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## BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PATRIOTIC WOMEN *By Mabel Durham*

**I**t is generally conceded that there is no province in the Dominion which has made a more prompt response to the call for an army of 500,000 men than British Columbia, where one in every ten of the entire population is wearing khaki. And, furthermore, it is perhaps not so well known that while the men have been quick to answer the call the women have not been behind them in manifesting a patriotic spirit.

There is a stage in human suffering when there are not longer any degrees of comparison, but if it were possible to compare the weight of anxiety which bears upon the hearts of women who in every part of the British Empire are waiting for news from that

vague, mysterious Front, somewhere in France, or Mesopotamia, or Egypt, it would seem as if the burden of those who are waiting on the other side of the world from where their men are facing death might be a little heavier than that of those who have at least the sense of nearness to comfort them. In the homes of British Columbia the wives and sweethearts and mothers and sisters of nearly 40,000 men are waiting thus, and their patriotic fervour has not been the only motive power in the work they have done, but they have also been driven by the need of a task, concentration on which might help them in some measure to endure this terrible strain of waiting, six thousand miles away, for news which travels so slowly across