

Ontario's War Record

Ontario holds a proud and outstanding place among the provinces of Canada. During the years of the war when the utmost effort and sacrifice were required, Ontario proved her worth as the keystone in the Canadian Confederation. Ontario gave in men 232,895; for patriotic purposes in money and kind, \$54,532,180; subscribed to Victory Loans, \$540,465,550. In comparative terms, Ontario contributed half of Canada's war effort.

It is opportune then to consider in more or less detail the actual war achievements of the Ontario Government.

Shortly after the outbreak of the war, when food was short and Belgium was starving, the Government of the Province purchased and presented to the Mother Country 250,000 bags of flour at a cost of \$780,468. This was followed by donations for the relief of the Belgians, amounting to \$20,000; grants to the British navy and Belgian relief, \$424,871; to the Serbian relief and Polish relief committees, of \$10,000 and \$4,000 respectively; \$5,000 to the Italian Red Cross Committee; \$2,500 to the Palestine Relief Commission; \$10,000 to the Ontario Branch, Secours Nationale; \$29,660 to the Navy League of Canada; \$200,000 to the sufferers in the Halifax disaster; \$25,000 to Byron Tuberculosis Sanitarium, London (for returned soldiers); \$25,000 to the Mountain Tuberculosis Sanitarium, Hamilton (for returned soldiers); \$50,000 to the Canadian Aviation Fund.

A non-partisan body was created, known as the Resources Committee, for the purpose of better organizing the resources of the Province. This Committee took an active part in encouraging increased production, directing labor, and patriotic collections, such as the British Red Cross campaign. The sum of \$760,000 was paid out by the Committee in connection with its various activities, and it is significant to note that under the stimulation of the movement for a greater production of food-stuffs the farm crops of Ontario increased in value in four years by over \$200,000,000.

In the early months of the war, when Canadian troops were being decimated by the German preponderance in machine guns, the Ontario Government appropriated \$500,000 to purchase 500 Lewis-Savage machine guns, to be issued to Canadian battalions.

Ontario's House of Mercy

While these matters were receiving attention, the Government made enquiries in England to ascertain the best manner in which the Province might further help. The reply came that a hospital would represent the highest and most efficient form