

prunes, figs, canned vegetables, cake, etc., etc., and a Harmonium and Piano were some of the things provided and donated.

It was decided to place any funds in hand (after purchasing) to the credit of the Commanding Officer, to be used for the benefit of the men in any case of emergency; and we note with gratification that a Christmas Dinner (a good hearty meal on arrival at Bloemfontein), after a record march and half rations for four weeks, £60 expended on boots, with extra rations and fruit at different times, have been procured with these funds, as well as many comforts in the regimental hospital, such as mattresses, pillows, etc.

The first Contingent having been sent off with the heart-felt good wishes and prayers for a safe return from their town folk, the Committee decided on the 3rd of November to adjourn until further notice, which was done.

The treasurer's report, which is annexed, will give a full statement of amounts sent to the different commanding officers; also a list is annexed of quantities of clothing, etc., forwarded to the men at the seat of war.

A second contingent having been ordered to South Africa, a meeting of the Committee was held at Government House on December 26, 1899, to decide on what should again be done to provide our troops with comforts for their long and trying voyage.

In the absence of the President (Mrs. Nordheimer) Mrs. Sweny was elected Vice-President, to act during the absence of the President, and Miss Campbell to act as Secretary in Miss Merritt's absence.

An executive committee composed of the officers of all committees was appointed to act in cases of emergency, and it was resolved to provide the second contingent in the same manner as the first, with ship comforts to the amount of \$1,000, and place the same proportion of funds in the hands of the Commanding Officers as had been given Col. Otter.

Contributions in kind were most generous, and enabled the committee to provide 288 pairs of smoked glasses, 9 pairs of field glasses, besides a quantity of rugs, in addition to the comforts previously sent.

The second contingent having been sent off, the committee had time to lay plans for the future providing of the men at the front, (and upon the offer made by Lady Taylor, on behalf of the Women's Council, of forming woman's branches of the Red Cross throughout the Dominion, being accepted by the Council of the Canadian Branch, as well as the adopting of a pin and button as the badge of the Society,) by which, through the efforts of Mrs. Davidson, and other members of the Committee, over \$600.00 was added to the treasury of the Canadian Branch. The ladies decided to purchase flannel, wool, etc., etc., and have warm clothing made and forwarded to the soldiers in anticipation of a winter of rain and cold about to begin in South Africa.

Before commencing this work however, it was thought advisable to supply the Strathcona Horse with some mark of consideration, and ship comforts were also provided for this troop, and a like proportion of funds were placed in Col. Steel's hands. This was done, the offer having been first gratefully accepted by Lord Strathcona and the Minister of Militia.

His Worship, the Mayor and the Property Committee having granted the Ladies' Branch of the