—1914-1918

It is impossible in a review such as this to do more than summarize briefly the enormous work that was done by the Canadian Red Cross during the Great War of 1914-1918. Red Cross organization was extended throughout the whole Dominion and there was hardly a community in which either a branch or a local committee of the Society was not formed. Hundreds of thousands of people set themselves to work under its emblem and, during the four years of conflict, contributions of money and materials were received from Canadian people to the value of over \$35,000,000. Of this sum, \$6,250,000 was contributed for the British Red Cross, while \$9,073,485 in money and an estimated \$20,000,000 in goods was contributed for the Canadian Red Cross.

#### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

Supplies sent Overseas during the war totalled 341,325 cases, of which 147,270 were supplied to hospital units in England. Considerable assistance was also extended to France and our other Allies.

The work of the Canadian Red Cross overseas, as an auxiliary to the Canadian Army Medical Corps, included:

1. The building and equipment of all or part of hospital premises for such hospitals as The Duchess of Connaught Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Cliveden; The King's Canadian Red Cross Convalescent Hospital, Bushey Park; The Princess Patricia Canadian Red Cross Special Hospital, Ramsgate and Bexhill; The Canadian Red Cross Special Hospital, Buxton; and The Canadian Red Cross Officers' Hospital at the Petrograd Hotel in co-operation with the I.O.D.E.
2. The addition of recreation rooms, special chest wards and gymnasia to Canadian Military Hospitals in England and France.
3. The issuing of extra and emergency supplies to all Canadian Hospitals, in addition to comforts supplied to individual patients through the Information Bureau, and maximum food parcels sent to each Canadian prisoner of war through Prisoners of War Department.
4. The provision of Rest Homes for nurses in London and Margate and a Convalescent Hospital at Northwood.
5. The provision and maintenance by the Canadian Red Cross of

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two convoys of ambulances in France, and one convoy of 10 ambulances in London, England.

The Canadian Red Cross in France also maintained a service of motor lorries in order to ensure the conveyance of Red Cross goods with the greatest possible despatch.

A Canadian Red Cross coach was added to the Princess Christian Hospital Train.

The Information Bureau at the London Office rendered to thousands of soldiers those personal services which have glorified the Red Cross. Hospital visitors supplied Canadian patients with extra comforts and entertainments and reported their progress in hospital to relatives at home, and their needs to the Society. The Inquiry Department constantly searched for news of "missing" men and often gleaned information from other wounded of the same unit, that relieved the suspense of distant relatives.

Work in France commenced with the establishment in January, 1915, of a depot in Boulogne for Canadian Hospitals, followed by one in Paris to assist the French. Extra comforts and supplies were issued to Canadian hospitals in France and recreation huts erected.

A hospital at Vincennes, near Paris, was built by the Canadian Red Cross Society at a cost of \$375,000 and presented to the French nation as a gift from the people of Canada.

During the German offensive in 1918, great assistance was given to French hospitals.

At the time of the Armistice help was given to the Allied prisoners of war who passed through Paris; supplies were also sent to the different towns and seaports through which the prisoners passed on their way to France.

Canadian Red Cross supplies were given to the French Service de Santé for the use of the French Armies operating in Italy and the Near East. These helped greatly to increase the comfort of the wounded in these countries.

Gifts to France in money amounted to nearly 5,000,000 francs in addition to 94,000 cases of supplies valued at over £970,000.

To every Canadian prisoner of war, regardless of rank, the Society sent the maximum amount of food and clothing permitted by the Regulations of the Central Care Committee for prisoners of war, which was established by the Joint Committee of the British Red

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Cross and St. John of Jerusalem to be the central authority with regard to all British prisoners.

Under this Central Committee, the Prisoners of War Department of the Canadian Red Cross Society was recognized as the official committee for the care of all Canadian prisoners of war in enemy countries.

This Department was financed from the general funds of the Canadian Red Cross Society, and by contributions specially designated for the support of prisoners.

The Society supplied prisoners with at least four parcels of food per month, each weighing ten pounds, besides the full bread ration permitted, and in addition tobacco, medical supplies, clothes and books according to needs and limited only by regulations. The International Red Cross Committee, as in the present war, acted as the link with prisoners of war, distributing to them direct their parcels, letters and supplies.

### AFTER THE ARMISTICE

After the Armistice and up to the time of closing the Paris Depot in December, 1919, the work of the Canadian Red Cross consisted mainly in distributing clothing and foodstuffs to the population of the liberated regions; to widows and orphans, to soldiers in convalescent homes, and to invalided men. Everything sent to France was utilized. Cases of bandages, slings, hot water bottle covers, personal property bags, no longer required by the hospitals, were converted by sewing parties into all kinds of garments for women, children and babies, thereby eliminating waste. In many cases the Canadian Red Cross working in France entered French and Belgian towns before the Germans had evacuated them. Soup kitchens were opened up and food was supplied to the inhabitants. Thousands of letters of gratitude received by the Canadian Red Cross from hospitals and towns in the liberated regions are perhaps the greatest testimony of the valuable help rendered at that time.

In Britain, at the conclusion of the war, quantities of Red Cross hospital supplies and equipment were returned to Canada for use in civilian and military hospitals. On the suggestion of His Majesty the King, the huts at Bushey Park were presented to the London County Council as a home for delicate children, and the huts at Taplow were presented to the City of Birmingham for conversion into a 300-bed hospital for tuberculous and crippled children.

The Red Cross also assisted large numbers of soldiers' dependents

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returning to Canada from Great Britain. Red Cross nurses met these women and children at the ports and accompanied them on the railway journey to their homes in different parts of Canada.

### SECTION IV

## PEACETIME WORK

### ORIGIN OF THE RED CROSS PEACETIME PROGRAMME

Before the Great War of 1914, Red Cross Societies had confined their activities to war service and disaster relief. The War made a profound change in this programme. As it progressed, governments became more and more alarmed by the discovery that there were very substantial numbers of apparently healthy men who were found to be unfit for military service because of physical disabilities, many of which were the result of preventable disease and improper hygiene.

Even before the end of the War the idea was germinating that the most vigorous measures must be taken to effect an improvement in the general health of the people. While these conclusions were being reached, governments were also recognizing the universal popularity and widespread influence of the Red Cross, which was touching the lives of many millions of people in most of the countries in the world. Consequently, when it was suggested, shortly after the Armistice in 1918, that a committee representing a number of National Red Cross Societies should be constituted "to formulate and to propose to all national Red Cross Societies an extended programme of activities in the interest of humanity," the suggestion was unanimously approved. It was realized that the Red Cross with its world-wide voluntary organization should be an extremely valuable agency in carrying out this purpose.

### WORLD CONFERENCE OF HEALTH AUTHORITIES

At the instance of the five Great Powers, one of the most remarkable gatherings of medical and public health authorities ever held, met at Cannes, France, in April, 1919. One of the conclusions of the Conference was in the following terms:

"Recognizing the prevention of disease and the protection of the health of the people as a primary responsibility and function of the Government, a non-political organization such as that of the Red Cross will be able by the education of the public and many

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other ways to stimulate, support and aid the Government in its health work."

In other words, this unique conference suggested that the Red Cross continue in times of peace a task comparable in its humanitarian aspect with that which it had for some fifty-six years been discharging in war.

### ARTICLE XXV OF THE COVENANT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

The suggestion met with general approval and the Treaty, formally ending the war and known as the Covenant of the League of Nations, included the following Article:

"XXV. The members of the League agree to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organizations having as purposes, the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world."

In this way a radical change was brought about in the responsibilities and duties of every national Red Cross Society. From being concerned only with the sick and wounded of armies at war and the victims of disasters, they were now also charged with the task of striving continuously, in peace as well as in war, not only to relieve suffering but also to assist in promoting the health of the people of the world.

### THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

The problem they faced was how best to translate the abstract terms of the above Article into practical activities designed to produce the desired results. To assist the national Red Cross Societies in this task, a League of Red Cross Societies was formed. Its essential functions were to stimulate national societies in their peacetime work, to promote the utmost co-operation between them, and to collect and keep them provided with all available technical information. Throughout the years of its existence, the League has effectively carried out these purposes. In wartime, this body acts in very close co-operation with the International Red Cross Committee of Geneva, assisting particularly in its relief work among refugee women and children. It functions under a Board of Governors with headquarters in Europe.

### CANADIAN RED CROSS PEACETIME PROGRAMME

The Canadian Red Cross Society immediately undertook the study of the task thus delegated to it. It sought the advice and

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assistance of the leaders in the field of Public Health and investigated both general and local conditions throughout the Dominion in order to discover how best it might discharge its new responsibilities. The activities it initiated and maintained as a result of this survey and advice are very briefly described below. At the same time it continued to carry out to the full its primary duty of caring for the sick and wounded soldiers who had served in the Great War of 1914-1918.

### PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING EDUCATION

One of the Society's earliest undertakings under its new peacetime programme resulted from the discovery that there were no facilities in Canada for nurses to obtain post-graduate instruction in Public Health Nursing. The need for this training was taken up with a number of Canadian universities and the Red Cross agreed to subsidize special courses for three years. These courses have since developed into a regular part of the curriculum in a number of universities and have enabled hundreds of Canadian nurses to obtain in their own country the special training they needed to qualify them for Public Health Nursing.

### RURAL PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

For a year or two after the War the Red Cross financed the employment of Public Health Nurses in a large number of rural districts in various parts of Canada. The purpose was to provide a demonstration of the value of this service in the hope that the communities so served would be inspired to carry on the work. Though this hope was not fully realized, some of the communities are still maintaining the Public Health Nursing service so initiated, and the benefits accruing from it were so clearly established that a long step was taken towards its later widespread adoption.

### OUTPOST HOSPITALS, NURSING STATIONS AND COMMUNITY DOCTOR SERVICE

Learning of the crying need of groups of settlers in outlying areas of the Dominion for some form of medical or nursing service, the Red Cross, soon after the war, began the establishment of Outpost Hospitals and Nursing Stations. The value of this service rapidly became apparent and before many years had passed, the Red Cross flag was flying over many hospitals and nursing stations in pioneer districts of Canada. They provide not only highly skilled nursing and first aid to the sick and injured, who in most instances would

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otherwise lack any professional care, but they have also served as health centres for their communities.

A Community Doctor Service was initiated by the Red Cross during the present war to assist rural areas to secure medical service which they were lacking due to the number of doctors volunteering for active service.

### JUNIOR RED CROSS

During the Great War of 1914-1918, the Red Cross in Canada had enlisted substantial numbers of school children as Junior members. Not long after the Armistice it was decided that the inspiring ideals of the Red Cross peacetime programme presented an opportunity of incalculable value in the upbringing of children of school age and, with the approval of the educational and health authorities, the Junior Red Cross movement was launched. Its objects are health, both personal and communal, service to others and international friendliness. Junior Red Cross has seized the imaginations of hundreds of thousands of young Canadians and has profoundly influenced their habits of life. It has moved them to contribute many thousands of dollars from their own earnings or pocket-money to provide treatment for crippled children who would otherwise have gone without it. Many ambulances and mobile kitchen units, as well as a great number of articles of clothing and supplies, have been contributed by Canadian Juniors during the present war. By means of organized correspondence with Red Cross Juniors in other lands, this organization has laid a foundation for friendly understanding and sympathy between nations of the world in the years to come.

### SEAPORT NURSERIES

The Red Cross Seaport Nurseries had their origin during the first Great War, when Red Cross workers met incoming steamers, to greet and assist returning disabled soldiers, and the wives and children of soldiers still overseas. At the request of the Department of Immigration this service was continued after the War as a service to immigrant women and children.

### DISASTER RELIEF

Relief for the victims of disaster has long been recognized as a responsibility of the Red Cross. While Canada, fortunately, has not been subject to the number of major catastrophes with which some countries have been afflicted, it has had to deal with a few, including

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drought, fire and flood. The Canadian Red Cross was asked to institute and administer relief in these disasters. This included such specific tasks as care of the sick and injured, providing accommodation and food for the homeless, furnishing clothing for those rendered destitute, organizing inoculation clinics, and co-operating with municipal and other authorities in the rehabilitation of the sufferers.

### HOME NURSING CLASSES

To meet a need for practical instruction in the fundamental principles of nursing and home hygiene, a manual on Health, Home Nursing and Emergencies was prepared with the co-operation of experts in this field, and home nursing classes for women and girls were organized in all parts of Canada. As an addition to this course, a supplementary manual on Emergencies in War has been issued, and special instruction is now being given on this subject.

### VISITING HOUSEKEEPERS

A Red Cross Visiting Housekeepers Service was also inaugurated, the purpose of which was to supply a needy family with a trained worker who could take the place of the mother in the home during illness. The candidates for this work received special training, which included elementary instruction in home nursing, nutrition, care of infants and children, and household management. This service, with certain modifications, has been put into operation in a number of communities and has furnished very valuable assistance to many hundreds of families.

### NUTRITION SERVICE

Started in 1929, this service has expanded rapidly with the present war. Supervision of nutrition in boys' and girls' camps, assistance in prenatal and well-baby clinics, preparation of educational articles on nutrition for magazines, co-operation in community health programmes, educational displays, general budgeting and organization of lecture demonstration classes are chief among the activities of this department.

In addition, a War Economy Nutrition Course of eight lessons has been planned. This basic course, conducted by volunteer Household Science graduates, is designed to teach housewives how to buy the best possible health with their food dollar. The course is used for demonstration classes which are organized under the auspices of local Red Cross branches in co-operation with Public Health Departments and social and welfare agencies. This work, therefore, is not only a constructive peacetime but also an important wartime activity.

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### ENROLMENT OF NURSES FOR EMERGENCIES

In 1930, the Red Cross and the Canadian Nurses' Association launched a plan of enrolling registered nurses for emergency service in both war and disaster. Almost every nurse graduating from a training school in Canada is invited to enrol, and receives a leaflet containing the regulations of service should she be called up. These lists are utilized for the mobilization of nursing personnel, not only by the Red Cross at times of disaster, but also by the Army, Navy and Air Force in time of war.

### HIGHWAY FIRST AID POSTS

In 1934, the Red Cross, in conjunction with other organizations, began to establish First Aid Posts on the principal highways in Canada. These posts are located at strategic points on the highways where accident frequency or probability is high. The posts themselves are usually a garage or service station, the staff of which is trained in emergency first aid.

### OTHER FORMS OF RELIEF

While the Red Cross is not considered a relief organization in the usual sense, all branches of the Society interest themselves in the welfare of the poor and needy in their communities. Particular attention is given to improving the health of the children and assisting the sick. Branch workrooms for the making and distributing of clothing and supplies are operated in most centres. During depression periods, the relief work of the Society increases enormously, and is carried on in close co-operation with municipal, provincial and federal authorities.

### CONTINUING SERVICE TO WAR VETERANS

Red Cross service to sick and disabled war veterans never relaxes. Patients in military hospitals are visited regularly and supplied with extra comforts. Dinners and entertainments are arranged for them at festive seasons of the year. Other types of assistance include the operation of a convalescent hospital, a recreation lodge for patients, residential clubs for disabled war pensioners, dental and medical clinics, etc. Ex-service men in need, as well as their dependents, are given many kinds of help unobtainable from any other source, and special consideration is given as well to soldier settlers in pioneer districts.

All in all it may be fairly said that the Canadian Red Cross has spared no effort to discharge to the full its duty to the sick and wounded of armies both in war and in peace.

