

girl-queen who reigned over our Empire, "Defender of the faith, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, and of the British Dominions beyond the seas," is one long fairy story, for during her reign great wonders were performed on land and sea, and it would take you many, many days to review even briefly the great happenings of this reign. Perhaps you could persuade your teacher to read you something of the

life of this good queen, whose grandson is now His Most Gracious Majesty King George V. and whose great-grandson the young Prince of Wales, is fighting for democracy in the far-flung battle line in France

Again let us impress on you—waste no precious minute of Empire Day, but study and learn in song and story the reasons why we are justly proud of the Empire to which we belong.

### THE SIGN OF MERCY

All you eager readers of the newspapers will know that the Great Red Cross drive in Winnipeg has just been completed, but do you realize that Winnipeg by itself raised more than the \$600,000 asked for from the province of Manitoba? Now the reason of this great collection was that the Red Cross came to Winnipeg and said, "Our figures were made up before these terrible spring battles began, and now we want you to give and give again with no limit, for the needs of our wounded men. Give because there is one soldier you love in the firing line and he may be the next one wounded. Give because every soldier in the fighting line is fighting for you and everyone, faces death and horrors worse than death that only the Red Cross can help." And men put their hands in their pockets, and women went to their savings bank accounts, and children opened their little tin banks and every one gave until a steady stream of money and pledges poured into the Red Cross headquarters.

Now, we know that some people in the country have an idea that all or nearly all city people are rich. This is one of the greatest mistakes that anyone ever made, for the cities are full of poor people—people who may receive money for their work every week or month, but who have to buy butter and eggs and vegetables and all the good things that are always on the farm. People

who have to pay out money every day for car fare because they have too far to walk; people who have to pay to live in other people's homes; and worse than this, people who live in dark, dusty streets, in poor little houses where there is no fresh air and seldom any sun; where the little children have no playground but the dirty sidewalk; no flowers to pick, no birds or animals to play with none of the joys that boys and girls in the country have. And yet all these people gave to the Red Cross. Every one thought of some soldier dear to them, and some gave up their lunches, and some gave up picture shows and some gave up candy, and many gave up even much bigger things than any of these, and tired little boys and girls who should be playing out doors instead of tying up parcels and running errands gave something every week from their little wages and then the rich people gave all they could, and there was that wonderful total of over \$600,000.

And now are the country people going to let the city people outdo them in giving? Indeed, if I know anything about the generous hearts of country men and women and boys and girls, they are not. For every dollar given in Winnipeg there will be another dollar given in the country, and so a wonderful total will go from Manitoba to the end that the Sign of Mercy may mean help to every wounded man who needs it. What would you feel like if you