

# The Porcupine Advance

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## ANOTHER APPEAL FOR THE RED CROSS

The Dominion headquarters of the Red Cross, the provincial headquarters and the hundreds of branches of the Red Cross in Canada have done their part to make the present campaign for funds for the Red Cross work a complete success. The various campaign committees have made their plans and are carrying out these plans with an ability and earnestness that deserve success. All that remains is for the public response to equal the interest and effort of the leaders. To judge from past experience, it might be expected as almost a foregone conclusion that the campaign would more than meet its objective, as the people in general have never yet failed to respond to a proper appeal for any worthy patriotic cause. The present Red Cross appeal is not only proper and able but has behind it such an array of facts as to make it irresistible. In addition, it is the very essence of patriotism—the care of the ill and the wounded and the imprisoned and the comfort of the men and women on service.

Perhaps the most compelling reason why the Red Cross should be given what they ask is the fact that they have in the past accomplished so much with what they have been given. Since the beginning of the present war the Canadian Red Cross has spent approximately \$36,000,000.00 to provide free gifts for members of the armed forces, prisoners-of-war, and British and other civilian war sufferers, and for disaster relief emergencies. In this connection it may be noted once again that however unprepared for sudden coups and emergencies peoples and governments may be, the Red Cross always appears to be ready and on the spot no matter how sudden or unexpected the call. Of the \$36,000,000 spent to date approximately \$13,536,000 was spent for prisoners-of-war food parcels, covering cost of food supplies and shipping; over \$11,750,000 was expended for comforts for the armed forces, navy, merchant marine, air raid sufferers and for hospital and medical supplies; some \$3,384,000 was invested in ambulances, mobile kitchens, hospital and medical supplies, and food sent to Britain; assistance to Allied Red Cross Societies and other service organizations amounted to about \$2,700,000; around \$100,000 was due to the cost of warehousing, packing and shipping in all divisions at ocean ports and overseas; the building and equipping of the hospital at Taplow, England, took \$831,600; there was \$460,800 for special emergencies and disasters and for sundry war expenditures. Campaigns and publicity were only a little over 2½ per cent. of the total, while the whole administration cost of this immense enterprise was only 3.79 per cent. It is doubtful if any other enterprise on earth is conducted where so large a proportion of the total cost goes to the purpose designated and where such a small percentage is taken up by what may be termed overhead. Red Cross financial statements are all submitted to the Dominion Auditor-General's department, and because of the fact that so much is done with comparatively little money, it is not a matter for wonder that the Red Cross very cheerfully presents details of its income and expenditures to the public.

It is only necessary to read the letters from overseas—from those on service and from civilians alike—to know how great a work is being done by the Red Cross and how much it is appreciated. Last week The Advance published extracts of letters received by the Eastern Porcupine Branch of the Red Cross. The fact that there were over 300 such letters tells its own story. One soldier wrote: "The Red Cross never fails us." Another said: "To really appreciate how much these things are appreciated a person has to be in service." This thought is further emphasized by another soldier who writes: "I really believe now in the Red Cross." From civilians overseas caught in the horrors of war, come the same sort of thanks and appreciation. At headquarters of the Red Cross are literally thousands of letters from prisoners-of-war, and the theme of all of them is practically the same—"without the Red Cross parcels, we would perish of monotony and lack of proper food and medicine and comforts."

Anyone who reads the newspapers or has even an occasional letter from overseas must know now of the great work being done by the Red Cross. Surely, all will wish this work to continue and will give it full support to this end. As the Red Cross emphasizes at this time, the work of the Society will be more necessary than ever should a sudden peace arrive. There will still be the prisoners-of-war to care for; still the soldiers to help and benefit; still the civilians in Britain and elsewhere to save from the extreme horrors of war. Indeed, a sudden peace would mean extended demands on the services of the Red Cross. Accordingly, even those optimists who see an early victory for the Allied Nations should be able to understand the vital necessity for a strong and well-equipped Red Cross.

The Red Cross at present has literally scores of

different services and benefits—all necessary and all effective and worthy. The greatest need for funds is for the prisoners-of-war work. This service is a duty that should appeal to all patriotic and humane people, and because of this part of the Red Cross work, and because of the many other services of this Society the answer here and all through Canada should be donations that will meet all the needs and go far past the announced objective.

## IS IT SUCH A SMALL WORLD?

Two friends who meet many times during the average day happened to be leaving the balcony of the Broadway theatre recently. They said "Hello" to each other on the landing in the balcony. Then one went down the stairs to the north and the other went down the stairway on the southern side. In less than a minute they met again in the downstairs lobby. "Ah!" exclaimed one. "We meet again! It's a small world isn't it?"

There are many reasons these days for agreeing that it is a small world. Fast trains and faster motor cars and still faster planes make the world look small indeed, not to mention the radio that makes things known in Ottawa about Australia or Britain or India before they have time in Melbourne or London or Delhi to learn that these things are not so. With all the inventions and advantages of the present day, the fact that there is the kind of war in progress that is now going on certainly makes the world look small indeed.

The Advance used to say:—"It's a funny world—this North Land!" Judging from a report in The Northern News last week, it would be dangerous to paraphrase that old saying into the more modern suggestion:—"It's a small world—this North Land!" Old-timers used to think this North Land was an immense place—four times the size of all the rest of Ontario. But in their most expansive moments no old-timers gave it the extent that was suggested for it in Toronto years ago, according to the report in The Northern News last week. The report was about an address to the Kiwanis Club by Mr. T. O'Rourke, now manager of the Kirkland Lake branch of the Bank of Commerce. According to The Northern News report, Mr. O'Rourke said that he came from Ireland in 1912 and he and seventeen other budding financiers were shown a huge map of Canada displaying the immense area receiving banking facilities in those days in this Dominion. He was assigned to Gowganda, but was unable to find that place on the map. He was solemnly assured, however, that there was such a place but to reach it from Toronto (no doubt considered then as the centre of civilization) he would have to "travel 2400 miles by train, 500 miles by boat and the rest of the way by dogteam." If that was not elongated exaggeration of the truth, then this North Land was not a small world in 1912, but it has certainly grown much smaller since then. To-day, to travel 2400 miles by train from Toronto to Gowganda, a good traveller would include a side trip to Edmonton, Alberta. As for 500 miles by boat, that would be enough to take a traveller miles past Gowganda, though wheels on the boat would be recommended for the necessary portages. As for the "rest by dog team," the whole way between Toronto and Gowganda has all been made more than once by dog team, with enough "rest" on the trip.

The reminiscences at Kirkland Lake may suggest to some that the North grows smaller, or, at least, nearer. The solution, however, may be that Toronto is growing broader, or, at least, wider in its knowledge. On a recent visit to Toronto, Mr. W. O. Langdon, president of the Northern Ontario Associated Boards of Trade, was impressed with the interest there in the Great North and the knowledge of this large territory that many in the city evidenced. There is still need, though, to impress on Toronto and the south the fact that while the North is near at hand it has wide area where there is opportunity to develop resources and wealth for the advantage of the whole Dominion.

## A FLOOR FOR QUALITY

According to a ruling recently issued, all men's underwear and women's and misses' dresses manufactured in Canada must bear a label showing the license number of the maker and the style number of the garment as classified by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. The purpose of the order is to protect consumers from poor quality goods supplied at ceiling prices for higher quality material. It is a step in the right direction, but it does not go far enough and it was not issued soon enough. In the earnest desire to prevent inflation, the weak point of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board practice has been in regard to quality in goods. While prices have apparently been held down, the fact is that the increase has been much greater in prices than appears on the surface. There have been ceilings on prices all right, but there has been no floor on quality. The result in effect has been that articles are still sold, say for one dollar, but the dollar article of to-day would not have brought 75 cents before the war. Indeed, in some cases, people wouldn't have accepted the present articles at any price. In some lines, quality goods appear almost to be unobtainable at any price. They have been replaced at the old quality prices by inferior goods. This is particularly true of articles of wearing apparel. The new order seems to be an effort to overcome the deprived quality trouble. It does not appear to fully fill the bill however. It sets the basic period between Sept. 15th and Oct. 15th, 1941. The deterioration in quality was evident as early as 1941. Indeed, the whole tendency of the

regulations appears to tend to decrease the quality. That is why The Advance has persistently urged some form of quality floor to match the price ceiling. It is something to know that the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has turned even at this late date to consideration of quality in goods as a vital factor in the situation. To sell low quality goods at normal high quality prices is to practice a form of inflation that hits the average purchaser. There will be keen interest in watching whether the Wartime Prices and Trade Board will make as good a job of maintaining quality as they have done in sustaining price ceilings.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Still stands the motto of the King: "Put into your task whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshakable. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips and our heads held high and with God's help we shall not fail."

Lloyd Childs, guard at the Haileybury district jail, last week reported as a sign of an early spring, that he saw a robin on the jail lawn on Monday. Maybe, it was only a jail bird that he saw, though that bird may be kept at Haileybury for a robbin'. Too bad!

It appears to be timely to say a word these beautiful spring days for the Timmins Horticultural Society. It was a fine day when this was written, but it is hard to say in this North Land what it may be like when this is published. The weather here is slightly changeable on very short notice. But not so the Timmins Horticultural Society. That Society keeps on in the same way doing a good job for the district, through storm and sunshine and in peace and war. Last year the Tim-

## Chairman Red Cross Campaign Committee Knows Value of Work

Experience as Prisoner-of-War Makes A. F. McDowell Earnest Advocate of Red Cross.

Mr. A. F. McDowell, chairman of the Timmins committee in charge of the present campaign for funds is particularly fitted for the post. He is not only an executive of special ability but he also knows from personal experience the great value of Red Cross work. "Many, including myself, would not be alive to-day, if it had not been for the Red Cross," says Mr. McDowell. He was a prisoner-of-war in Germany during part of the last war and his experience was that it was the Red Cross parcels alone that kept the prisoners-of-war from slow starvation. Because of this the campaign chairman is particularly earnest and eager to support the Red Cross to the limit.

The story of the experience of the campaign chairman during the last war is an interesting one and its highlights and morals give very emphatic reasons for support of the Red Cross.

Private A. F. McDowell enlisted in the Third Battalion, Toronto Regt., 1st Brigade, 1st Division; trained at Valcartier, Que., and went overseas in October, 1914.

He trained at Bustard Camp, Salisbury Plain, England, and crossed to France on Feb. 15th, 1915.

He was captured by the Germans at St. Julien in front of Ypres in the second battle of Ypres.

Herded back behind the front in coal wagons; slept on stone floor in old church; fed only black bread.

Lined up with other prisoners-of-war in huge square. Mr. McDowell says that naturally they were a dirty, ragged lot, without care, and without opportunity to care for themselves. The prisoners-of-war were subject to the usual interrogation, which does not sound very serious, perhaps, but was much less pleasant than it sounds.

With fifty men to a box car, they were all sent on the long journey to the interior of Germany. Forty men would have been a better load to a box car. As it was there was not room to sit down. Wounded men were all piled in indiscriminately. The air was bad; there were only a few small ventilators; there were no sanitary conditions. They were allowed out of the box car only once in thirty-six hours. (at Cologne)

Eventually they were incarcerated in the prison camp—at Giessen, where 4,000 were "accommodated." They slept on the floor, with blankets, at first. Later they built their own bunks.

Parcels from home helped out at first. At that time the Red Cross was not fully organized. Early in 1916, however, the Red Cross parcels, began to arrive regularly, with clothing and medical supplies. That meant the difference between the danger of starvation from the monotony and scarcity of the food available and comparative comfort with the Red Cross parcels. "Many, including myself," Mr. McDowell says, "would not have lived if it had not been for the Red Cross parcels."

During his incarceration, Mr. McDowell suffered personal illness that required hospital treatment. He made partial recovery and was sent back to the prison camp. It was the cod liver oil and other supplies from the Red Cross that helped his recovery. When he was finally repatriated he weighed 125 pounds as against 170 lbs. when he was captured.

Mr. McDowell's record was duplicated by many in the last war. It is equally true of the present war. Thousands upon thousands of prisoners-of-war are alive to-day only because of the Red

cross parcels. Scores of letters have been published in The Advance and other references made in these columns to show that present day prisoners-of-war depend on the Red Cross for their very existence. And they do not depend in vain. If there were no other reason for the strongest support of the Red Cross, the value of the work to prisoners-of-war would be enough to

make it an imperative duty on all at home to strengthen the Red Cross in every way. The fact is, however, that attention to prisoners-of-war is only one of the many activities of the Red Cross. It is no exaggeration to say that the Red Cross serves wherever there is a need these days. It is accordingly the privilege as well as the duty of all to support the Red Cross.

The closing down of an explosives plant at Nobel recently entailed the loss of employment for a group of men totalling 3,000. The transfer of these men to other employment meant loss and inconvenience to them, but this was only a circumstance to the effect on merchants and other business men affected by the change. The governments should be prepared for such eventualities or there will be serious confusion and hardship involved unnecessarily. A question to be faced now is whether the buildings and plants such as the one at Nobel are to be no more than wasted money. Mr. Arthur Slaght, M.P., suggests that such plants and buildings should be utilized to supply civilian needs, and there will be general agreement that something along this line should be arranged.

The large number of men and women now serving in the armed forces from the North Land emphasizes the need for hospitals and convalescent homes in this area for the ill and injured returning from the battle zones. Such hospitals and homes in the North are indicated both in the interests of those who are serving and for the sake of economy. At Monteith for example, there are hospitals and other buildings all ready for use. Are these to be allowed to rot and fall down while other accommodation is provided elsewhere at much cost to the country?



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### WISHFUL THINKING

Boss: "Joe, you're a liar. You took a day off to bury your mother-in-law, and I met her in the park this morning."

Joe: "Oh, I didn't say she was dead, sir. I just said I would like to go to her funeral." — North Bay Nugget.

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