

Section 4.—The Canadian Red Cross Society.*

Closely allied with the Dominion and Provincial Governments in activities to promote the health of the people is the Canadian Red Cross Society. Founded in 1896, its purposes are (1) to furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, and (2) in time of peace to carry on and assist in work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering.

The more important phases of the peace-time work carried on by the Society are: (a) the continuing care of sick and disabled ex-service men; (b) the operation of Red Cross outpost hospitals; (c) the promotion of Junior Red Cross and the treatment of crippled or otherwise disabled children; (d) the maintenance of a disaster relief organization fully prepared for immediate action in any emergency; (e) the organization of classes for the study of home nursing and nutrition; (f) the care of immigrant women and children at the Port of Halifax; (g) the training and supplying of visiting housekeepers for families when the homemaker is ill; (h) co-operation with government departments and other voluntary organizations in combating disease, the promotion of child welfare, and the care of the physically defective; (i) in general, provision for the needs of the distressed and destitute.

Since the inception of the peace-time program in 1920, the Red Cross Society has established outpost hospital service in 70 centres in Canada's northland. Twenty-four of these have been handed over to their communities, four have been found no longer necessary, and in 1937 there were 42 outpost hospitals operating under the emblem of the Red Cross. In 1937, Red Cross outposts cared for 36,803 patients, of which number 7,296 were in-patients with a total of 78,369 hospital days' treatment. Without the aid of these outposts, thousands of our fellow-citizens who gain their livelihood on the fringes of the settled parts of Canada would have lacked any kind of skilled assistance when sickness or injury overtook them.

Junior Red Cross, a movement for the children of elementary and sometimes secondary schools, is devoted to the promotion of the principles of health, good citizenship, and international friendliness. Guided only by the teacher-mentor, the children work out their own program of personal and school hygiene, community service, and interchange of handicrafts and information with the Juniors of other lands. Though primarily an educational movement, it is significant that since its inception, the Canadian Junior Red Cross has helped over 14,000 crippled or otherwise disabled children. Junior Red Cross now embraces a membership of over 17,000,000 children in 52 nations of the world. In Canada for the school year 1936-37, 11,927 branches were enrolled with a total membership of 364,335.

The consolidated financial statement of the Society for 1937 showed total receipts of \$1,273,782, of which \$956,618 consisted of voluntary contributions. Gross expenditures were \$1,279,175, of which the major items were \$463,484 on disaster relief, \$299,679 for outpost hospitals, \$118,215 on assistance to soldiers and their dependants, \$44,796 for the treatment of crippled children, \$104,276 on general relief, \$45,792 on the organization of the Junior Red Cross, and \$24,037 for home nursing, visiting housekeeper, and nutrition services.

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