

Preparing for a Fifth Year



Manitoba Red Cross Society in Convention Launches Gigantic Development Plans—By Mary P. McCallum

ON the eve of the fifth year of war the Manitoba branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society gathered in its first general convention to review the work of the past, but only with an idea of improvement and expansion for the future. The conclusion of the fourth year of war left Manitoba with a Red Cross record that has not been equalled by any other part of the Empire since the war began. During the year ending July 31, Manitoba raised in money alone for the Red Cross, \$1,520,523. This sum makes an average of \$3.00 per head for all the people in Manitoba. Today the Red Cross Society in Manitoba has a subscription list of 50,000 names. These 50,000 persons have given their pledges in support of the greatest humanitarian organization that has ever been in existence.

But Manitoba, after four years of ceaseless work and effort in maintaining the Red Cross, is more strongly fortified and determined to carry on the work than ever before. Before the convention the provincial executive concluded that the work of the society had outgrown the methods of carrying it on, and that some revision must be made. It was with that purpose in mind that the Manitoba executive called a general meeting of all Red Cross workers' representatives to plan a more efficient organization. The convention was planned not only to deal with the necessary business that is always a part of any convention, but to be an inspiration, a stimulus and an encouragement for the work of the year to come. Those who attended that convention could not but be inspired to manifold greater efforts by the messages given there.

Disbursement of Funds

The most important item of business during the convention was the disbursement of the million-and-a-half dollars collected in the recent drive. Manitoba has for expenditure this year almost the exact amount that the Dominion Red Cross had for the year 1917. The finance committee, of which J. C. Waugh is chairman, drew up a tentative distribution of the funds. That the committee went carefully into every item of expenditure was evidenced when the convention practically endorsed its proposals. The Dominion Red Cross Council asked Manitoba for \$400,000. It was decided by the convention last since the Manitoba campaign had been so successful \$600,000 could well be spared to the Dominion Red

Cross. A grant of \$150,000 was made to the British Red Cross. This fund has until the present been raised by special appeal, usually on Trafalgar Day, in October. The Manitoba branch will henceforth not make a special appeal but will make a grant from its campaign fund. The French Red Cross, or, as it is better known, the Secours National, received by the vote of the convention the sum of \$40,000. For the purchase of Red Cross working materials in Manitoba, and for the Canadian War Contingent Association the sum of \$200,000 each was deemed by the finance committee to be large enough to cover all needs.

Since it is the custom for the Red Cross to erect a lodge or club room for the convalescents at the military hospitals in the Empire, Manitoba has long been considering the advisability of making such a lodge a part of Tuxedo convalescent home. This is to provide some place for the men to fraternize away from institutional influences and to provide a home-like accommodation for the men when they receive visits from their friends, rather than having them talking to visitors in the corridors in the hospitals. It was thought that an outside estimate of the cost of erection would be \$50,000. The amount of \$10,000 was voted for its maintenance during the first year. A sum of \$15,000 was voted for supplies and care for Manitoba convalescents. This was by an amendment made to include an extra

\$15,000 if it were deemed necessary. The general feeling of the convention was that the Red Cross should feel free to use what was necessary to make the men who are convalescing a little more comfortable and happy. In fact as each item of the budget was read the feeling was that the estimates were perhaps a little too conservative. The whole convention was an expression of service to the men who are suffering, and no expenditure was deemed too large.

The Red Cross, too, for some time has been considering getting and equipping some kind of hospital in a mild winter climate for those convalescents who must suffer additional hardships because of Manitoba's severe winter. Perhaps there was no single item of expenditure that created quite so much approval and popularity as this one. It was thought that for a beginning a small hospital capable of caring for 100 patients should be secured, preferably in California. It would be under charge of a doctor and nurse who had seen overseas service. The amount of \$50,000 was voted to take care of this project, and plans already under way will be immediately rushed to completion. This plan has been recommended by the medical authorities and approved by the Dominion government. Then for administration expenses the sum of \$30,000 was voted. This is a sum approximating two per cent. of the entire Red Cross funds, and was heartily acceded by the convention to be an

economical administration. After the various appropriations had been made the amount of \$119,969 was left in the treasury for unforeseen contingencies.

The New Organization

Almost since the war began the mothers and friends of men in the trenches have wished that the Red Cross also took care of the supplying of trench comforts for the fighting men. The Red Cross, however, as authorized at the Geneva convention, was formed primarily to supply hospital dressings and care for the wounded or sick soldier. During the recent campaign for the Red Cross the collectors and organizers were impressed with the desire of Red Cross workers to also take care of the fighting men. Consequently Manitoba branch of the Red Cross Society has decided to incorporate a branch of the Canadian War Contingent Association. This association will be specially to provide comforts for the men in the trenches. The sentiment of the meeting was heartily in favor of the Red Cross Society, under the name of the War Contingent Association, taking upon its shoulders this additional burden. The constitution as drafted and adopted by the new War Contingent Association is very similar to that of the Red Cross Society. Officers were elected at the Friday afternoon meeting. These consist of a president, a vice-president and a second vice-president, and a large number of directors representing the various districts. A. E. Rowland, of Winnipeg, was elected president; Lady Nanton, of Winnipeg, first vice-president; and Mrs. Kenneth Campbell, of Brandon, second vice-president.

It has long been impressed upon the minds of Manitoba's men that in the increase of the work and responsibility of the Manitoba Red Cross, that this increase should not be put upon the shoulders of the women. Consequently it was decided that there should be a finance board, with provincial powers, and various district finance boards representing the municipalities or the union of municipalities. These boards would have charge of the raising of all moneys for Red Cross purposes. At least they should be entirely responsible for the sums of money to be raised, and no patriotic endeavor should be put on in aid of the Red Cross without the approval of the finance board of the district. The women should, as far as possible, be relieved of the arduous tasks of collecting and devising means for the raising of money. Their time



Red Cross Workers at Manitoba Supply Depot arranging Socks in Pairs Preparatory to Packing

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