

any association or organization established in any place in Canada, for purposes similar to those of the corporation." The first step in the direction of united effort was taken when the Canadian Patriotic Fund Association of 1900, which had administered relief during and since the Boer War, decided to dissolve and to turn over its unexpended balance, amounting to about \$77,000, to the new Fund. Local organizations, that had already begun work in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa asked to be admitted as branches of the national Canadian Patriotic Fund and were duly accepted. A full measure of autonomy is granted to these local bodies, yet, for the sake of uniformity, certain conditions have been laid down and cordially accepted.

#### **The Formation of Branches.**

In forming a branch of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, great care should be exercised, by those who take the lead, to make the movement as broad and influential as possible. No existing society, however zealous, of which the membership is necessarily limited, should undertake, unaided, so large an enterprise. As battalions continue to mobilize, there will be in every community a large number of families justly entitled to receive assistance from the Fund, and the work involved in collecting and administering is of such importance and magnitude as to require the active support of a large and representative body of men and women.

Branch organizations have a double duty to perform. They are expected to do all in their power to increase the resources of the common fund, and to see that soldiers' dependents residing in the district under their control are not in want. In the first, the experience of the past 15 months has shown that they may expect the ready and generous support of the Canadian public. Private individuals, business houses, societies, schools, clubs, municipal, town and county councils are all co-operating to provide an adequate fund for the support of soldiers' families. The fact that a branch has raised enough money to meet the requirements of its own district is not of itself a sufficient reason for ceasing its efforts in this direction. The underlying principle of the Fund is that it shall be contributed to according to ability and drawn from according to need. The model constitution to be found as *Appendix C*, will serve, with slight modifications, the purposes of most local branches.

The work of the local Relief Committee can be greatly facilitated by the co-operation of a Ladies Auxiliary, the members of which would undertake all visiting and investigation work. See *Appendix D*.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO BRANCHES.**

#### **Eligibility for Assistance.**

To have a valid claim upon the Fund, reasonable proof must be furnished that, at the time of acceptance for active service, the soldier, or sailor, whose wife, family or other dependent relative, applies for aid, was a resident of Canada or Newfoundland.

The Fund recognizes as being on the same basis, not only Canadian Volunteers, but also British Army and Naval Reservists, and French, Belgian, Servian, Russian and Italian who, leaving dependents in Canada, have gone to join the colours. These men are all fighting for the common cause and their families in Canada are entitled to equal consideration. Men engaged on picket and garrison duty in Canada are not eligible.

#### **When Aid may Commence.**

Aid may commence as soon as the man is accepted and, having given up his employment, leaves his home, and may be continued so long as he is with his regiment, or ship, allowing a further reasonable time for his return journey to his home in Canada.

A representative of the Fund is stationed at Quebec and sends a confidential report on each man passing through the Discharge Depot at that place to the branch of the Fund at the town to which the man is proceeding.