

\$2,000,000 Wanted From Toronto and York County for Canadian Patriotic Fund

Quarter of Dominion's 25,000 Soldiers' Families Are to Be Found Within Limits of County and City—Monthly Payments Amount to \$100,000, and Are Rising.

VIGOROUS THREE-DAY CAMPAIGN PLANNED,
COMMENCING ON THE 25TH OF THIS MONTH

An addition of \$8,000,000 to the Canadian Patriotic Fund is the call to duty which H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught issued on New Year's Day to the people of Canada—to those who because they cannot fight ought to pay.

There are more than 25,000 families—or between 50,000 and 60,000 souls—receiving assistance from that fund. This assistance the people of the country have obligated themselves to maintain by the very fact of the establishment of the fund and its promises. Of the \$8,000,000 the share which belongs to Toronto and the County of York to furnish is \$2,000,000.

This city and county have within their limits one quarter of the Dominion's 25,000 soldiers' families. We pay out to them \$100,000 a month. And the amount is steadily rising with every new battalion that is enlisted. One third of the recruits are married men.

Of this great city and rich county it is not too much to ask that faith be kept with the men who have joined the colors and are joining daily; and faith kept also with the other parts of the Dominion with whom we are acting in this common and necessary cause.

TO SUPPORT FUND IS A PATRIOTIC DUTY.

The practical value of the patriotic fund is testified to by every recruiting officer. Its support is both a patriotic duty and in a very real and practical sense an augmentation of the fighting forces of the Empire.

The campaign to raise our \$2,000,000 is to be held during the last week in this month (January). It will commence on the 25th and continue during three days. A thorough canvass of the city and county will be made, and the co-operation of every class and section of the population is confidently appealed for. Subscriptions are to be paid in ten equal instalments monthly.

Two million dollars is a somewhat larger amount than has ever been raised in Canada in a short campaign, but the generosity and patriotism of the people of this city and county may be relied upon to carry it through.

The amount for which his Royal Highness has appealed will carry the work of the fund through the ensuing year, unless larger Canadian forces are enlisted than were calculated upon. And if, as is to be sincerely hoped, the war comes to an end during 1916, this campaign will carry the fund until our soldiers come marching home to receive the welcome of their loved ones and the gratitude of their country.

After all it is little that those who remain at home can ever do to discharge the debt which the whole world and civilization itself owes to these our fellow-citizens who, leaving behind them their homes in Canada, have joined the Empire's forces on the fields of France and Belgium.

HOW FUND ORIGINATED.

The Canadian Patriotic Fund was instituted at the instance of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught in September, 1914, for the purpose of supplementing the pay of the soldiers in Canada's army whose dependents in their absence might be in need of assistance to enable them to continue to enjoy the comforts to which they had been accustomed. A publicly-subscribed fund for a similar purpose had at that time been organized in Great Britain under the presidency of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and was being very generously subscribed to. In Canada the response to his Excellency's appeal was no less prompt and liberal.

The Toronto and York County Patriotic Fund Association is a branch of the Canadian association. The moneys which are collected by it become part of the Canadian fund. The administration is carried on in close association with the central organization. All disbursements, whether for expenses or by way of allowances to soldiers' dependents, are made by the local association, but are reported to the central body and are in accordance with the rules laid down by it for the guidance of all the branches throughout Canada. The relationship is intimate and harmonious. It gives the advantage of local knowledge and sympathy along with the safeguards and efficiency of central supervision and advice.

CANADIAN FUND GETS ANY SURPLUS.

Contributors to the Toronto and York Fund are making their contributions at the same time to the Canadian Patriotic Fund. From the point of view of the Canadian fund the result of this relationship is that any portion of the moneys raised in Toronto and the County of York in excess of what is needed for soldiers' dependents who live in this city and county is at the disposal of the Canadian association for the dependents of soldiers in other parts of the Dominion. Toronto is a very wealthy city. Many financial and business concerns of national scope are located here and make their contributions through the Toronto fund. Their subscriptions are however national, rather than local. To this city, as well as some other large centres of population and wealth, the Canadian fund naturally looks to supply larger sums of money than are needed for the dependents of their own soldiers.

MONTREAL HAS DONE SHARE.

In portions of Canada—in the West, for example—enlistments of men have been proportionately greater in comparison with other

parts of the Dominion than the wealth of the people in those sections. It is proper therefore that assistance should be forthcoming from elsewhere where the wealth is disproportionate to the enlistments to equalize the distribution of the financial obligation which the country as a whole has assumed toward the soldiers' families. Montreal has met her share of this general obligation. During last year that city's own dependents received allowances totaling \$800,000. But Montreal people contributed to the fund \$1,500,000. This being \$700,000 in excess of the city's own requirements, this large sum was at the disposal of the Central Executive at Ottawa. Montreal is now entering the second year with a campaign to raise another million dollars.

WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES?

For whom is the fund intended? It is for the wives and children of soldiers on overseas service; for the widowed mothers of soldiers who were their sole or main support; for the mothers of soldiers whose husbands, although alive, are incapacitated from earning their living, and the soldier son was the sole or main support; for other dependents of soldiers. Their must be dependency; and there must be need of assistance over and above other income; and in the third place the assistance afforded by the fund must in each case conform to the need. The principle laid down in fixing allowances is that the dependents are to be maintained as far as practicable in the comforts to which they have been accustomed. This does not mean that in some cases there is not deprivation. There may be instances in which this is the case, because the fund has adopted a maximum as well as a minimum amount of assistance that will be given to any family. And it is also true that in a good many cases home comforts have been not merely maintained, but have been visibly increased. For this the administrators of the fund make no apology. So long as the allowances are not wastefully or improperly expended, the fact that the fund has contributed to improve the standards of living in many homes in Toronto and throughout the Dominion should be a source of satisfaction. Where allowances are known to be wastefully or improperly used, they are after due warning reduced or stopped altogether.

NOT FOR OFFICERS' DEPENDANTS.

Allowances have in no case been made to the dependents of commissioned officers by the Toronto and York Association.

How much do the patriotic allowances amount to? They vary according to the size and circumstances of each family. There is a basic scale of subsistence with which the committee works. It is estimated that for a wife the scale of subsistence in Toronto is \$30 a month, and for each child there is a certain additional monthly amount. For example, for a wife with two children, both under five years, the subsistence scale would work out as follows:

	Month
Wife, \$1 a day	\$30.00
Two children, 10c a day each	6.00
Total	\$36.00

OLDER CHILDREN GET MORE.

From this the separation allowance, which is paid by the Government over and above the soldier's pay, is deducted by the Patriotic Committee. That is \$20.00 a month for the wife (nothing for children). After making this deduction the balance to be paid by the Patriotic Fund is \$16.00 a month to that family. If the children were older the allowance for them would be slightly increased. Always the surrounding circumstances are taken into account and the allowance is made to fit each case as nearly as possible. There is infinite variety in the questions which arise in administering the fund. It may easily be that the judgment of the committee may not coincide in some cases with the opinions of other people as to what ought to have been done. But it is gratifying to know that after more than fifteen months, and dealing with 9,000 applications in Toronto, the Patriotic Fund enjoys a full measure of public confidence. It has incurred extremely little criticism. The above example has been cited because it represents the average allowance by the Toronto Committee—namely, \$16 a month.

A SAMPLE INCOME.

It may be asked what the total income from all sources of a wife with two children would be. Here are the figures by the month:

Soldier's assigned pay	\$15.00
Government's separation allowance	20.00
Patriotic Fund	16.00

Total for the month

(Or \$11.77 a Week)

Where there are a greater number of children, or they are older, the assigned pay and separation allowance remain unchanged, but the Patriotic allowance increases to a maximum of \$30.00 a month. On the other hand, there are many smaller allowances, so that the average over all the families in Toronto and the County of York is \$16.00.

NINE THOUSAND CASES CONSIDERED.

The number of cases which have been investigated by the Toronto Patriotic Committee has reached 9,000. Of these, 6,000 have been found to be eligible for allowances. An immense amount of work is entailed by so great a volume of business both inside the office and in the investigation department. The utmost pains and care must be taken to deal equitably with every case while safeguarding the fund.

The number of dependents is not, as many have supposed, the

6,000 families, but nearly 15,000 souls—the population of a small city. To carry on this work the cost has been kept within the percentage fixed by the Central Executive at Ottawa as an economical standard—namely, two per cent. of the disbursements. No salaries are paid except to the office staff. A number of unpaid volunteer workers give all their time to the work and contribute to the organization both economy and efficiency.

LARGE SUMS PAID OUT HERE.

The monthly payment of allowances from the Toronto and York branch now amount to \$100,000. This is one-fifth of the total Patriotic payments throughout Canada. It is to sustain these monthly payments and provide for future additions that the Toronto and York Patriotic Association now asks the people of this city and county to subscribe.

During the past year Toronto and York contributed about a million dollars. By the end of next month the whole of this amount will have been exhausted in payments to our own soldiers' dependents. We have not, therefore, fulfilled the expectations of the central association by contributing in excess of our own needs. The cause of this is not to be found in any want of generosity on the part of the people of the city and county. The enlistments have so far exceeded what was thought possible a year ago that a large enough sum was not asked for on the occasion of the first patriotic campaign.

TWO MILLIONS WILL DO IT.

The sum of \$2,000,000 will take care of our own needs during the year and leave something over to square our account with the balance of the Dominion. Just a few figures touching Toronto's position as compared with some other cities and towns. During the twelve months ending September 30th, 1915, the subscriptions actually paid in the following places in Ontario were, according to per capita of population, as follows:

	Per Capita		Per Capita
Toronto	\$1.28	Oshawa	2.63
Ottawa	2.68	Pembroke	3.70
Kingston	1.75	Waterloo	4.50
Peterboro	1.58	Hespeler	3.95
Berlin	2.56	Almonte	4.80
Galt	2.85	Walkerville	11.18
Brookville	2.28	Sudbury and Coniston	7.75

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED ELSEWHERE.

By way of explanation regarding Toronto it must be said that a portion of the million dollars subscribed in this city a year before had not fallen due and was not paid on the date of the above comparison. But it will do us no harm to know how generously the Patriotic Fund is supported elsewhere.

Making the comparison by Provinces, the contributions during the year ending September 30th, 1915, were:

	Population	Amount Raised	Per Capita Cont'n.
Maritime Provinces	900,000	\$ 325,000	\$.36
Quebec	2,100,000	1,675,000	.80
Ontario	2,600,000	1,750,000	.68
Manitoba	525,000	750,000	1.42
Saskatchewan	600,000	240,000	.40
Alberta	500,000	288,000	.58
British Columbia	475,000	372,000	.78

COMPARISON SHOULD BE STIMULUS.

Here, too, the comparison will act as a spur and stimulus for this splendid Province of Ontario. The municipalities are doing magnificently in many cases. Contributions are being made by municipal councils of as much as five mills on the dollar to be put on the tax rate. Some people think the Patriotic Fund allowances should be paid out of money altogether raised by taxation. With-out entering into a discussion of this question, it may be said that the Canadian Patriotic Fund Executive has carefully considered this idea, and is of the opinion that the present plan has practical advantages over a system based upon Government support.

Anyway, whatever may be said on one side or the other, on one thing we will all agree. Seeing that our soldiers are under our voluntary system offering themselves without waiting for any law to "fetch them," those of us who remain behind will, we feel sure, voluntarily and willingly supply all the money that the Patriotic Fund requires for their families. At the same time contributions are being made by municipal councils to be collected in the tax bills, and in this way there is a combination in practice of the two ideas of taxation and voluntarism.

DEMANDS ON FUND ARE HEAVY.

This outline of the work of the Patriotic Fund has been prepared with a view to supplying information such as may be useful in connection with the \$2,000,000 campaign. It is partly a report of a year's operations and partly an appeal for further support. The demands upon the fund are and will be very heavy. When the calculation was made that the fund's needs for Canada during the calendar year 1916 would be \$8,000,000 the authorized forces were 250,000. They have now been raised to 500,000. The speed with which these additional men are recruited will determine the demands to be made upon the Patriotic Fund. One thing is plain. The \$2,000,000 that Toronto and York County is asked to provide is the minimum and less than the minimum that will be required to discharge our share of the country's obligations to its soldiers for the maintenance in comfort of their dependents. Let every body get behind the campaign and do his share.