

THE CANADIAN FUND
for the commemoration of
THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE
by founding
the Victorian order of nurses in Canada.

PATRON :

His Excellency, the Governor General.

VICE-PATRONS

The Lieutenant Governors ;

Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, Premier ; Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, K. C. M. G., and other Members of the Privy Council ; Archbishops, Bishops, and Representatives of Non-Episcopal Churches ; Judges ; Members of the Provincial Governments ; and the Wives of such of these Gentlemen as are married.

PRESIDENT :

Her Excellency, The Countess of Aberdeen.

VICE-PRESIDENTS .

Senators ; Members of Parliament ; Presidents of Hospital Boards ; Presidents of Medical Councils and Associations ; Members of Provincial Boards of Health ; Professors in Colleges ; Representative Clergymen ; Presidents of Teachers' Associations ; the Wives of such of these Gentlemen as are married ; Presidents of Local Councils of Women, and others.

MRS. EDWARD GRIFFIN.

Honorary Treasurer.

PROFESSOR ROBERTSON

Honorary Secretary

OFFICE :

VICTORIAN ORDER FUND,

Governor-General's Office,

Departmental Buildings.

Ottawa.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE

of

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Her Majesty, the Queen has indicated her desire that the celebrations to mark the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign, should be associated with efforts towards relieving the sufferings of the sick. Therefore it seems fitting that the people of Canada should commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by establishing a national fund for the purpose of placing the aid of trained skilful nurses within the reach of all classes of the population.

It is earnestly desired that this Canadian Memorial shall become truly national in its character, as well in the contributions which will make it suitable and effective, as in its application to the different needs and conditions of the various Provinces of Canada, and the several cities and rural districts which compose them.

NOT TO SUPPLANT BUT TO SUPPLEMENT.

Hospitals all over the country are doing splendid work ; but they are crowded to the doors, and have not

funds enough to pay for new furniture, let alone new buildings. Men and women are giving of their best—their time, their thought, their money—to these hospitals. These hospitals require more money for the training of nurses. Part of the funds raised might be expended in helping hospitals to train more nurses, and part might be used in engaging the immediate services of trained nurses who would volunteer to labour on salaries in needy districts in the country and the cities

PHYSICIANS AND NURSES ARE CO-LABOURERS

This scheme for providing nurses will not displace physicians in the districts where they labour ; but it will furnish the means of securing the best results from the skill and advice of medical men. It is not enough that we have the services of physicians,—even in the cities. In cases of serious illness their services must be supplemented and followed up by the ministrations of trained and skilful nurses.

The presence of a trained nurse brings the cheerfulness and hopefulness of confidence to the sufferer and the family ; and these act like a charm possessing a virtue beyond that of any drug.

THE SCHEME APPROVED AS NATIONAL

After the inauguration of this movement by Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, a public meeting was held at Ottawa on Wednesday, February 10th, under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor General. The following resolution was moved by the Honourable Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada, seconded by the Honourable Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, and carried unanimously :

"That this meeting heartily approves of the general character of the scheme described as the Victorian Order of Home Helpers as a mode of commemoration by the Dominion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and that a fund be opened for the carrying out thereof."

THE NEEDS ARE GREAT.

The urgent need that exists, in the outlying districts of all the Provinces and all the cities of the Dominion, for thoroughly trained, practical women, available as nurses to those who are not rich, seems to be admitted by everybody ; and there appears to be an almost unanimous opinion that no better national scheme could be devised for commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, than the establishment on a permanent basis of a Victorian Order of Nurses.

HEROES AND HEROINES AMONG THE PIONEERS.

The people of the newly-settled districts in all the Provinces are not poor in anything except in the opportunities, and privileges which are possessed only by communities in comparatively old settlements. They seek no charity. They are the pioneers who have taken up lands, not alone for themselves, but for the nation. They are conquering for Canada wild and unoccupied territory.

The best types of humanity are often found in those homes. They are sturdy

and independent. They would say : "We do not want any doles of charity through this or any other agency ; but we need adequate medical and nursing help brought within our reach, and are willing to pay for it as far as we can"

The ideals and spirit of the women in the homes of a new settlement in a new country affect the lives, the habits, the aspirations and the principles of the people there for several generations to follow. A despondent mother nimbly the courage and energies of her boys and girls. The unspoken fear of approaching the gate that swings both ways—into new life or into death—without competent skilled help has clouded many a life and home. Nothing that can be done to lift that dull dread, out of the lives of the pioneers in the country and of the poor in the cities, should be left undone, when a National Jubilee in such an Empire as that of Great and Greater Britain is in prospect.

ORGANIZATION OF NURSING WORK IN CITIES.

An improvement of the conditions under which trained nurses follow their devoted and helpful occupation in the cities of Canada is also urgently needed. The sick poor of many families in the cities and towns who have moderate incomes, would be greatly benefited if they could secure even short visits from thoroughly trained nurses.

The Victorian Nurses might do as valuable and as necessary work in the cities of Canada as they could do in the country districts. They would not in any sense or measure encroach upon, or interfere with, the professional work of physicians or with trained nurses who take cases in private homes on the terms usual for such services.

WHO SHALL BE MEMBERS.

It is proposed when the Order is formed, that the members may be :—

(a) Nurses who are already graduates in good standing of schools of recognised standing and who pass an examination such as may be prescribed ;

(b) Nurses who shall be specially trained for the Order, and who shall pass the prescribed examination.

The qualifications of the nurses of the Victorian Order are to be of the highest for the class of work they are expected to do.

SOME OF THE OBJECTS OF THE ORDER.

Sickness is always a severe tax upon the resources of the middle classes. It is a heavy burden upon the poor in spite of hospitals and kindly charities. An intelligent trained nurse, prepared to supply what is necessary, is often the best friend a poor family can have.

Some of the chief objects of the Order will be :—

(a) To provide skilled nurses in sparsely settled and out-lying country districts ;

(b) To provide skilled nurses to attend the sick poor in their own homes in cities ;

(c) To provide skilled nurses to attend cases in cities at fixed charges, for persons of small incomes, the charges being paid to the funds of the Order ;

(d) To provide small lying-in rooms or wards in cottage hospitals or homes ;

(e) To prepare trained nurses thoroughly qualified to carry out these objects.

GENERAL OUTLINE OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATION.

While the details of the working out of the scheme cannot be now definitely settled or announced, some further general outline of what is expected to be accomplished may be stated.

It is proposed that a meeting of all the Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents and Representatives of subscribers will be convened at Ottawa when the fund is about to be closed, in order that a committee may be by them elected, to whom all the funds received will be handed over. That Committee will (1) draft a Constitution, (2) decide how the governing body of the new Order is to be chosen and (3) determine how the work to be undertaken shall be carried on.

It has been thought proper to leave as much as possible of the settlement of the details of the scheme as they may be applied to the rural and urban districts, to the judgment of the Committee to be chosen by all the Vice-Patrons, Vice-Presidents and Representatives of the subscribers.

AN ENDOWMENT TO MAKE THE ORDER PERMANENT.

It would not be a prudent thing to have the Order started unless provision be made for perpetuating it. It would take an investment of about a million of dollars to ensure revenue to make this benefaction a lasting one for all the needy districts of Canada. Shall we confess ourselves helpless in the presence of this urgent need and dismiss the cry for help with the remark, "But a million dollars is a great sum to raise!" Certainly a million of dollars is a very large sum to raise ; but if the people of Canada can be fully informed and thereby awakened to the greatness and goodness of this movement, a million of dollars will be forthcoming for the commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, by such a means as will cause gratitude to glow continually in the hearts of the people of Canada towards the memory of Victoria the Good, and her Representatives and subjects in Canada who promoted this Order. If half a million of dollars at least is raised immediately to establish a fund sufficient to meet the most urgent demands of the present, the remainder will soon follow according as the people at large see clearly the great benefits that will arise from the carrying out of this thoroughly national scheme.

It would require only a small contribution from each, if every man and woman in Canada gave something out of their plenty, or out of their scanty store, to make other homes as secure as their own. No doubt there will be difficulties to face, but the difficulties will disappear in the presence of enthusiastic hard work and good judgment. That it will be hard to make this scheme a complete success is rather a commendation of, than an objection to it. The things that are best worth doing, are hard to do ; and often in life the things hardest to do, are the things best worth doing well.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION.

If the Committee to be chosen at the meeting of the Vice-patrons, Vice-pres-