

The future faced by this Montreal soldier and his wife, what war has meant to them and, no less, what the misadventures of ordinary times pile on to what the war brings, epitomize the family problems dealt with under the Patriotic Fund. The notion that, when a man enlists, the drop in his earnings is made good by government or by patriotic gift; that the situation can be met by a regimental list and a check-book and by rushing food and fuel post-haste to some starving household, still clings in the minds of casual thinkers in Montreal. But there are a thousand missionaries of another way of thinking. These are the women who, at the central office of the Patriotic Fund and in its twenty-seven districts, have come to close quarters, many of them for the first time in their experience, with the meaning of the ordinary hazards of life to those who live close to the margin of subsistence.

No sooner had war been declared than the British reservists in Canada set out to join the colors. One hundred and fifty families of these first soldiers were left high and dry in Montreal alone. It was clear that the recruiting of Canadians for overseas forces would create a much heavier burden, although no one then foresaw that the dominion quota would reach to such a huge figure as 500,000 men.

In Montreal the Charity Organization Society was asked to tide over the immediate emergency. After conference at Ottawa, Sir Herbert Ames, member of Parliament from Montreal, initiated the movement which was at once duplicated in other parts of the dominion and led to the incorporation, as early as August 22, 1914, of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, "for the assistance in case of need, of the wives, children and dependent relatives of officers and men on active service." To date, \$15,500,000 has gone through the central treasury to be administered through provincial and local branches, altogether \$33,000,000 has been subscribed or promised.

Something like three times as many families come under the Toronto branch as under that at Montreal, but it has fallen to the latter city to develop the system which is generally recognized as the high-water mark not only of record-keeping but of case work. Although the initial president of the fund was no less than field marshal, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and of Strathearn, K. G., K. P., G. C. B., etc., former governor-general of Canada—the Duke of Devonshire is his successor; although Sir Herbert Ames has