

became a militant order. After the defeat of the Christians at Acre in 1291, when the last Christian stronghold in the Holy Land was lost, the surviving knights of St. John went to Cyprus and later to Rhodes. Apparently, early in the sixteenth century they established a fleet which was very powerful in the Mediterranean, and which I suppose was contemporary with the fleet of Don John of Austria, who was the commandant in chief at the battle of Lepanto, about which Mr. Chesteron has written so beautifully and so stirringly in his poem "Lepanto".

Apparently for well over two centuries the Order was strongly established in Malta and had much to do with trying to put down the pirate trade in the Mediterranean.

In the eighteenth century, Napoleon captured Malta and from then on the military power of the Order ceased; but it continued the work that it is doing now in this country and principally, I think, in England.

It may be interesting for senators to know that in Canada in 1962 over 195,000 certificates and awards were issued by the Order for work in the fields of practical assistance to the public, which the Order gives. Those fields are first aid, home nursing, child care, and instruction in the administration of artificial respiration. They conduct first aid competitions, and 157 teams in various provinces competed for trophies and prizes in this field in 1962.

Honourable senators may also be interested in learning in 1962 there were 9,724 members actively engaged in the work of the Order in Canada. These people worked in the ambulance division, the nursing division, the crusader divisions, the cadet ambulance divisions, and the cadet nursing divisions.

We are all familiar of course with the work the Order does, because almost every time we are at a large gathering, a football or hockey game, memorial day ceremonies, or a circus performance, we see the officials of the St. John Ambulance Society prepared to look after people who need the ministrations of experts in the field of first aid.

I should of course have mentioned skiing. All senators who participate in this sport know that the society performs a very useful work in skiing areas.

This is an unusual kind of bill, and I thought it might be of interest to all honourable senators to have the information I have

given. It comes from the last annual report, which is available from the society.

Hon. G. Percival Burchill: Honourable senators, coming from the Province of New Brunswick, I wish to support what the honourable Leader of the Government has said about the St. John Ambulance. I take this opportunity of paying tribute to the work which that society has been doing in New Brunswick. Its members do an amazing amount of work all over the province, especially in small communities. In the community in which I live, the training that these dedicated men and women have been doing is marvellous. They have accomplished a tremendous amount of good.

As the honourable Leader of the Government has indicated, they attend and are prepared to render assistance at every form of entertainment; and at every place where crowds congregate. All this work is done voluntarily and gratuitously.

I hope that the bill, which has been so well explained by the honourable Senator Kinley, will receive the generous support of the Senate.

Hon. W. Rupert Davies: Honourable senators, I would like to commend this bill strongly. As a commandant of the Order, I know something about it. I am a commandant of the Order of the Priory of Wales.

In Wales the St. John Ambulance Association is divided by counties, and I happen to be chairman of the Council for the county in which I spend some of my time in the summer. I know a great deal about the wonderful work they do, particularly in the way of rendering first aid and in training nursing cadets. I have been impressed very much by the self-sacrifices which are made by men and women in this work. Therefore, I very heartily commend this bill to the house.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. Kinley, bill referred to the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 3 p.m.