

departure, for the use of the sick and wounded, the sum of £200 sterling, accompanied by large supplies of material and hospital stores. A similar provision was also made in the despatch of subsequent contingents, and the several commanding officers in returning a statement of expenditure made evident the wisdom of this action.

10. But this was not the only aid afforded to the out-going troops.

In several centres of population throughout the Dominion the women associated themselves into societies for the purpose of supplying money and material comforts, games, books, etc., which were not obtainable from government sources.

The Societies thus formed acting independently of the Red Cross Society and of each other, effected a useful purpose in supplying many things needed to conduce to the comfort of the troops on their long and tedious voyage. But owing to the lack of co-operative organization some confusion ensued, resulting in the undue duplication of certain articles and supplies.

When the purposes and aims of the Red Cross Society became more widely known and understood, many of these societies were enrolled as Local Branches of the Red Cross, and continued their work, rendering most valuable assistance to the Council, not only in making and procuring the articles most needed, but also in packing and forwarding for shipment bales of hospital clothing and sundries for South Africa.

11. It soon became evident to the Council that in order to insure a proper and effective distribution of supplies on their arrival in Cape Town, and for other reasons set forth in a Memorandum approved by the Executive Committee in December, 1899, it was necessary to send a Commissioner to South Africa and Lieut.-Col. Ryerson, A.M.S., having been selected by the Executive Committee, was instructed to proceed with the 2nd Canadian Contingent on the S. S. Laurentian, the Government kindly providing a passage to Cape Town from Halifax, N.S.

The Commissioner was provided with ample funds and most of the material on hand.

Lieut.-Col. James Mason was appointed Chairman of the Executive Committee and acted during Lieut.-Col. Ryerson's absence.

12. At the same time it became apparent to the Council that the organization of the Society was not complete, and it was thought advisable to formulate and adopt a Constitution setting forth the aims and objects of the Society and defining by means of By-Laws the several duties of the Council and Executive officers of the Society. It was also necessary to frame rules for