



1.—Sir Geo. Perley.

2.—Lady Mayoress.

3.—Lady Perley.

4.—Lord Mayor.

Even in this dreadful war, we sometimes have some pleasant things to do, and this afternoon we are here for one of those purposes. I have to thank very much the gentlemen who have arranged the opening of the Home this afternoon on my own behalf and on behalf of my wife for having done me the compliment of asking me to be Chairman at this gathering. It certainly is a great pleasure to me.

According to the prospectus which has been handed to me of this Convalescent Hospital or Home, the staffs and organizations of the Massey-Harris Company were in favor of joining together in the support of some worthy patriotic object, and believed they had within their ranks potential influences which could be organized in the interests of the Empire.

I am sure I am voicing your sentiments, ladies and gentlemen, when I say that no more worthy purpose could have been suggested than that which is proposed in this work, and seeing, as we do to-day, the result of this feeling, we may congratulate all the ladies and gentlemen who have had to do with it, and we may congratulate ourselves that we have among us people who are of that mind and willing to put it into action.

The Massey-Harris Company is an institution in Canada; those of you who live there know that. To those who live in this country I must simply say that it is one of the oldest and among the largest well-established businesses in the Dominion of Canada.

Now, the Massey-Harris Company has not done this work as a Company. I think it has been put on a broader and higher basis than that. The Company itself has given a large sum of money towards this object, but, as a matter of fact, a part has been contributed by the individuals connected with the Massey-Harris Company, members of the staffs of the different Branches in Canada, and also in foreign countries, because this Massey-Harris Company is spread pretty well over the British Empire, with Branches in many cities in Australia and South Africa, and several of the large cities of Europe.

Now, the members of the staffs and the individuals in the Company decided that they would start this Home, subscribe the money to to equip and maintain it during the War. I may say in this connection that nothing they could have done for the Canadian soldier would be more appreciated or, I take it, is more necessary. While I am saying this, I would like to pay my tribute to the splendid medical and hospital arrangements which have been put in force during this great war. When I say that, I speak advisedly, as I know a lot about it, and what I have to say applies not only to the Canadian Medical Service but also to the British as well. We all know that never in any great War has any Army been as free from disease as our Army of to-day. There is practically no typhus, a disease which decimates armies more than anything else.