

'CAYGEON

LINDSAY, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1943

LADY DINES WITH

IRS. CHURCHILL

MRS. F. J. ROSS HONOURED

WITH A SEAT ON THE RIGHT

OF WIFE OF PRIME MINISTER

Y. M. C. A. Workers of Churchill Fund Lunch in Quebec—Churchills Prove to be Charming to Canadian Women—Descriptive Luncheon

Mrs. Fred J. Ross, long of Bobcaygeon and nearby Kenstone Beach, has just returned from Quebec where she lunched and conferred with Mrs. Winston Churchill at the Citadel.

At the beginning of the war, the British Government asked the National British YWCA to be responsible for the building of huts, canteens and leave hostels for all the women attached to His Majesty's forces, and also for the women working on the land and in the munitions industries. This meant that tremendous sums of money had to be raised. Lady Halifax was chairman of this British YWCA war fund until she left for Washington when she was succeeded by Mrs. Winston Churchill. Mrs. Churchill appealed to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa for contributions for this gigantic task, and a committee of the Canadian National YWCA promised to try to raise in this country the sum of one hundred thousand dollars. Mrs. Fred Ross, who is a member of the National Council of the YWCA for Canada was appointed chairman of a committee to raise this sum and Mrs. Churchill gave permission to call the Canadian Fund by her name.

When the arrival of the Churchills was announced, Mrs. Ross wrote to request an interview with Mrs. Churchill and later on was invited by her over the long distance telephone to luncheon. Two other members of her committee were included, as were the YWCA Presidents of Montreal, Quebec, and Sherbrooke.

When the guests arrived at the Citadel, they found it well guarded.

by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who asked the ladies to identify themselves before they were admitted to that part of the fortress which has long been the summer home of the governors-general of Canada. It was here that the Churchill and Roosevelt parties stayed while in Quebec, as this residence was the headquarters for the conference.

Mrs. Churchill's guests were met by an aide-de-camp of the Earl of Athlone who escorted them to a beautiful reception room overlooking the city of Quebec and the St. Lawrence River. Mrs. Churchill and her daughter Mary, soon appeared and graciously welcomed their visitors. Mrs. Churchill looked most attractive in a simple black dress, relieved by a double string of pearls, with a fuschia colored coat thrown across her shoulders.

Subaltern Mary Churchill was dressed in her uniform. They were most enthusiastic about Canada and loved sightseeing in the quaint old city of Quebec. They were thoroughly enjoying their fishing trip in the Laurentians and hoped to return after the war to visit all the Canadian provinces and points of interest. Mrs. Ross chatted for a few moments with the Prime Minister's head secretary who told her that the Prime Minister had not taken a vacation even for a day since the beginning of the war.

Luncheon was served for fourteen and Mrs. Ross had the honor of sitting on Mrs. Churchill's right. This gave her the opportunity for discussing with her hostess methods of raising money in England and in Canada.

The luncheon was beautifully served on a lovely old polished table. The centrepiece was an artistically arranged bowl of pink and blue larkspur and clarkia, flanked by ~~compotes~~ of peaches. The menu included as a piece de resistance fresh trout, which was caught the day before by the Prime Minister's party. Miss Mary Churchill was delighted with a gift of maple syrup she had received and quest-

ioned the ladies as to how it was made. All the British people in the party enjoyed the Canadian ice cream and said they had eaten it every day since their arrival.

Mrs. Churchill told some interesting anecdotes about Mrs. Roosevelt's visit to England and chatted about wartime restrictions and priorities. It is interesting to learn that even though building materials are very scarce in England, the Government releases sufficient material to build YWCA leave centres and hostels for the women engaged in all branches of war activities. Living as they do away from their own homes it is considered most important for them to have centres where they may go for rest relaxation, and fun in their leisure time. This helps to keep them from getting homesick increases their efficiency and is a big factor in keeping up their morale.

Mrs. Churchill expressed great appreciation of the gifts of Canadians to this war fund, which bears her name, and stressed the importance of its continued support. Although there are almost five hundred of these YWCA centers in Great Britain, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Nan and wherever there are British Fighting Forces, a great many more are needed. Mrs. Ross feels that the greatest tribute Canadian women can pay Mrs. Churchill is to support this war fund which is doing such splendid service. Without the noble effort of British women, the war could not be won.

After luncheon, the party walked on the terraces and enjoyed the beautiful view of Quebec City. The air was so clear they could see for miles up and down the St. Lawrence River. All the ladies were completely captivated by Mrs. Churchill's graciousness and charm in speaking to each of the guests and making them feel welcome and at ease. Said Mrs. Ross "It was the greatest thrill of my life and I hated the party to end. Mrs. Churchill and Mary were so natural and friendly."

Upon returning to Toronto, Mrs. Ross was asked to broadcast for fifteen minutes during which Monica Mungan interviewed her on the most interesting points of her visit.

Mrs. Ross has been coming to Sturgeon Lake with her family for many years. She is the daughter of the late Reverend James B. Kennedy and the granddaughter of the late Mungo Nasmith of Ancona Point. She is a member of both the Toronto Board and the National Council of the YWCA of Canada and was formerly the President of the YWCA of Yonkers, New York.

Contributions to this fund may be made payable to "The Mrs. Winston Churchill Fund for British Service Women" and sent to the National Headquarters of the YWCA of Canada, Jarvis Street, Toronto.