

In 1947 the Red Cross became the official welcoming committee for thousands of British immigrants arriving by air or by sea. A helping hand was extended at Red Cross Reception Centres in the various railway terminals across the country. Up to the end of the year, 6,204 immigrants passed through the Reception Centre at Toronto, Ont.

There were approximately 2,000,000 senior members of the Canadian Red Cross Society in 1947, and some \$5,000,000 was voluntarily subscribed in that year to carry on its peacetime work.

Subsection 3.—The Order of St. John*

The origin of the Order of St. John goes back to the Crusades and the Knights of St. John and Malta. His Majesty the King is supreme head of the Order which has headquarters at London, England, and units in all parts of the British Empire. In Canada the Governor General is the Prior and meetings of the Order are held at Government House. The organization in Canada is the Priory in Canada of the Grand Priory of the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, usually referred to as the Order of St. John.

The Priory in Canada has its headquarters and national offices at St. John House, Ottawa, Ont., with branches in every province and local centres in hundreds of cities and towns throughout Canada. There are two distinct branches: the Association whose members train instructors, conduct classes and issue various certificates; and the Brigade, members of which are in uniform under a form of military discipline, receive constant supplementary training, and are available for call whenever the need arises. The Brigade strength is approximately 15,000 persons, about equally divided between the Ambulance Division (men) and the Nursing Division (women), and organized into about 325 divisions.

The primary purpose of the Association is to teach first aid and home nursing and other kindred subjects to citizens of Canada, irrespective of age, and to provide trained and organized personnel to help in time of disaster or national emergency. The work was started in 1895 and since then more than 1,000,000 persons have received certificates and other awards. Many thousands of these went to members of the Armed Forces to which trained instructors and textbooks have been provided in large numbers. The railways of Canada and many large industrial concerns maintain their own St. John centres. At port cities the Order assists the regular R.C.A.M.C. doctors and nurses, helps in hospitals and merchant seamen's hostels and also assists shipwrecked seamen. Uniformed St. John Brigade members are to be found at all exhibitions, large demonstrations or wherever crowds gather. St. John First Aiders have also proved their worth on the ski-runs in the Laurentians, on Mount Royal, on the Gatineau Hills, at Fort William and other places where skiing is one of the major Canadian sports.

The Order of St. John is carrying on an extensive peacetime program of home nursing, first aid, child welfare and blood grouping. The training of Brigade members as blood-typing technicians was commenced in 1943. The entire personnel of large industrial firms is being typed so that, in the event of serious accident, blood transfusions may be given in the quickest possible time.

Subsection 4.—The Health League of Canada

The Health League of Canada is a voluntary association devoted to a program of health education, especially in the field of disease prevention, and to the support of the work of official departments of health. In brief, the aims of the Health

*Including the St. John Ambulance Association and the St. John Ambulance Brigade.