

# Voluntary Registration of Canadian Women for Work in War Time

Use Being Made of All Present Organizations of Women to Make the Plan Effective. Information Being Secured as to Provision for Looking After British Children and Other Dependents.

The Advance last week received considerable correspondence in regard to the Voluntary Registration of Canadian Women (V.R.C.W.). At the top of the registration forms there is the following paragraph that gives the whole and purpose of the plan:

"To every nation there comes from time to time periods of national distress, caused by various untoward circumstances, such as earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, crop failures, forest fires, grave economic depressions, epidemics, war, etc. That the Canadian women may be in position to serve their nation at short notice in any of the above calamities, it has been thought well that they band themselves together in a voluntary scheme of registration, so that, already prepared, they would be able to render intelligent and efficient service, with this in mind, and in an endeavour to find how many Canadian women would be willing and able to take British and refugee children into their homes you are asked kindly to consider the following questionnaire and to assist by answering the same."

The covering letter reads as follows: To the Editor of The Advance, Timmins

Dear Sir:—I enclose you a memorandum and questionnaire regarding the movement for the Voluntary Registration of Canadian Women and should be very glad if you would give it your kind attention.

You will note the gratitude of the British press over the group of questions referring to the reception of British children in Canada in case of eventualities in Great Britain. You will also notice that there are four objectives embodied in the questionnaire.

1st—The reception of children and adults in Canada. We feel there are many elderly people, invalids and children who are unsuitable for war service and who may have relatives in this country who would willingly receive them were they sent for and in some cases, arrangements made for their maintenance while here.

2nd—The replacement of men in industry by the women best qualified and trained to take their places were men to be withdrawn for the making of munitions and so forth.

3rd—If war occurs in Europe, whether Canada is involved or not, and whether it is voluntary service or conscription, were we involved, the fact still stands that numbers of men will leave this country and go to the scene of action. Our desire is that all services that can be and are performed by women should be done by Canadian women and thus obviate many of the difficulties that arise in the last war by the removal of large bodies of men over long periods of time away from their normal social surroundings.

By this I mean that in the last war all Canadian women doctors, etc., to serve as such, had to enlist in the British services. The same is true of women engaged in welfare or other work, such as recreational rooms, convalescent camps or anything outside of strictly nursing services.

4th—If we are spared this last extremity of war we have in this questionnaire the most comprehensive survey of unemployment among women that has yet been undertaken and we are hoping, when we have completed this survey of women's potentialities in Canada, that we will be able to turn those energies toward the solution of this and other pressing questions in this country, such as the problems of youth, conservation and distribution of food, etc.

We should appreciate receiving any suggestions that you may see fit to make either as to the questionnaire or our programme of service.

We would also be glad of any publicity you could give the matter among the readers of your paper.

Yours truly,

GRACE M. ORD  
For the Executive Committee,  
Memorandum re Voluntary Registration of Canadian Women

The memorandum accompanying the letter is as follows, giving further details on the plan:

The project for the Voluntary Registration of Canadian Women (V.R.C.W.) arose out of discussions by a group of women who were interested in questions of defence. They were convinced that something ought to be done to insure that in the event of a crisis women willing to serve their country would be put to tasks for which they were trained and qualified, and that a record of their willingness to serve, their training and their qualifications ought to be made now so as to be readily available in the event of such an eventuality.

They foresaw difficulties in the way of getting any Canadian Government to undertake such a survey in peace time. These women thought they saw a way in which the matter could be undertaken with the least expense and the greatest expedition and without involving the government. Canada is a perfect network of women's organizations, through which women have learned how to organize and how to get big jobs done.

They found out that in England the first step taken in the programme of air raid precautions (A.R.P.) was the registration of all women who were willing to give their services, voluntarily, for such purposes as first aid, ambulance driving, fire fighting, organizing, metropolitan evacuation, etc. This scheme which was started about May of 1938 utilized the existing women's organizations, although there the plan from the beginning was sponsored and financed by the government.

A canvass of the heads of women's organizations in Canada bore out not only their capability but their willingness to undertake the work of registration. Indeed the reception of the idea was so enthusiastic that there was nothing else to be done but proceed with it.

A provisional committee was set up and this committee, after further consultations with heads of women's organizations, called a meeting for the 25th May, 1939. At this meeting tentative plans were discussed for the preparation of a questionnaire which would elicit the sort of information which would be valuable in the case of a crisis. It was soon realized that some of the information would also be very valuable for social and community services quite apart from a crisis. For example, it was proposed to ask whether the woman answering the questionnaire was employed. By separating the cards of women who were unemployed we would have the most comprehensive survey of unemployed women ever undertaken in Canada.

One of the chief objectives of the questionnaire as it is developed, is to make a survey of the homes in Canada which would be available under suitable supervision to take in the British population under sixteen and over sixty in the eventuality of air raids in Great Britain. This plan would relieve the British authorities of the responsibility and difficulty of feeding this population and would relieve the children from the dangers of malnutrition as well as the nervous and psychological strain of war. Every ship that took supplies or munitions across could bring back women and children.

At the meeting held on the 20th June and attended by representatives of many women's organizations in Canada a national committee was formed for V.R.C.W. with the following officers:—  
Honorary Chairmen — Mrs. George Spencer, Moncton, N.B., President, National Council of Women; Mrs. H. McGregor, Penikese, B.C., President, Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.

National Chairman — Honourable Senator Iva Campbell Falls, Peterborough, Ont.

First Vice-Chairman — Dr. Ellen Douglass, Winnipeg, Man., Immediate Past President, Canadian Business & Professional Women's Clubs.

Second Vice-Chairman — Mrs. J. P. Hynes, Toronto, Ont.

Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Director of Organization — Margaret P. Hyndman, K.C., Toronto, Ont.

Vice-Chairman of Executive Committee — Miss Emily F. Lynch, Barrister, Windsor, Ontario.

Vice-Chairman for the Yukon — Mrs. George Black, M.P., Dawson City, Yukon.

National Treasurer — Mrs. C. R. Widdifield, Stratford, Ont.

National Secretary — Miss Grace M. Ord, Islington, Ontario.

Assistant National Secretary — Mrs. Albert B. Cottrell, Toronto, Ont.

Joint Conveners of Finance Committee —

## Text of the King's Speech to the British Peoples

Urges All to Stand Firm and Calm, Confident in the Triumph of Right.

The following is the address by King George VI to the people of the Empire as given on Sunday a few hours after the declaration of war:—

In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history, I send to every household of my peoples, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself.

For the second time in the lives of most of us, we are at war.

Over and over again, we have tried to find a peaceful way out of the differences between ourselves and those who are now our enemies; but it has been in vain.

We have been forced into a conflict, for we are called, with our allies, to meet the challenge of a principle which if it were to prevail, would be fatal to any civilized order in the world.

It is a principle which permits a state in the selfish pursuit of power to disregard its treaties and its solemn pledges, which sanctions the use of force or threat of force against the sovereignty and independence of other states.

Such a principle, stripped of all disguise, is surely the mere primitive doctrine that might is right. And if this principle were established through the world, the freedom of our own country and of the whole British Commonwealth of Nations would be in danger.

But far more than this, the peoples of the world would be kept in the bondage of fear, and all hopes of settled peace and security, of justice and liberty, among nations, would be ended.

This is the ultimate issue which confronts us. For the sake of all that we ourselves hold dear, and of the world order and peace, it is unthinkable that we should refuse to meet the challenge.

It is to this high purpose that I now call my people at home and my peoples across the seas who will make our cause their own.

I ask them to stand calm and firm and united in this time of trial.

The task will be hard. There may be dark days ahead and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield, but we can only do the right as we see the right, and reverently commit our cause to God. If one and all we keep resolutely faithful to it, ready for whatever service of sacrifice it may demand, then with God's help, we shall prevail.

May He bless and keep us all.

## Allies Unready in 1914 But Now It is Different

(From the New York Times)

Of the fact that the European war crisis, which in 1914 was hardly discussed until a week before war actually began, has on this occasion been recurrent and long prepared for, much has been said already. But the differences from 1914 were by no means confined to that. Perhaps it will be worth while to recall other circumstances of the earlier episode; they provide an even more striking contrast with existing conditions.

Armed collision had occurred in July, 1914, between the Irish Nationalists and the royal troops; the King of England had declared, at the Buckingham Palace conference on the 21st, that "the cry of civil war is on the lips of the most responsible of my people." The conference broke down; Parliament was angrily divided. It was learned, long afterward, that the German Ambassador at London, Prince Lichnowski, had repeatedly notified his own Government that, whatever else happened, England would not go to war with Germany.

French home politics were in ferment. Ministry after Ministry went down; dissension between political factions was violently intensified by accusations of dishonesty against Minister of Finance Caillaux, followed by the murder, at the hands of Caillaux's wife, of the journalist publishing the story. It was common talk that the scandal thus created was the worst since the Dreyfus case; it seemed at the moment to have paralyzed French national unity. Yet the absence of suspicion that a great war was near at hand was shown by the fact that, when the crisis became acute, President, Premier and Foreign Minister were absent from France. Labor demonstrations, of an unusually embittered character, were occurring in Russia and Western Europe.

It is true this situation of 1914 was transformed when Germany declared war and invaded Belgium. But the picture presented on the eve of war was certainly unpleasant; to many minds its implications made the nations concerned peculiarly vulnerable to attack.

How different the present situation is, as regards the Western Powers, scarcely needs to be pointed out. To the entirely contrasting internal situation of those nations must largely be ascribed the prolonged negotiations and the hesitation of Germany in taking the step.

## Review of Events Leading up to Second Great War

Hitler Starts War by Invasion of Poland.

The following is a review of the important events preceding the second great war, started on Sept. 1st, by Germany's invasion of Poland:—

March 31—Great Britain pledged British-French aid if Poland's independence is threatened and she fights.

May 5—Poles refuse German territorial demands, but offer to negotiate.

Aug. 18—Germany takes military possession of Slovakia.

Aug. 21—Plans for German-Soviet non-aggression pact announced, one day after trade agreement is reached.

Aug. 23—Hitler reported to have de-

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## North Whitney Mines Start Underground Work

Active mining operations are expected to get under way by the end of the week on the North Whitney Mines property, adjoining north of Pamour in the Porcupine area. Assembly of a complete electrically-equipped mining plant is just about completed and the management expects to have the electric power turned on by September 1st. Approximately 2,500 ft. of line has been constructed to connect up with the Ontario Hydro transmission line.

The present development attack was initiated when new financial interests from the United States entered the North Whitney picture. First work is to be concentrated in the vicinity of the former mine workings where there is a shaft to 250 ft. depth with a 1,000 ft. crosscut on the 250-ft. level to the north and south zones. In the south section of the property a 30 ft. wide shear zone is exposed. Later it is planned to extend the north crosscut out into an area where interesting results were secured in diamond drilling.

Canada's Weekly, London:—These British Isles hold the title-deeds to our race. They are the mainstay of British freedom and Canadians, like Britishers, all the world over rejoice in the virility to be seen on all sides. Nothing could well be less like "decadence."

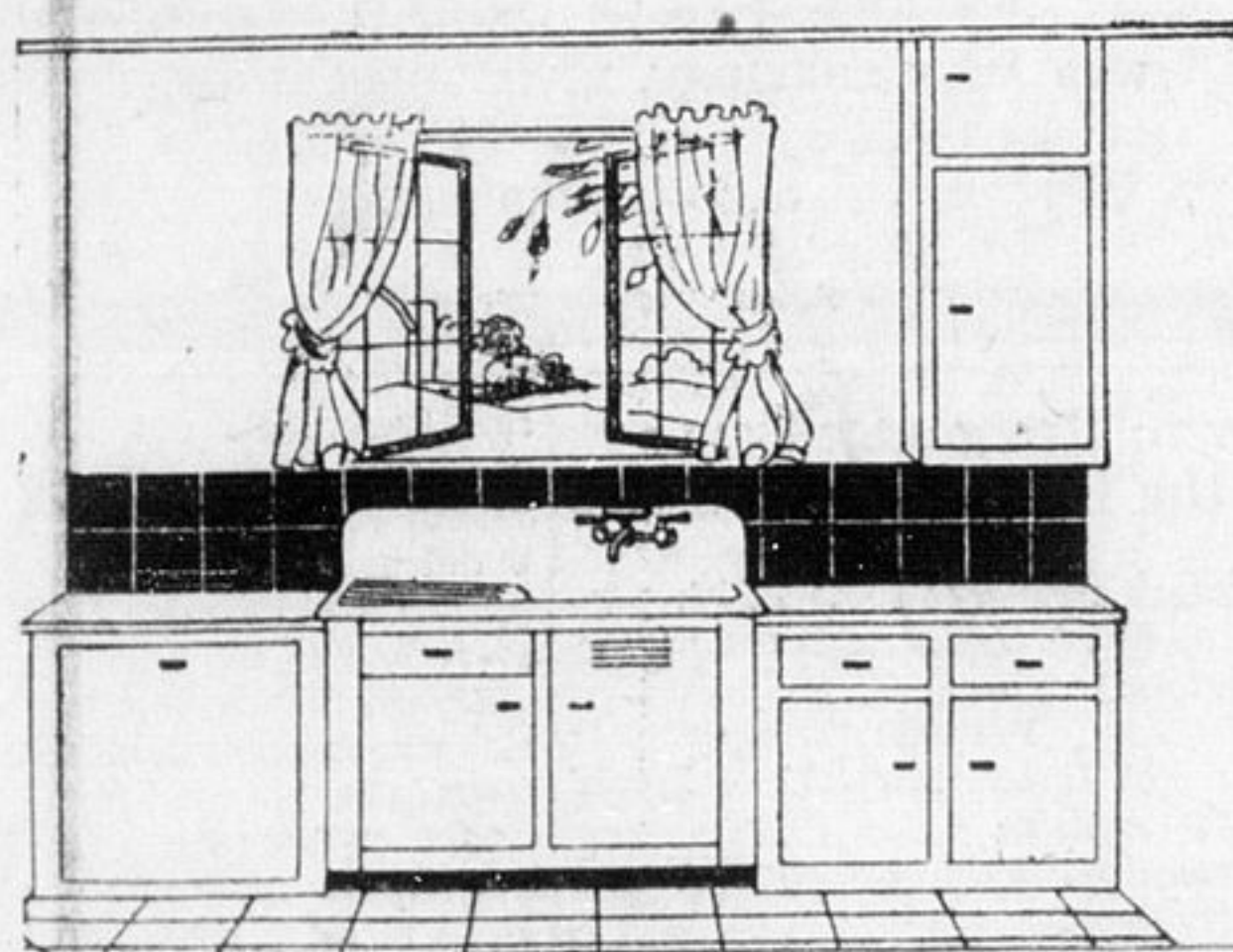
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\*Never dissolve lye in hot water. The action of the lye itself heats the water.



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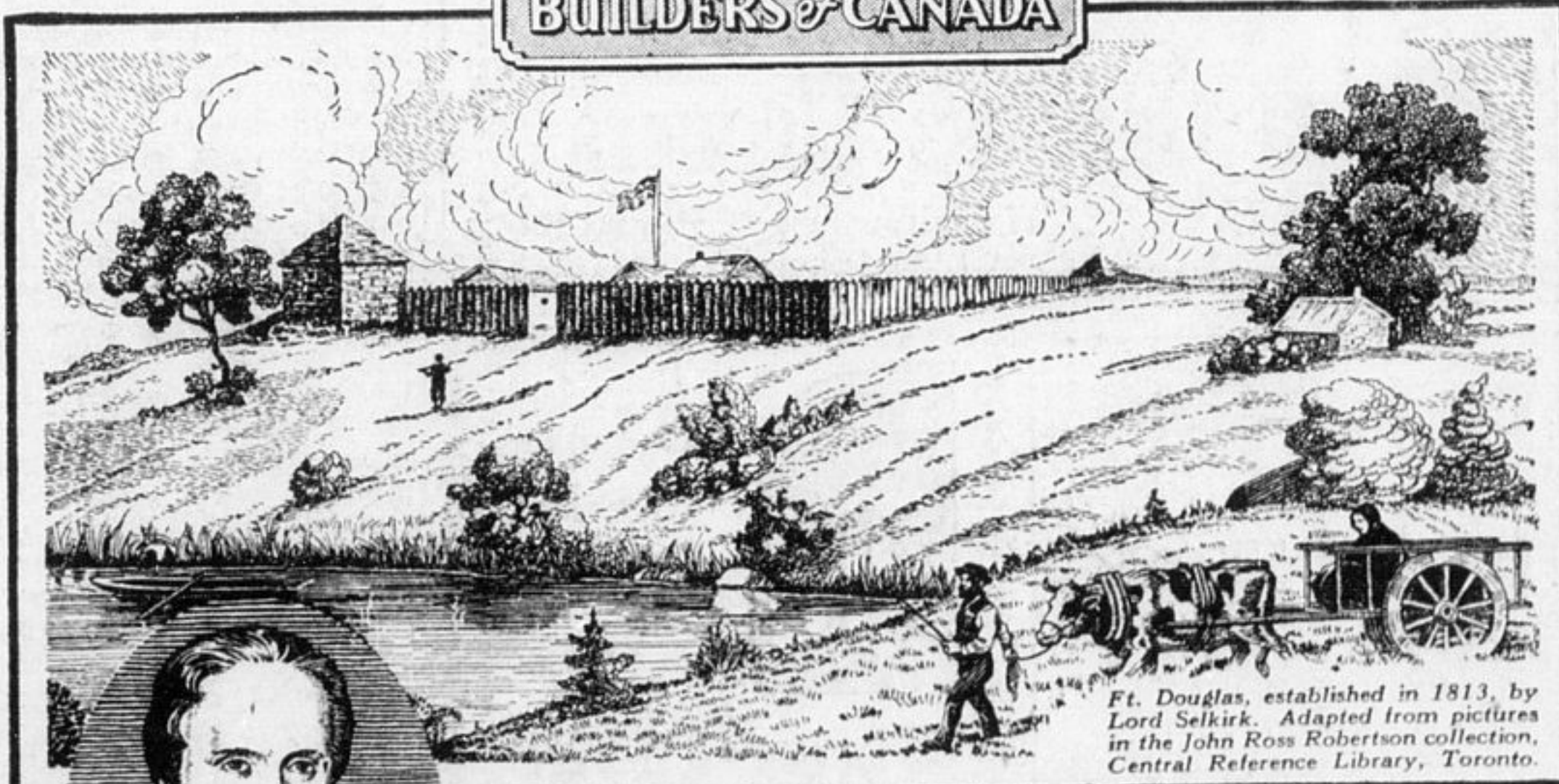
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## NATION BUILDING

JUST nineteen years after Selkirk and his Red River settlers built Ft. Douglas, this Bank first opened its doors. For over a century, it has served Canada in providing the "sinews of peace" that has helped make it possible for this new country to develop into one of the foremost nations of the world.

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