

REPORT

The local Branch of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, a National Organization, has endeavored to effectively and economically look after the financial and to some extent the social interests and needs of the dependents of the soldiers and sailors of Canada and of the Allies residing within its district, which includes the County of Wentworth.

By supplementing where required, Assigned Pay and Governmental allowances by graded grants, increased as changed living conditions required, the Branch has been of the utmost assistance to those whom it aimed to serve, and aided in creating the splendid record of Hamilton of over 11,000 men enlisted in the Great War. This financial assistance was made possible by the wonderful record, unsurpassed by any nation, of nearly \$50,000,000 voluntarily contributed during the war period for War Relief work through the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and of which, by the splendid spirit of its people of every class, Hamilton contributed over \$2,000,000 in addition to its contributions to various War Relief objects. It is to be regretted that no accurate statement of Hamilton's War contributions is available, but that the "children of our children" may know something of the record of Hamilton in that respect, some of the items are collated in this report. By no means accurate or complete, it is a matter for pride on the part of everyone who helped to make it possible.

During the period between the Declaration of War and the formation of the Fund, Hamilton was fortunate in having at the disposal of needy Dependents, especially of Reservists, the "Hamilton Patriotic Fund," generally known as the "Boer War Fund," which had been kept practically intact. The Treasurer, R. K. Hope, with the approval of the Trustees of the Fund, and the assistance of W. H. Lovering, made emergency grants to the extent of \$4,709.48, and on the organization of the present Fund the balance of \$13,494.92 was paid over, to the general work of the Canadian Patriotic Fund.

There have been conducted most successfully with little expense by the voluntary service of prominent citizens under the President, Cyrus A. Birge, who gave practically his whole time for the campaign periods, and with much assistance from George C. Copley, organized the many necessary Committees, became Team Captains, Speakers, Collectors, and contributed of time and money, ungrudgingly, to the end that they who could not "Fight" might "Pay." Robert