

and Switzerland, as well as from Germany and France, "positively refused to assist men in good health," and when asked to intervene in favor of prisoners of war and the French soldiers interned in Switzerland, it declined the mission.

6. The status of the Canadian Branch being largely unknown to the public in the Dominion of Canada, a brief resumé is offered of its inception and work prior to the beginning of the South African War.

On the initiative of Lieut.-Colonel G. Sterling Ryerson, A.M.S., an organization meeting was held in the City of Toronto, on October 14th, 1896, and this branch was established, the Earl of Aberdeen, then Governor-General, kindly consenting to become its Patron.

At the close of Lord Aberdeen's term of office as Governor-General, his successor, the Earl of Minto, kindly accepted the position of Patron.

As under the terms of the Geneva Convention no colony is permitted complete autonomy, but carries on its work under the sanction of the National Society, authorization was received from the British Society as shown by the following documents :—

*National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War.*

5 York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.,

London, 2nd December, 1896.

At a meeting of the Council of the National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War (British Red Cross Society), held at the office, 5 York Buildings, Adelphi, London, on Tuesday, the 1st December, 1896.

General Lord Wantage, K.C.B., V.C., in the chair.

It was proposed by General Lord Wantage, K.C.B., V.C.; seconded by Surgeon-General Sir W. Mackinnon, K.C.B., and resolved :

That the Council, having heard read a letter dated the 15th October, 1896, from Dr. Charles A. Hodgetts, of Toronto, Canada, announcing the formation of a Canadian Branch of this Society, accept such Branch, in accordance with the letter of the Secretary, dated 22nd August, 1896, to Dr. G. Sterling Ryerson, as affiliated to itself, for all purposes consistent with the terms of the Geneva Convention, entered into by the Imperial Government in 1865, subject to complete independence of such Branch in all matters relating to finance and matters of local organization.

That the Council welcome the formation of this Branch and pledge themselves to co-operate with the Branch and to assist it in every way in their power, and invite periodical intimation of any action to carry out in Canada the objects of the Society.

(A true copy)

JAMES G. VOKES, Secretary.