

# THE NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE

The members of the National Relief Committee are as follows :

## *Chairman*

The Assistant Director General of Medical Services.

## *Hon. Secretary*

Lt. Col. R. J. Birdwhistle, *Ottawa.*

## *Executive*

Brig.-Gen. Sir John M. Gibson, F.C.M.G., Hamilton.

Lt. Col. Noel G. L. Marshall, Toronto.

Surgeon-General G. Sterling Rye, M.D., Toronto.

Fred Cook, Ottawa.

F. Montizambert, M.D., C.M.G., I.S.O., Ottawa.

W. F. Angus, Montreal.

Col. Sir H. M. Pellatt, C.V.O., Toronto.

C. J. Copp, M.D., Toronto.

Lt. Col. R. H. Pratt, Toronto.

Mrs. A. E. Goodham, Toronto.

Mrs. H. P. Plumtre, Toronto.

The National Relief Committee is the Executive Body of the joint organization of the Canadian Red Cross Society, the St. John Ambulance Association, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and the Medical Branch of the Department of Militia and Defence. It was organized at a meeting held at Government House, Ottawa, called under the auspices of Field Marshal His Royal Highness the Governor-General, for the purpose of co-ordinating the work of relief in supplying auxiliary aid to the troops at home and abroad. Representatives were present from all the organizations mentioned, and the duties of the respective bodies were defined as follows :

**Canadian Red Cross Society :** The collection of funds and material together with the distribution of the same.

**The St. John Ambulance Association :** The formation of Voluntary Aid Centres, and instruction generally in First Aid.

**The St. John Ambulance Brigade :** The formation of Voluntary First Aid and the provision of personnel to the Army Medical Corps.

At a subsequent meeting the National Committee of Women for Patriotic Service (commonly known as the National Service Committee) was added to the conjoint organization, and the duty allotted to them of collecting comforts for the troops. In consequence of the creation by the Government of a Director of National Service, and in order to secure a direct appeal in Canada under the name of the Canadian War Contingent Association, the National Service Committee has resigned the duty in favour of a Dominion Branch of the C.W.C.A., including both men and women.

Arrangements were later made with the Canadian War Contingent Association, with headquarters at 123 Victoria Street, London, S.W., England, for the distribution of all comforts, while the Canadian Red Cross Society's London Office, 14-16 Cockspur Street, would look after the distribution of Red Cross Supplies. The Hon. Sir George H. Perley, M.P., Minister of Militia Overseas, is President, and J. G. Colmer, Esq., C.M.G., is Secretary of the Canadian War Contingent Association ; and Colonel Charles A. Hodgetts, C.M.G., M.D., is Canadian Red Cross Commissioner in London.