

# WOMEN'S CLUB TO THE FORE

Ottawa Women's Canadian Club Relief Work Has Been of Great value.

One of the first organizations to assume its share of the responsibility thrust upon the people of this country by the outbreak of war, was the Women's Canadian Club, of Ottawa. Early in the conflict, it became apparent that prompt action would have to be taken if effective work was to be accomplished in succoring and relieving the unhappy Belgian people. Almost as soon as the message went forth, the Ottawa Women's Canadian Club inaugurated the Belgian Relief fund, and sent shipment after shipment of necessities for the people of Flanders. Later the club took up the work of local relief and have accomplished equally good results. Another field of activity was the providing of comforts for Ottawa soldiers. The club may well be proud of its record of the last few months.

## Belgian Relief.

Since the beginning of the war, the Women's Canadian Club has raised for Belgian relief, \$7,300 in cash. It has also sent 417 large bales of clothing and a vast quantity of food for this particular work. To organize the work and receive donations the club opened a headquarters on Bank street. For the use of the store for this purpose the club is indebted to Mr. A. E. Rae. The Ottawa club also conceived and is carrying out the idea of having coin boxes for Belgian relief and these may now be found in many cities of the Dominion under the local Canadian clubs with central headquarters in Ottawa. Already a handsome sum has been realized.

In the matter of local relief the Women's Canadian Club, of Ottawa, received food and clothing at its headquarters and distributed to the needy of the city. The good work thus begun has now been handed over to the United Relief committee. The club, however, is still giving out sewing and

other work to the unemployed women of the Capital.

The club has also carried out its scheme of sending comforts to the soldiers who enlisted in Ottawa. It has already sent out 385 sets of cholera bands, heavy vests, wristlets and sleeping socks to the men now mobilized at Kingston, Toronto and Montreal. These are appreciated to a greater extent than the public have any idea of.

As illustrating the appreciation of the soldiers who have received these useful gifts, extracts from letters received by Mrs. W. T. Herridge, the president of the club, are given herewith:

## Soldiers' Gratitude.

"Dear Friend," writes Private W. J. Purtell, of the field bakery, Exhibition Grounds, Toronto: "I received your lovely gift and I cannot speak too highly, for I think it is very kind of you. It came as a surprise to us. I shall not forget the Women's Club and its gifts. The other boys will write to you soon. We are having a great time down here with the rest of the boys, and we all hope to go away soon to the front and fight for our country and king. We all hope to come back safely to see Ottawa friends. You must excuse me this time, for the bugle is calling me to night duty. I thank you in the name of His Majesty."

Private O. Guenette, of the field bakery, Toronto, writes: "To the members of the Ottawa Ladies' Canadian Club. I received your most welcome and very useful gift with heartfelt thanks for your great kindness and thoughtfulness which I gratefully appreciate. I will find them very useful these cold days, and they will serve to remind me of dear old Ottawa and the ladies of the Ottawa club. I remain yours most thankfully, Pte. Guenette."