

Visit Canadian Red Cross Headquarters in Britain

This is another in a series of articles written by W. R. Lipp and C. V. Chubb, who represent the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association in a recent tour overseas.

BEKLEY, ENGLAND

There is a large building in the heart of London in which a host of busy workers, many of them volunteers, do their utmost to help alleviate the hardships caused by the war.

It is Canadian Red Cross Headquarters. Last August the Canadian editors went there and were shown many of the work in progress.

These headquarters occupy five stories of a building leased to the Red Cross by Lord Chittely. The offices overlook Berkeley Square, a quiet street in London.

The team making round the square has been made into institutions. This morning was a German Georgian after five years since they were spread over the streets of London.

Several buildings in the immediate vicinity have been struck. Lady Willing's house on one corner of the square has suffered a direct hit.

Inside the Red Cross building, however, everything is clean and well ordered and the work goes on with quiet efficiency.

Crates of supplies are being unloaded, sorted, labeled, and stored away in their proper place, or made into shipments to fill requisitions.

Five people realize the amount of work accomplished by the Red Cross, not only in quantity, but in variety. We saw them making up special parcels for prisoners of war, supplies for hospitals and for sick and wounded soldiers, articles for babies of men on active service, replacements of articles lost by men who had been shot down, torpedoes or bombed, and many other urgent needs.

It is possible in some cases, that the very lives of prisoners of war in enemy hands has depended upon the parcels supplied by the Red Cross. Each prisoner is allowed one parcel of food weekly. These parcels supplied by the Red Cross are approximately eleven pounds. In addition, the prisoners are allowed a quarterly parcel from the rest-of-his.

They told us that parcels to prisoners in Germany are getting through to them fairly well and that they are now getting through to prisoners in Italy much better than they were previously.

The Red Cross received many requests for special articles. Every effort is made to supply them if possible and if they are allowed to be sent. We were shown one letter received from Flying Officer Bruce Douglas Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Campbell of Pointe Claire, Que., asking for elementary and advanced textbooks on Algebra and Trigonometry. This shows that many prisoners are anxious to put their former education to good use as possible.

Those at work in the Red Cross Headquarters went to great pains to show us around and answer our questions. One of them was Lady Edith, who is doing work in the prisoners' department. She did similar work during the last war.

While looking at the boxes of goods sent over from local Red Cross groups in Canada, we were told that soldiers have an aversion to mitts, and usually will not wear them. As a result these sent over from Canada have to be made over into gloves.

The great need was stressed for turtle neck sweaters, gloves, and women's socks. Last named are also used by armies.

On some shelves were more unusual items, such as maple sugar, and other supplies made in Canada. Some supplies were being assembled to be placed in the hands of soldiers at Dover. A constant supply of comforts to all services of the Canadian Forces is being delivered. Every week, on a regular delivery basis by Red Cross Transport, and thence through the usual channels of supply, thousands of wadded comforts are being issued to the troops. Every week, lavatory deodorant, hospital supplies, cigarettes, chewing gum, games, pipes, etc. are being sent to General Hospitals, Casualty Clearing Stations, Field Ambulances, and to R.A.F. and civilian hospitals where Canadian patients may be.

A huge visitors' service is maintained throughout England and Scotland. Canadian Red Cross visitors all voluntary maintain daily contact with Canadian patients in Canadian Army, and British and Scottish hospitals, see that they get needed supplies, shop for them, and sometimes even write letters for them. Visitors' reports, in detail, are sent weekly to Berkeley Square, where information is collated, and, when necessary, letters are written to next-of-kin in Canada.

Handicrafts at all Canadian General Hospitals are supplied entirely by the Canadian Red Cross. Staffs at all the hospitals furnish materials for rug-making and leather work, and

French patients have to make the articles. The patients pay for the cost of the materials, and are allowed to make a small profit out of their handicrafts.

The Relief Department at Berkeley Square sits out on an average fifty thousand civilian relief articles of clothing per week.

The Canadian Junior Red Cross supports and has adapted eight residential War Nurseries in England, and supplies clothing for the youthful inmates. Three more such nurseries are shortly to be adapted.

Less than one hundred years ago, the sufferings of wounded soldiers and prisoners were intensified by lack of one and other comforts. Today, thanks to the Red Cross, there is a tremendous change. One cannot help but be impressed by the strides taken since the International Red Cross was organized by rules drafted at a conference in Geneva in 1864.

The Canadian Red Cross Headquarters in London is a veritable life which year supplies produced by small groups all across Canada. There is here they are spread over a vast territory to fill a wide range of needs. No wonder it is a busy spot.

King's Deputy Has Busy Days Real War Post

Governor-General's Duties Heavy And Varied; Much Travel and Inspections of Services and War Plans

OTTAWA, (CP)—A government general's list is a busy one. Ask any of the staff of the Earl of Athlone's household, and they'll tell you.

Figures don't lie—and since his Excellency came to Canada in June, 1941, here are some of the things he's done. He has visited 48 institutions and airports, from one end of Canada to the other, as well as a large number of naval, military and air force establishments. He has taken 70 rail journeys which include short jaunts to Montreal and towns of all Western Canada. He has probably travelled as much as 50,000 miles by train, as well as made a number of tours by R.C.A.F. aircraft.

And his hasn't been a silent service. He's made more than 90 speeches—from short replies to provincial premiers and mayors, and addresses of welcome to lengthy convocations at universities.

This hasn't left him much time for sleeping in the morning or going on fishing trips. His Excellency is up early as a business man most of the week, and right after breakfast he tackles his enormous correspondence. That includes reading the heap of mail that piles into government house, signing official papers and reading reports from government officials.

Kept Well Informed
In a red leather case, usually under the eye of his secretary, Sir Shuldham Redfern, are several telegrams from overseas telling the Earl of Athlone of the progress of the war. These get very careful reading.

All these duties must be done and the staff members interviewed before the morning's visitors arrive around 11 o'clock. There's always someone to see the governor-general—a cabinet minister, a member of parliament, the head of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, or the Canadian Red Cross, or a representative of the United States government. He likes to see men in the services, too, who are home from the battlefront. Interviews are generally finished before lunch.

In the afternoon if his Excellency has an official visit to pay, there's more reading to be done—more reports, perhaps on Canadian affairs, or documents from Prime Minister Mackenzie King. He keeps in close touch with Canadian affairs, through reading reports and publications, and also through conversation with Sir Shuldham, who has to be ready to answer questions on all manner of subjects. If there's something that particularly interests his Excellency, a paper is prepared for him, setting forth all angles of the subject.

It's dull reading for most people, but the governor-general plans to have a quiet meal with Princess Alice. There are no enormous, ornate dinner parties at Government House these days, but usually, if the vice-regal party is not invited out to a diplomatic function they must entertain themselves.

When the last guest goes home, even then the governor-general doesn't get a chance to put his feet up and read a good mystery story. Members of his staff are usually retired to his room with an armful of official documents.

World Watching Canada's Farms For 1943 Crops

Government Has Set Greatest Production Goal in National History for Field, Farm, Yard, Forest and Dairy Yields

BY JAMES MCCOOK
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, (CP)—Canadian farmers, quaternary-general of the war-time food front, this year will show a straight furrow towards the greatest production goal of their history.

That the world will watch their progress, for their success means hope for almost all the United Nations; and the promise of an end to hunger in occupied countries when they are liberated.

They will be encouraged by business estimates in the words of Finance Minister Duggan—about \$100,000,000 a year. These business will encourage the production of dairy products, livestock and other wartime food essentials. They will be encouraged also by the treasury of bumper crops of 1942 and substantial promise of good moisture conditions in 1943, even in the more dry prairie regions.

Agriculture Minister Gardiner, who has expressed his faith in the Canadian farmer doing their best this year, said recently the fact is that he is a wheat that prevented 75 per cent of western farmers from getting their crop harvested in the three or four weeks of harvesting weather is an indication that our prospects are bright for another good crop.

Another favorable factor is that livestock and poultry numbers are at peak levels, with abundant supplies of feed from last year's harvest.

On the other side of the picture, many farms are short of help, and difficulty is being experienced in securing new machinery to replace last year's losses. The compensation for these difficulties, the farmer will expect assistance from the residents of towns and villages in his periods of peak activity. This co-operation, given in large measure last year, is expected to expand in 1943.

Production records in many lines were made by the farmer last year. On top of these gains, the Dominion government is taking further increases be piled. Here are some of the high expectations of 1943, with comparative figures for 1942 (area cultivation or production in brackets):

- Cattle, 15,888,000 acres (13,782,000), hay and clover 10,450,000 acres (9,707,000).
- Hogs, 8,000,000 head (6,250,000), cattle 1,997,000 head (1,900,000), sheep and lambs 900,000 head (500,000).
- MILK, 18,500,000,000 pounds (17,877,000,000), butter 322,000,000 pounds (283,000,000), evaporated milk 191,000,000 pounds (182,000,000).
- Eggs, 345,000,000 dozen (274,000,000 dozen), chickens 250,000,000 pounds (235,000,000), turkeys 43,000,000 pounds (38,000,000).
- Potatoes 50,000 acres (507,000), sugar beets 90,000 acres (43,000), soybeans 50,000 acres (43,000).

A mountain of wheat—some 1,000,000,000 bushels for all the 1942 production has been added to carry-over—has caused lesser concern than smaller amounts in years past, Ottawa officials said.

Statements in the Commons demonstrated the confidence of members that all this vast reserve would be needed sooner or later to carry Canada over poor crop years, for export sale and for feeding people hungry in war.

In declaring his confidence that farmers would do their utmost to reach their challenging goals for 1943, Mr. Gardiner said: "By farmers' I mean not only the men on our farms but also the women, boys and girls, and even the older folk who in normal times would be taking things a bit easy after a life of toil. All of these have labored valiantly in the cause."

Time for Planning The Home Garden

It's now time to plan the home or community vegetable garden. Insistence of using good clean seed and the rotation of plantings apply with equal force to such a garden as to the farm. It pays to get the best seed possible, and the saving of a few cents on the purchase of seed is not profitable as a rule. One ounce of celery seed may produce 2,000 plants or more; one ounce of tomato seed, 1,500 to 2,000 plants; and an ounce of cabbage or cauliflower seed, 1,500 plants or more.

Just as with farm crops, vegetables in the home garden should not be grown on the same plot of ground year after year. Onions may be continued on the same soil for several years, and so may vine crops. With cabbages and turnips, however, rotation is particularly necessary to keep club-root disease in check. It is a good plan to place the vine crops in the centre, and place the other vegetables on each side. Generally, asparagus and rhubarb and other perennial vegetables are planted at the edge of the garden, allowing sufficient room for cultivation between the edge and the plants.

WAR 25 Years Ago

Second Battle of the Somme Ended April 5, 1918 With German Forces Within 12 Miles of Amiens

BY H. R. GORDON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Second Battle of the Somme, first stage of the great German offensive on the Western Front 25 years ago, ended April 5, 1918. Although the Germans gained much ground and captured thousands of prisoners, the battle terminated without a clear decision and with enemy troops at the point of exhaustion and encumbering difficulties of supply.

Actually it marked the beginning of the end of Gen. Erich Ludendorff's last great drive in the First World War. Four days later he threw his forces at the British in the new of the River Lys to the north, but here again he was repulsed and by the end of April the offensive was halted and the Allied lines stabilized.

In the Second Battle of the Somme the Germans recovered ground lost as early as 1916 and captured 50,000 prisoners, 1,200 guns and enormous booty. The British Army was badly shaken, but Ludendorff had failed to bring about a transition to a war of movement and to separate the French and British armies—the chief points in his offensive strategy. In the course of the battle 50 German divisions, almost half the western army, had suffered heavy losses.

Canadians in Fight

Following their failure to crack the British defence at Arras, northern tip of the drive that started March 21, the Germans made determined efforts to exploit gains made at the expense of the 5th Army further to the south. Amiens was made the objective.

During the fighting that followed the 1st Canadian Motor Machine-Gun Brigade served with distinction. The unit was withdrawn from the Canadian Corps to operate in the area where the remnants of the 5th Army were falling back. For the last week in March and the early part of April the machine-guns fought rear-guard actions to delay the enemy's advance or filled gaps on the fronts of the 3rd and 5th Armies.

The 1st and 2nd Canadian divisions also took part in the fighting, posing temporarily to the command of Gen. Sir Julian Byng. The 2nd Division held a 6,000-yard front south of the Scarpe for three months before it was returned to the command of Sir Arthur Currie. At the same time the Canadian Cavalry Brigade operated from a point near Amiens and fought with great gallantry at Moreuil Wood.

R. A. F. on the Job

During the first week in April when the Germans made their final attempt to reach Amiens they were hampered by blocked roads and harassed from the air by the Royal Air Force. In addition French reinforcements were also taking their place in the line.

The Germans finally gave up the attack when they were only about 12 miles from the city, their advance on the southern end of the front having been extended approximately 40 miles from the starting point in the region about La Fere. On April 5 the German "Ere" ran roughly from Arras to Albert and Villers-Bretonneux to the south to Cantigny and Montdidier.

As in 1918 the Germans were forced to give up the offensive at a time when victory appeared to be almost within their grasp. In the Second Battle of the Somme it was the dogged tenacity of the British soldiers that saved the day.

Happy Landings On Ice Surface

VANCOUVER, (CP)—Skid-free landings and take-offs on icy airport runways and in Arctic regions are made easier by a new-type tire in which steel coils are laced into the rubber tread. The method of embedding the steel was evolved by Robert H. Judson, an American research technician.



MR. T. A. FINLAYSON is a new worker. He began to find difficulty in all things when he was young. As a result he has developed a new type of tire which will help you drive with ease and safety. It is the Finlayson Tire.

Mail Is a Munition

In the armed forces, men put the mail out ahead of the mess call. In North Africa a postal service official saw a company of soldiers standing for mess when the mail call was sounded. Nearly every man left the line and rushed to see if there was a letter.

An infantry commander was about to lead his unit into action when the mail arrived. He learned that mail delivery just before an offensive makes for a vastly improved morale. Government authorities say that mail from home is more than a fighting man's privilege. It is a military necessity.

While there are casualties in the mail, some remarkable savings are being made. For example, five soldiers recovered forty sacks of mail from a plane which crashed in the sea off Newfoundland in forty feet of water. At the New York City Army Post Office, the envelopes were spread on the floor for drying, and within a month's time, all but 20 pounds of the 1,000 pounds of salvage mail had been re-addressed, re-enveloped where necessary, and again sent on its way.

A submarine commander in the Pacific learned there mail bags floating after a torpedoing. All the enclosed letters were delivered and the envelopes are now valuable collectors' items.

Airgraph are also widely used. Each letter is photographed in micro-film, and an original a photographic enlargement of the letter is made and forwarded to the addressee.

A busy postal officer says: "The mail is a valuable munition of war and we treat it as such."

Whether it's a letter, an airgraph, a parcel or a greeting card suitable for the occasion, it's up to the folks at home to: Keep 'em Happy—With Mail.



War calls must come first . . .

which means that we should reduce our non-essential use of the telephone to the minimum. Present facilities cannot be increased; your co-operation is needed if war calls are to go through promptly. Please remember that the wasteful use of telephone time can hold up war business—and that every second you save counts.



Canada's FARMS... BRITAIN'S TABLE

In the United Kingdom, millions of brave men, women and children look to Canada's farms for their daily food.

Canadian farmers, who have never failed in times of peace to produce and export the needed table supplies, now are intensifying their efforts to feed the people and armies of Britain.

On Canada's broad acres farmers are fighting a great battle of production so that Britain shall not lack the grains, meats, fruits, vegetables and dairy products essential to victory.

The Bank of Montreal's complete war-time banking service is extended to Canada's farmers through hundreds of branches from coast to coast. Our export department is daily financing shipments of foodstuffs for Britain.

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