

The Story of the Fund

DURING the month of February, 1915, when the First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force was still struggling with the mud of Salisbury Plain, it was suggested to the management of *The Gazette* that it should establish a tobacco fund for the benefit of the Canadians overseas. The attention of those making the suggestion had been directed to the success attending the operation of similar funds established by British newspapers. The feeling behind the request was that Canadians should look after their own, and render it unnecessary for their representatives at the Front to rely upon the people of Great Britain for their tobacco. It should come from the people they had left behind—that was the feeling.

The Gazette instituted inquiries, and found that under the existing arrangements the British Government would be pleased to provide transportation and distribution for tobacco so contributed to supplement the ration issued to men on active service, and that the French and Belgian Governments had generously agreed to allow such tobacco to enter free of taxation. This arrangement did not allow the distribution duty free of tobacco in Great Britain, and it was, there-