

of patriotic participation. Accordingly Honorable R. A. Pyne was despatched to England to confer with the Imperial authorities. In a short time it was announced that the Government of Ontario would build and equip a hospital of the latest military type at Orpington, Kent, England, with a capacity of over 1,000 beds. Construction was rushed in England; in Ontario at the different provincial institutions, work was eagerly undertaken to provide equipment and furnishings. Ere the building was roofed over supplies began to arrive. When everything was in order to receive patients the hospital was pronounced the most complete and efficient of its kind in war service, and its plan was adopted by other Governments as a model. In less than a year after it was opened, in response to a request for further accommodation, the capacity was doubled. The total expenditure, including construction, equipment and furnishing, maintenance and extension, amounted to \$1,298,292—the gift, goodwill and pride of the Province of Ontario.

It should be a matter of gratification to every man, woman and child who enjoys citizenship in this Province, to know that during its entire course over 43,000 patients were treated at Orpington. In surgical and psychiatric treatment it was most successful. A tribute to its ministrations appeared recently in a cable despatch in which it was spoken of as the "House of Mercy."

#### **"First Fruits" for the Wounded**

As battalions proceeded from Canada overseas the interest of the Government followed them. Canned fruit and vegetables, the choicest apples from Ontario orchards were sent over in large quantities for distribution among the hospitals and institutions, while encouragement was given to voluntary effort along the same lines and the supply was considerably augmented. These shipments went not alone to the Western front—the men in Egypt, Mesopotamia and Siberia were remembered as well. This cost over \$200,000. As Christmas came around the Government marked the occasion with gifts and comforts of practical utility. The men who received the gloves in 1917 will remember this timely and thoughtful incident.

Athletic supplies costing \$26,000 were distributed among the camps.

To enable the Canadian Patriotic Fund to continue its assistance to the families whose breadwinners were overseas fighting, \$2,101,000 was paid in grants.

The Red Triangle work of the Y.M.C.A. was assisted to the extent of \$100,000.