

ity and sympathy but they lacked the companionship of their Canadian comrades.

Establishment
of the Ontario
Military
Hospital at
Orpington

At this juncture, early in 1915, the Ontario Government, which had been considering the subject for some time, took definite action. It had already sent the Agent-General of Ontario in London (the late Mr. Richard Reid) to France in order to observe conditions and give advice, and it had been in communication with Colonel G. Sterling Ryerson, then President of the Canadian Red Cross Association, who had for some time been at the Front on a tour of inspection. The recommendations which reached the Government from these sources coincided with the views of many Canadians abroad, including Sir Adam and Lady Beck who recently had been observing the situation in England and France. The decision, therefore, was reached that an up-to-date and thoroughly-equipped Hospital would be the most useful War-gift the people of Ontario could make at this particular time and the following telegram (May 28) was despatched to Sir Robert Borden at Ottawa: "The Government of Ontario offers to establish and maintain a hospital of 1,000 beds in England for Canadians, and also to furnish six motor ambulances for service at the Front."

The Dominion Premier replied as follows: "In pursuance of your telegram of to-day I have cabled to the War Office the patriotic and generous offer of the Government of Ontario." This action was deeply appreciated by the British authorities and on June 8th Mr. Bonar Law, Secretary of State for the Colonies, cabled to the Governor-General: "The Army Council ask that their warmest thanks be conveyed to the Government of Ontario for their generous offer, which they most gratefully accept." Varied expressions of appreciation came from F. M. Lord Kitchener, Secretary for War, Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, 1st Lord of the Admiralty, and others. In Toronto it was decided that Hon. R. A. Pyne, Minister of Education, should have charge of the matter and on June 29th he left for England to carry out the Government policy. After his arrival the Minister spent some time in studying the situation as to location, character, construction, etc., of the proposed Hospital, and eventually, in the middle of August, selected Orpington, in Kent—about 15 miles from London and close to Dover and Folkestone—as the site. Arrangements for construction and equipment were at once under way, and, during the rest of the year, he remained supervising operations and the growth of the institution. Dr. Pyne was