

he did, the card went up in his window and the miners' wives spent their money there. The card comes down any month that a storekeeper neglects to keep up his payments. The result is that Trail and Rossland, with a population at most of 10,000 inhabitants, turn in a total of \$75,000 a year.

Open-handed as these western towns are, their giving, spontaneous and compulsory alike, is perhaps less surprising than that which has characterized some of the older agricultural districts. The work of the Patriotic Fund in rural Ontario, for example, is built up on the county council unit. Each municipality has its reeve (like an alderman) who knows every man, woman and child in the neighborhood. He is the advisory correspondent who gives information about families to the secretary of the county branch.

The Farmers Respond

AT THE county center is a small committee of men known throughout the county, whose judgment carries conviction—so much so that every county council in Ontario makes a monthly grant to the fund from the public treasury. Meeting in open parliament, as it were, they tax themselves on a scale which has no duplicate in the history of Canadian development.

Sir Herbert Ames tells of sitting for an hour while the members of a rural county council argued pro and con over appropriating \$125 for a bridge; and then, when the need of the Patriotic Fund and the soldiers' families has been put before them, of watching an appropriation of \$50,000 go through by unanimous vote. Some counties give as high as \$10,000 a month. Two million dollars comes in annually to the national treasurer of the Patriotic Fund at Ottawa from the county councils of Ontario alone.

With such a spirit in giving, such devoted work by hundreds of folk throughout the dominion, with such ingenuity for raising money and such deft organization for its even-handed distribution across a continent, it is perhaps ungracious to point out, in closing, one serious limitation of the work. But that limitation is so clear and so remediable that any other course would be a dis-service. The soldier's pay is based on the rigid military unit, a man in the ranks. The subsistence allowance made by the dominion government broadens the conception. It recognizes that some men have families, but