

Immediately upon the outbreak of war on Sept. 3, 1939, the Canadian Red Cross Society prepared energetically to undertake its traditional war-time services. The peace-time organization was expanded rapidly until at the close of the year over 2,000 branches in every part of Canada, from the smallest hamlets to the largest metropolitan centres, were feverishly engaged in Red Cross service. Particular mention should be made of the thousands of voluntary women workers who have applied themselves industriously to the making of supplies. Hospital articles, surgical dressings, refugee clothing, bedding, and field comforts in great variety have been made in hundreds of thousands. These have been sent overseas for distribution, placed in military hospitals on this side, or, in keeping with the policy of the International Committee and with the precedence of the United States and French Red Cross in the War of 1914-18, distributed to soldiers in training in Canada.

To finance the work, a nation-wide appeal for funds was made to the Canadian people. This resulted in the magnificent contribution of cash and pledges of \$5,118,086, a response that not only assured ample support for the work of the Red Cross, but one that was considered of great national significance throughout the Empire.

Before the close of the year 1939 much had been accomplished. By a grant of over \$100,000, hospital and recreational accommodation and scores of thousands of articles of clothing were provided in Halifax for British, Canadian, and Allied seamen and sailors entering that port. Similar services were rendered to the British Navy and Merchant Marine in Britain through a grant of \$100,000 to the British Navy League. An initial grant of an equivalent amount was made to the British Red Cross Society of which, at the outbreak of the War of 1914-18, the Canadian Red Cross had formed a part.

Through an excellent Overseas Advisory Committee headed by a former Prime Minister of Canada who has been active for years in Red Cross work, foundations were laid for many services to Canadian soldiers in England. Plans were completed and construction begun on a 600-bed Canadian Red Cross Base Hospital at Taplow. In London, the first Maple Leaf Club, a residential club for soldiers, was opened and is being operated by the Canadian Red Cross, which also initiated the establishment of the Beaver Club recreational centre. Committees were named to render personal services, to distribute field comforts, to visit patients in hospital, and to supervise the sending of parcels of food and clothing to prisoners of war.

Through close co-operation with the International Red Cross Committee and the League of Red Cross Societies at Geneva, assistance was sent to Red Cross Societies in Poland, Finland, Turkey, and France in the form of ambulances, hospital supplies, refugee clothing, bedding, and substantial cash contributions.

The prompt action of the Canadian Red Cross in initiating this war effort and the gratifying measure of work accomplished since the conflict began have been made possible by the organization that functioned during twenty years of peace. The more important phases of this peace-time work carried on by the Society are: the continuing care of sick and disabled ex-service men; the operation of Red Cross outpost hospitals; the promotion of Junior Red Cross and the treatment of crippled or otherwise disabled children; the maintenance of a disaster relief organization fully prepared for immediate action in any emergency; the organization of classes for the study of home nursing and nutrition; the care of immigrant women and children at the Port of Halifax; the training and supplying of visiting housekeepers for families when the homemaker is ill; co-operation with government departments