

### Soldier's Comforts.

Soon after the departure of the First Canadian Contingent for overseas and whilst the Second Contingent was in training, a Soldiers' and Sailors' Comforts Committee was added to the patriotic work of the Club. Two hundred and eighty six outfits each containing vest, cholera band, wristlets and socks were forwarded to men in training at Kingston, Toronto and Montreal. In addition eight shirts, three mufflers, five pairs of socks, two pairs of gloves, one balaclava cap, two scarves, two vests, 26 pairs of wristlets, were distributed. The money to purchase these necessary comforts was provided by a Box Sale at Murphy's. Proceeds of two concerts, Collection at a lecture and donations from the Women's Branch of the Civil Service Association, and the Ottawa Women's Canadian Club.

In June 1915 the work of the Soldiers' Comforts was greatly enlarged and the workers divided into the following sub-committees: sewing, knitting machines, wounded soldiers parcels and letters, magazines, packing and city battalions. Output of Wool and Knitting Committees: Total numbers of socks 2,360; From Red Cross Wool, 395, Humber donated, 1,103; Sent Overseas, 1,965; Scarves, helmets and mittens, 593; Hospital shoes, 604.

Sewing Committee: Utility bags made and filled, 305, average cost 75 cents; Comforts bags, 126; Shirts, 348; Kid or fur lined vests, 20; Handkerchiefs made by children, 1,953; Towels, 108; Tray Cloths, 24; Face Cloths made by children, 322 Mosquito veils, 36; Pillows and hammocks made by children, 21.

Output of Magazine Committee:- 1139 specially prepared magazines sent Overseas and 28 to the Sir Sandford Fleming

Convalescent Home. About 20,000 magazines were collected for the Atlantic Fleet and 250 donated to an Engineer's draft for Overseas.

Output Packing Committee:- The total number of boxes shipped was 97, divided as follows: War Contingent through the Red Cross, 70 boxes; Field Service Commission through Militia Dept. 11 boxes; To Bermuda through Militia Dept. 3 boxes; To Dardanelles through Militia Dept. 5 boxes; To Red Cross 6 boxes fruit and comforts; To British East Africa through Militia Dept. 2 boxes; There were also donated to the Red Cross four barrels of fruit and comforts. 180 parcels received from boxes and stores were sent Overseas, 73 Christmas parcels sent to Bermuda, seven cases of fruit ~~shipped by Messrs. Dwyer, and 5 parcels of comforts~~ 888 parcels forwarded to England for soldiers Overseas, 235 Christmas stockings and parcels sent to the Dardanelles, and 794 Christmas parcels and stockings sent to England and France. The estimated value of the Christmas parcels <sup>is</sup> \$1.50 each.

City Battalions Committee: With the assistance of the wives of the officers of the 77th. Battalion and the Engineers, this Committee provided an appetising lunch with fruit for 270 men of the 77th Battalion and 100 Engineers leaving for Overseas.

Three hundred and seventy pairs of socks were presented to the Engineers leaving the city, and on March 10th, five barrels of apples were sent to a draft of engineers.

A sock depot was established in the canteen for the City Battalions, giving the men socks at wholesale prices.

Wounded Soldiers and Parcels Committee: The object of this sub committee was to assure each wounded Canadian

Soldiers of the sympathy and interest of this organisation and to express the desire to help in the following circular letter:

OTTAWA WOMEN'S CANADIAN CLUB

Dear Canadian Soldier:-

The Ottawa Women's Canadian Club desires to express to you and your brave comrades, its deep appreciation for all you have done for the Empire. We are sorry you have been wounded, and trust you will soon recover.

If you desire any information, or are in need of anything not supplied by the Militia, we will be glad to help you, if you will write to one of these addresses.

*Here followed address of Committee.*

During 1915-16 950 of these letters were sent and in response to requests received 349 parcels valued at \$1.55 each were sent. *despatched.*

Funds were raised for the purchase of 3 motor ambulances specially equipped, one of which was entirely donated by Mrs E.C. Whitney. The total cost of these ambulances was \$6468.89 and testimony as to their value Overseas has been received. One of these was presented to the Ottawa & Ottawa Valley Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society.

When the Sir Sandford Fleming Home was opened for returned soldiers the Women's Canadian Club undertook the extra furnishing and maintenance of a ward of 14 beds, and this furnishing was arranged and successfully carried out by the Soldiers Comforts Committee. The following articles were provided: clock

electric light fittings, hangings and blinds, Club crest enlarged and framed, 42 pyjama suits, 14 dressing gowns, 14 pairs of slippers, 4 hot water bags with covers, 14 clothing bags, 14 utility bags, 15 pairs of socks, 33 face cloths, 8 tray cloths, 2 chiffoniers, 12 rugs, 14 comforters, 14 chairs 4 bedside tables, fern jardiniere and stand, toilet requisites, books and specially prepared magazines.

Under this Committee a register was opened in the Club headquarters inviting signatures from women willing to do men's work till after the war. Many women volunteered for service.

Funds were raised for this Committee in the following special ways:- Knitting needle cases were made and sold, collections taken at Britannia meetings, a most successful sale of dolls was held in November and opened by M.R.H. Princess Patricia, a concert was given in December by the A.O.U.W. and on February 29th, the Patriotic Edition of the Ottawa Free Press appeared containing reports of the work of women's patriotic organizations throughout Canada. The financial result far exceeded the expectations of the Committee, and this generous addition to its available funds enabled them to offer their support for one day per month to the Free Buffet for Soldiers in Victoria Station London, and to donate at \$1,500.00 Y.M.C.A. Hut to be placed behind the Canadian lines at the Front with the promise of its maintenance as long as required.

With the opening of the Season 1916-17 and in order to facilitate the ever increasing output of work, a few changes in the arrangement of the Sub committees became necessary. A finance

Committee was added and funds were raised by donations, collections at public meetings and stores, money and sock showers, the Annual Street Fair, the Patriotic Motor Show, participation in the Central Canada Exhibition, a Self Denial week, sale of garden produce and other minor events.

Distributing Committee:- No. pairs of socks sent overseas to Battalions, 7,495; Comfort Bags, 1,346; Handkerchiefs 9,526, Towels 3,427; other articles 1,913. Total No. articles 23,707.

Shipping Committee: No boxes comforts sent through Canadian War Contingent, via Ottawa Red Cross, Militia Dept., and Miss Plummer, 119 boxes or about 7,000 lbs. Value of boxes \$3,742.46. 2 boxes forwarded to Nursing Sister Goddard, \$200.00; 4 to Capt. C. Sharpe, \$80.00; Total \$4,022.46. No soldiers' parcels sent, 2,621; Value \$4,622.01; Total valuation, \$8,644.47.

Machine Knitting: No. of pairs of socks made from June 1st, 1,062; No. pairs in addition for May, by Mrs C.E. Higgins, 100; Total, 1,162.

Trench Cap Mchins, No. caps knit for Red Cross, 213.

Cigarette Committee: No. cigarettes made since Nov. 15th, 19,360.

Correspondence Committee:- No. letters sent to soldiers of Canadian Army reported wounded, 61,979, cost of postage on letters, \$813.35. No. letters received from soldiers 4,094. These letters included many from men of the following nationalities, British, French, Russian, Italian, Serbian, Danish, Polish, Rumanian, Belgian, Greek, Norwegian, American, Indian Mexican and Japanese.

As a result of these letters about 550 business and personal adjustments were made and 168 soldiers without friends

received Christmas parcels and many continued in correspondence with the Committee.

Parcel Committee:- No. individual parcels sent overseas which have been prepared every Tuesday throughout the year 2,621; average weight, 3 lbs., average cost \$1.35; Total valuation <sup># 4622-01</sup> ~~24,600.01~~. Amount paid for postage on parcels, \$561.91.

Battalion Committee; distributed at stations to Battalions passing through Ottawa for inspection; No. cases cold drinks, 1,000; No. cases oranges, 50; No. barrels apples 26; No. Daily papers, 4,100; No. Magazines, 2,600.

Several boxes of Christmas gifts were sent to England to Voluntary Aid Nurses from Ottawa. Parcels of comforts were given each soldier of the 77th before leaving Ottawa, also socks for 207th, and also to drafts of engineers. 1120 Christmas stockings were sent overseas, each containing 14 articles. 150 Special Christmas parcels of leather gloves and towels.

This Committee also provided a supper for returned soldiers and supper to 100 men from a recruiting band.

Cutting Committee; No. shirts, 525; other articles 1,340.

Magazine Committee; No. magazines for soldiers passing through Ottawa, 2,600. No. magazines specially prepared for hospitals, 607; books, 52.

Scrap Books; Scrap books and short stories sent overseas, 1,700.

The day at the Soldiers and Sailors Free Buffet, Victoria Station, London, became known as "The Ottawa Women's Canadian Club" day and the Committee has continued to support this fund throughout the war. Continued support has also been given to the Y.M.C.A. hut erected by the Committee behind the