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ing stations were opened. Within a week or two hundreds of women in the cities and towns were making shirts and socks. The women of the West were not expert in the use of knitting needles as those of the East have always been; indeed the homely craft was almost unknown on the Pacific slope until the sudden demand created by the war revived it. But the optimism, one might almost say heroism, with which women who had never had a knitting needle in their hands set out to learn to make socks, and succeeded, was one of the many surprises which the war has developed.

Not far behind the women of the towns were those of the farming communities, the work there being at first directed through the agency of the Women's Institutes. In places where there was no existing society ready for organized effort it was not long until patriotic leagues were formed through the medium of which those who were anxious to help might find an outlet

for their zeal, and the spirit spread to still more sparsely populated districts until it reached remote valleys and lonely mountain trails and women all over the Province were finally busy and striving through the activity of their hands to subdue that of their minds.

Even the native Indian women were eager to have a share in the work of making comforts for the troops, and before the second contingent left several cases of garments designed for the British Columbia men were sent to a depot in Victoria through the missionary of one of the villages on Vancouver Island. Since then the women of the reservations on both the Island and the Mainland have sent regular contributions of socks made from wool spun and carded by themselves, into many of which they have woven their tribal names and the totems of their families. As some of these go to overseas hospitals where men of all the allied nations are cared for, one won-