

Weekly Editors Write on the Importance of Air Raid Precautions

After Visit to Britain, Weekly Editors Urge Greater Attention to A. R. P. Work in Canada. Description of Work in Old Land When an Air Raid is Announced.

(Another in a series of articles written by W. R. Legge and C. V. Charters who represented the Canadian Weekly Newspapers' Association in a recent tour overseas.)

(By Walter R. Legge) One does not have to stay in England very long before the importance of A.R.P. or C.P.C. work is seen, and we Canadians became quickly convinced that much more serious attention to these precautions should be given in Canada.

Much of the work of the Army which we saw was in the form of demonstrations, but we had an opportunity to study A.R.P. work in actual practice over there.

We came back to our headquarters one afternoon to learn that a short time before some raiders had come over the vicinity and had caused considerable damage to a very large apartment hotel. Four of our party including myself went down to see just what had happened.

We found that the building which had been struck was a tremendously large apartment, nine stories in height much longer than an ordinary street block, with a large projecting L at each end. There were probably a hundred or more apartments of three or four rooms each in the building, which was a comparatively new fireproof block, largely of cement and stone construction. It was a building which would not easily be damaged.

The bomb had landed directly in front of the centre of the building only a few feet from the wall in the courtyard formed by the three walls of the building.

As there had been some casualties, considerable damage to the building, and as the construction was comparable to the heavy type of building here in Canada, it was an ideal situation for us to study from the standpoint of what would be necessary in Canada to cope with raid damage.

Works Soon on the Job The first thing that struck us was the tremendous activity all over the place. Although it was only a few hours after the bomb had struck, there were hundreds of men at work at top speed.

Police and guards kept all except workers from going close to the building, and as we were intensely interested in their organization, which we wanted to study with the idea of telling to the people of Canada, we presented our credentials at asked permission to enter. Here everywhere else in England, we were received with the greatest courtesy at conducted to the chief officer of the A.R.P.

His organization was working smoothly and efficiently, and he personally took us around introducing us to the heads of the various sections, and explaining what they were doing and how they carried out their duties.

He also took us through a part of the building, (would have taken too long to go through it all), to see what the effect of a bombing was.

In the event of a bombing causing such damage, to things are started at once, looking after casualties, and summoning the members of the A.R.P.

They use what is known as the snow-ball system to summon the members that is, each man had to call four others. In this way all the members are very quickly notified.

Setting Organization As soon as casualties are removed, the first thing to set up a main office known as the R.P. Liaison office, which keeps in touch with everything that is going on. In this case, the office of building made an ideal location, but we such a room is not available, the best suitable place is taken. The work is broken down so that there is section looking after each activity.

All this is or almost in as little time as it takes to tell about it.

Then an intensive search of the building is made with the double purpose of ascertaining if there are any trapped persons and to study if the building can be repaired and what it will require to this. At the same time any bodies previously removed are taken away.

Another group taking rapid steps to salvage anything that can be saved by a quick work, this is followed by a more leisurely effort to salvage everything possible.

Transportation must be arranged as required.

Other groups arranging for food, providing money where necessary, and the unfortunate, and a housing department for accommodation for the bombed people if they have no other place to go.

If, as it was in this case, it is possible to repair building, contractors and workmen called to start work without delay, otherwise the debris is more or less cleared up and replacement postponed until after the war.

All these various groups were on the job at once and carrying out their tasks as if it were a routine.

On the street front of the building was a canteen which bore on

its sides a sign showing that it had been presented to the Lord Mayor's Fund by Ford Victoria, Southern Rhodesia. In the courtyard was a number of men sweeping the grass. One of our party called attention to them remarking that there was an example of typical British efficiency, to which our guide replied, "That is something that is absolutely necessary. Those men have already recovered two valuable rings and a cigarette case." We were told that the action of a bomb is about as unpredictable as that of a stroke of lightning, and frequently the explosion will shatter all small articles right out of a building.

Another important detail which must be carried out at once, is to test the walls and buildings to make sure that they will not fall on workers.

Trained Workers Required It will be seen that many of these details require trained men, and it was not surprising to find that our guide in private life was a building contractor.

Even by the time we got there, workers were already preparing to make repairs, and were chipping out the remains of broken windows, and window glass was arriving to replace necessary windows.

One essential thing is that wardens know all the people in their territory and that they account for them to make sure that nobody is missing.

Compensation Described In regard to compensation, the Hon. Herbert Morrison, Minister of War Services told us that victims are given clothes and, if necessary, some money to carry on. If their home is so damaged that they cannot use it, they are billeted. However, real compensation is not given until the end of the war. New houses could not be supplied now anyway, on account of shortage of materials.

If a house can be repaired, easily, or if temporary repairs will enable it to be used, the cost is sometimes allowed, but this will be deducted from any future settlement. The organization known in Canada as Civilian Protection Committee, or Air Raid Precaution or A.R.P. is now called "Civil Defence" in England and is considered most important work. As Mr. Morrison told us, it is now a major act of war, so local authority is not enough.

The studies made of this work and its results are of great benefit to others. Quick communication is necessary, and as the telephones are state owned there is full co-operation, but more than that is necessary as the telephones might very possibly be put out of action. Therefore a system of messengers must be provided for.

Sabotage has been surprisingly little, so we were informed, and theft or taking advantage of another's misfortune is practically unknown. Early Efforts Important One thing should be impressed upon the people of Canada, and that is that much of the early damage by raiders could have been prevented if proper precautions had been taken before the raids began, and if the organization had been perfected in advance. That is to say, much damage was caused by fires which got out of hand because there were not enough properly trained fire fighters to deal with the emergency when it arose.

The time for Canadians to prepare for such emergencies is now, not after some city has suffered a bad raid. In the same way that the telephones might be interrupted, the water mains may be destroyed with disastrous effect. Therefore provision has been made in every community in England to have plenty of water in storage. Thousands of basements of buildings that have been destroyed are being used for this purpose. These basements have been cleaned out, cemented on the walls and bottom so that they will hold and have been filled with water. We saw many of these, and also other great storage tanks ready for an emergency.

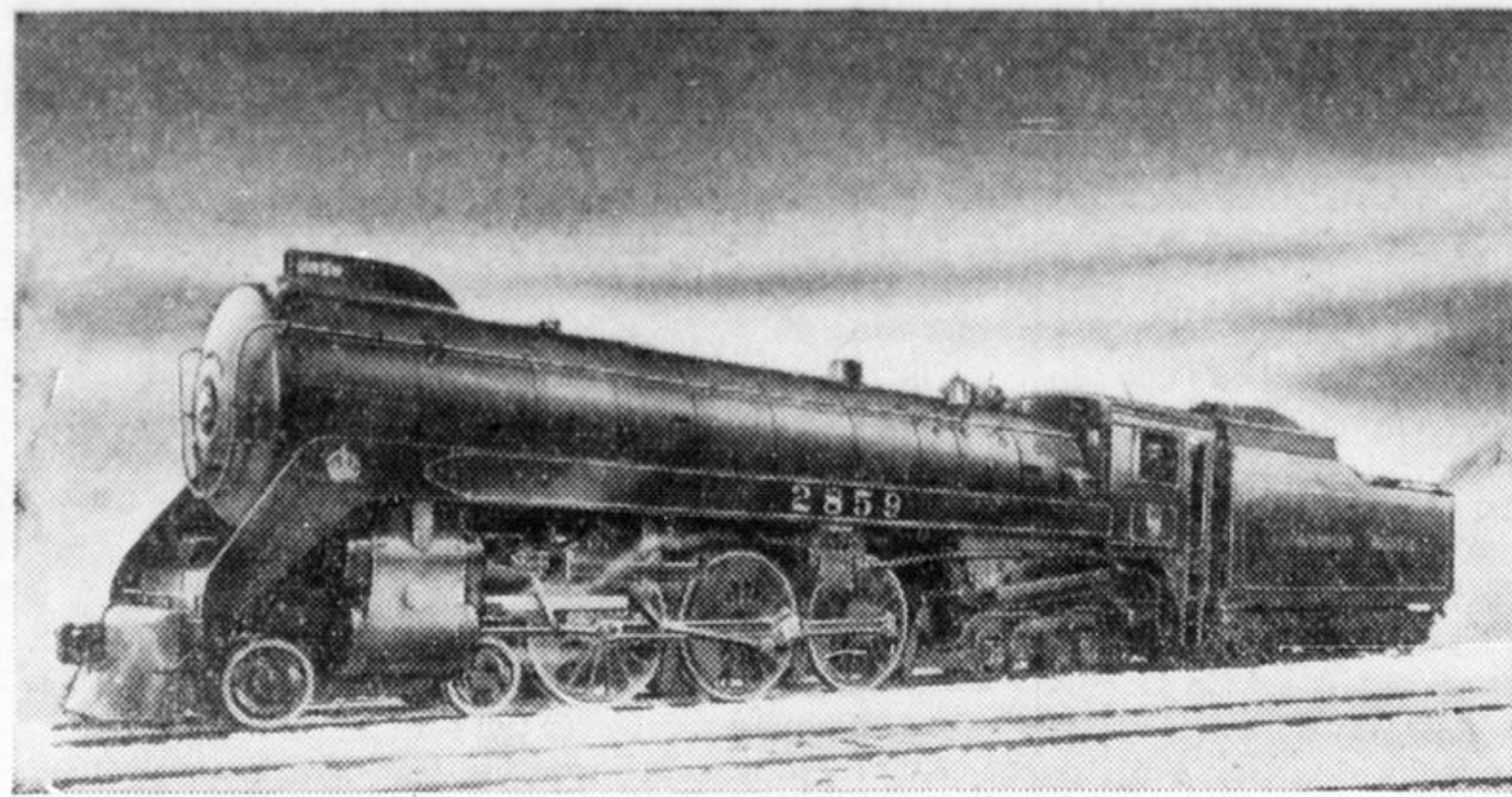
Large signs are posted indicating where static water is to be found. This is necessary so that in the excitement and confusion of an emergency the nearest storage of water is located without delay.

While all other direction signs in England are entirely lacking even the smallest community has no end of signs indicating where the warden lives, or can be found, where static water is stored, where air raid shelters are located, and the location of stirrup pumps. Probably there are more signs in England reading "Stirrup Pump here" than any other.

In addition to working hard at regular war work, nearly every man in England has to take his share in Civil Defence work.

Women Workers While we were in England, Mr. Herbert Morrison issued an appeal for a very large number of women to volunteer for work as fire watchers. This means night work patrolling buildings, climb-

HIGH WAR MILEAGE FOR C.P.R. LOCOMOTIVE



A record of 19,053 miles in one month is included in this Canadian Pacific Railway locomotive's wartime showing, in keeping with the Company's policy of getting maximum service from all equipment in order to fulfil its vital role in the fight for democracy's survival. In two other months, Locomotive 2859, one of the Royal Hudson class, was close

to its peak mark in mileage with totals of 18,265 miles and 18,452 miles while its six-months average was 17,197 miles. Other Royal Hudsons clicking off extra miles at present include Locomotive 2858, which operated 17,547 miles in one month, and Locomotives 2838, 2839, 2840 and 2841—all on the Toronto to Fort William run—which averaged 16,000 miles monthly over a half-year period.

The crown proudly carried on this locomotive's running board is a mark of honor for all of the '2800' class, for it was Locomotive 2850, sister engine of the ones now setting high mileage marks, which took Their Majesties across Canada in the Royal Visit of 1939. Authority for the use of the crown marking was given after that memorable journey. —Canadian Pacific Photo.

Legion's New Year's Eve Party Sets New High for Happy Entertainment

Delightful Time Enjoyed by Legion Members, Wives, and Ladies' Auxiliary in Seeing the Old Year Out and the New Year in. Plans Now Under Way for St. Patrick's Night.

ing on roofs and other hard work. There was a great deal of criticism of this appeal because it was felt that it was not fit work for women, that it was too hard and too dangerous. The answer to this criticism was that twice as many women volunteered for this work than was asked for.

When you look over the roofs of English cities, the first thing that strikes you are chimney pots. Every building has a battery of anywhere up to a dozen or more of these pots. The roofs are generally more cut up with all kinds of turrets than is the case in Canada, and with these chimney pots it makes the roofs hard to get at and hard to patrol. Ladders are usually kept on them so that any part of the roof can be quickly reached. This work is most important during raids, and the proper control of incendiaries on these roofs just means the difference between damage and staggering losses.

In the parish magazine of St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, the church which Queen Elizabeth in 1574 described as being the "fairest goodliest, and most famous Parish church in England." I read this appeal. "Without question the greatest material treasure in Bristol is St. Mary Redcliffe Church. I now ask the women of Bristol if they will help to guard it against fire. We want, two, at least, and three better still, to be on duty every night. Women between 17 and 50 will be welcomed, and if you arrange with a friend or friends to take on one night a week, you will be doing great service. Now is the time to strengthen our hand of watchers before the winter begins."

Some say that the reason there have been so many churches destroyed in England is due to the difficulty in protecting these roofs from incendiaries. It seems to be very difficult work to ask women to do, yet they are cheerfully responding to the appeals. And remember, that in all probability, the women who take on this work, will do it in addition to working at their regular occupation every day.

The first great fire of London was in 1666, the second one was in 1940. Every able bodied man available and every piece of fire fighting equipment which could be brought to London was engaged in trying to overcome the flames. I am told by people who were there that men worked until they were dropped from exhaustion, and that engineers ran until their bearings were burnt out. I have even heard it said that if the German Raiders had come back one more succeeding night, the whole city would have gone as the men and equipment could not have carried on any longer.

Raids Not Over The people of England now seem to think that the worst is over, that such raids cannot happen again. They are encouraged in this belief by the fact that the defences are so much better than they were, that there are more and better planes for defence that there are many more balloons, that the ack-ack is stronger and better, that the A.R.P. is much better organized and more effective. The Hon. Mr. Morrison told us that there are now 1450 fire companies merged into the National Fire Service.

Authorities however, hold a different view. They are warning the people that increased heavier raids are not only possible but very probable. Some authorities say that the recent months

To the strains of "The Bells Were Ringing the Old Year Out," and "Auld Lang Syne," the passing of 1942 was fittingly observed by members of the Canadian Legion, their wives, and members of the Ladies' Auxiliary in Timmins. It was a real happy get-together and the success of the evening was due to the fullest of co-operation by the entertainment committee. Each member worked over 100 p.c. and each each took charge of his allotted task. James Cowan and Bert Kettle, all decked up in chef's outfits (borrowed for the occasion) took charge of the kitchen. They prepared and served a very appetizing lunch and drew the praises of all. Fred Curtis, decked in "top coat and frock hat," as he said, was busy all night looking after the thirst of the many. Tom Hedican, made a most efficient doorman and the "they shall not pass," sign was seen many times upon his countenance. Les. Nicholson, acted as the M.C. His disappearing trick after the hats and noisemakers were handed out was a masterpiece. Walter A. Devine was the music-maker and some said his exhibition of "perpetual motion" was the big success of the night. President Neame toasted the year 1943 in a brief but stirring message. Mrs. Hornell was the only one to give a song, and this was received with loud and prolonged applause. The first New Year party of the Timmins branch came to a close all too soon—3:00 a.m.—and on New Year's Day. The committee has stated:—"We intend to have another just the same, so put St. Patrick's Night down for the Legion."

Serious Fire Last Week Rages at Matachewan

There was a serious fire last week at Matachewan, when fire destroyed the large frame building formerly used as a store by Donald Connelly, but more recently converted to residential purposes. Ontario Forestry Dept. men from both the Matachewan and Elk Lake stations brought their equipment into use, laying lines of hose from the Montreal river and playing water both on the burning building and on other nearby buildings threatened. The fire raged for several hours and for a time it was feared that other buildings might also be lost. The Forestry men and the volunteer firemen helping did unusually effective work and the only building destroyed was the one in which the fire originated. Calls were sent in to both Kirkland Lake and New Liskeard for assistance, but before either of these two outside brigades could reach the scene the firefighters at Matachewan had the blaze under control and both Kirkland Lake and New Liskeard were notified that after all their assistance would not be necessary.

Several municipalities in Temiskaming hold their elections on Jan. 1st, instead of in December as is the case in Timmins, Tisdale and other municipalities in this part of the North. This year all these Temiskaming municipalities had elections by acclamation, and there will not be a single contest. There are fifteen of these municipalities electing their municipal heads by acclamation. Halleybury, New Liskeard, Englehart, Latchford and a number of townships. W. Weeks is again mayor of Englehart. W. H. Walter was re-elected mayor of Halleybury by acclamation. Geo. B. Shaw is mayor of Latchford for 1943, and H. E. Cawley re-elected mayor of Halleybury by acclamation.

Fifteen Acclamations in Temiskaming District

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Officers for 1943 Duly Installed at Timmins Kiwanis Club, Monday

Past Lieut.-Governor W. O. Langdon and Past Lieut.-Gov. P. T. Moisiey the Installing Officers. William Burnes the President for 1943; John Beattie, Vice-President. Secretary, W. H. Wilson.

The chief business at the Timmins Kiwanis Club weekly luncheon at the Empire hotel on Monday noon was the installation of the officers for the ensuing year. Elections were held some weeks ago, but the new officers are not installed until the first meeting in the new year. The installation officers for the event on Monday were Past Lieut.-Governor W. O. Langdon and Past Lieut.-Governor P. T. Moisiey. The following were the officers installed for 1943: President—William Burnes Vice-President—John Beattie Treasurer—Geo. N. Ross Secretary—W. H. Wilson ("Scotty") Directors—Joseph W. Jackson, Horace G. Laidlaw, Geo. S. Drew, Phil La-

Timmins Department Wins High Honour in Fire Prevention Week Contest

Given Special Merit Grading in National Fire Prevention Week Competition. Dominion Fire Commissioner Extends Congratulations and Good Wishes for the New Year.

The following letter received last week by Fire Chief Alex Borland of the Timmins Fire Department explains itself and tells its own story—and a pleasing story it is: Department of Insurance Ottawa, Ont. December 29th 1942 Mr. Alex Borland, Chief of the Fire Department, Timmins, Ont.

Dear Chief: I am in receipt of a copy of the report of the International Committee of Judges in connection with the 1942 Fire Prevention Week Competition directed by Mr. T. Alfred Fleming, Director of Conservation of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, and Chairman of the Fire Prevention and Clean Up Campaign Committee of the National Fire Protection Association. In this report it is noted that your municipality was given a special merit grading of between 80 and 89 per cent by the Judges, and I wish to take this opportunity of extending to you my very sincere congratulations on attaining this high honour. It is a good indication of the interest which you and your department are taking in the matter of fire prevention, and I am confident that your efforts along these lines will be reflected in a reduced fire loss record. This is a type of work in which repetition is necessary and I trust you will be in the 1943 competition "with both feet."

Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Took in \$106.88

Capt. Church Played Christmas Carols on his Cornet.

The Salvation Army "Kettle" for Christmas Cheer, at the corner of Third and Pine street during Christmas week took in \$106.88—a very satisfactory sum in view of the many demands from so many sources at this time of year. Capt. Church added much to the interest by playing Christmas carols on his cornet at the side of the Kettle. Many who stopped to listen to the beautiful carols, dropped contributions in the kettle for the Christmas Cheer Fund. There was comment on the fact that despite the severity of the weather, the Captain stayed at his post by the kettle, and brought pleasing music from the cornet despite all the cold. Christmas hampers were supplied to a comparatively large number of needy families, through the donations that came to the kettle. In regard to the Christmas Cheer Kettle, Timmins was not alone in this plan. Throughout the Canadian territory of the Salvation Army, from Alaska to Bermuda, the Salvation Army spent the Christmas season in the best traditional manner—that of bringing cheer to the underprivileged persons of all ages. The Relief Kettles and their smiling guardians were kept busy on street corners in many of the larger cities and towns, and public generously contributed coins bills and even cheques to the good cause, thus enabling the Salvation Army to provide hampers for needy families and comforts for aged people and children. Homes where the father was away on active service were visited, and inmates of hospitals, institutions and prisons were also given treats and programmes.

Four More Recruits from Timmins for the R.C.A.F. and W.D.

Three Men and One Woman Join R. C. A. F. at North Bay Last Week.

Twenty-one men and three women were among the recruits for air crew and other trades at the R.C.A.F. Recruiting Centre, North Bay, during the period Dec. 18th to Dec. 31st, 1942, inclusive. Again Timmins had the largest number of recruits, there being three from Timmins for the R.C.A.F. and one for the Women's Division of the R.C.A.F. Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and LeVack had two each; and there were one each from Schumacher, Porcupine, Kapuskasing, Cochrane, Monctonville, Ansonville, Kirkland Lake, Nipissing, Nobel North Bay, White River, Barkway. Timmins—William Henry Hadley, 28 Randall street, Mattagami Heights, Timmins; Henry Korosky, 111 Sixth avenue, Timmins; George Garfield May, 119 Birch street south, Timmins. Schumacher—Clifford Allen Reeves, 65 Second avenue, Schumacher. Porcupine—John Henry Gollick. Kapuskasing—Jack Lewis Harman. Ansonville—Theo. Ovide Boucher. Kirkland Lake—Wm. Hamilton, 78 Third street, Kirkland Lake. Cochrane—Alexander Lorne Sunstrum. The three recruits for the Women's Division were:—Mabel Dorothy Thrasher, clerk-stenographer (medical) 219 Elm street, north, Timmins. Eileen Mary McCarthy, standard tradeswoman, Iroquois Falls Ont. Agnes Emmeline Scott, standard general duties, Healslip, Ont.

First Red Shield Formed Recently at Golden City

Members of Red Shield in Timmins Form Red Shield at Golden City.

A meeting of the Red Shield Women's Auxiliary was held recently at the Golden City restaurant, to form a branch of the Auxiliary in the Porcupine. There were seven ladies present. Captain and Mrs. Church and Mrs. J. McChesney, president of the Timmins Branch and Mrs. Keats were present to organize the group. Mrs. Jean Smith was elected as president of the Auxiliary; Mrs. Edward Beely, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. S. J. Dunbar, wool and sewing convener. The ladies will meet every second Monday at the homes of the different ladies to knit and sew for this worthy cause.

Following the business period, a social hour was spent, and a dainty lunch was served by Mrs. Brooks, the hostess. "Why not drop a line to your local RCAF Recruiting centre at 40 Worthington St. E., North Bay, Ontario, and you will be furnished with all particulars. Should you desire to attend at this office you will be given an interview by a French-speaking Women's Division airwoman and given all assistance in selecting a trade in which you would be most interested. Canada needs you now—why delay?"

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