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BLOCKADE OF THE CENTRAL POWERS TO BE RELAXED

In Order to Ship Food to Starving People in Central Europe

Paris, Jan. 9.—Representatives of the allied nations intend to give immediate consideration to the question of mitigating the severity of the blockade of the Central Powers, according to indications today.

Such mitigation, it is pointed out, would be granted in order to admit of the passing in of food supplies for Czechoslovakia, Poland, and some sections of Russia and other territory which it is desired to reach, and which cannot be reached except through territory which the Central Powers are holding.

BUENOS AYRES HARBOR DESERTED

The Loading and Unloading of Vessels Has Been Entirely Suspended

Buenos Ayres, Jan. 9.—All Trans Atlantic shipping has been suspended until the harbor strike is ended. It was announced after a meeting of the shipping agents. The Government was attempting to assist in the loading and unloading of vessels by using a few Government tugs, but the agents decided that no attempt would be made to move the vessels. It was indicated by some agents at the meeting that their action might tend to shorten the strike.

CAPT. SEWELL HOME FROM OVERSEAS—WON COMMISSION ON FIELD

Capt. F. F. Sewell, who came over on the steamship Carmania, arrived home from overseas on Wednesday. He was met at the station by a large number of relatives and friends and representatives of the Returned Soldiers Association and the Great War Veterans. Capt. Sewell went overseas as a private with the First Contingent, in 1914, and won his commission and promotion to captain on the 12th Manitoba Dragoons and was transferred in France to the 5th Battalion. Prior to joining the colors, Captain Sewell was a senior law student with J. A. Aikens at Minnedosa, where his home is. He was home on furlough last Spring and since going overseas again was stationed at Rhyl, North Wales, in the conducting services. Capt. Sewell and Mrs. Sewell, who has been residing at 406 Sixteenth street, expect to leave for Minnedosa in about a week.

PTE. H. HAYWARD NOW SAFE IN ENGLAND: WAS PRISONER IN GERMANY

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hayward, 1212 Princess Avenue, received the good news this morning that their son, Pte. Henry Hayward, who has been a prisoner of war since October 1917, is now safe in England and will probably soon be home. This news will be read with pleasure by his many friends in the city. This soldier was a talented musician and was only nineteen years of age when he left for France. Prior to enlisting with the Chums Battalion, in which he was a member of the regimental band, Pte. Hayward was a bugler for the 99th. Before joining the colors, Pte. Hayward was employed by E. L. Christie.

RED CROSS SOCIETY HAD GREAT YEAR: ANNUAL MEETING

Hope Expressed That Society Will be Maintained in a High Degree of Efficiency

WAR WORK OVER
Or Soon Will be—Society Found Plenty to do Without the Raising of Money

"Gratitude" and Service were the keynotes of the Annual Meeting of the Red Cross Society held in the drawing-room of the Prince Edward Hotel on Tuesday.

"It is with a spirit of gratitude that we gather together," said Mrs. Campbell, the president, in opening the meeting. "Gratitude that the continued horror and strain of war had been removed and with the pressing need for hospital supplies, but the women of Canada and Brandon who have given so freely of service during the past four years for our wounded in hospitals and brave men at the front, cannot return to our circumvented existence. We still want to give ourselves in service to our fellow-men, and so when the call comes to lend a helping hand to those who have suffered through the war, the eager willingness and hearty response shows us ever the hearts of our women still beat true."

The usual routine business of passing accounts and adopting reports, etc., was disposed of.

Thanks for Victory
Mrs. C. C. Hearn then moved the following resolution: "On behalf of the Brandon Red Cross Society, I now wish to move that we place on record our profound thankfulness to Almighty God for the victory he has vouchsafed to our arms; for the complete vindication of our causes of truth and right and to publicly tender our heartfelt gratitude and admiration to the glorious allied troops who have achieved for us this magnificent victory. May we prove worthy of a peace bought with such great and noble sacrifice."

Mrs. C. Blake then very briefly reminded the members that the lessons we have learned and the sorrows we have endured will only have lasting effects upon us if we have learned not only to "give," but to "share."

Condolence
During the past year death has removed one of the most active members of the Society, Mrs. J. W. K. Van Norman, and the following resolution of condolence to Mr. Van Norman was passed:

"We, the Officers and Members of the Brandon Red Cross Society wish to express our deepest sympathy to you in your recent bereavement. We do not do this as a mere matter of form, but from our very hearts for one to whom we all became so much attached as we worked together and as we learned to love her and know her many sterling and admirable qualities. Realizing that our community has lost one of its most valued members, the type of womanhood to which we might all aspire. We, as a society, have lost a most capable and lovable worker, your children have lost that which means most to them—a good mother, and you have lost a devoted wife and helpmeet in every sense of the word—we, therefore, must offer you most sincerely our sympathy and prayer that God may bless you and your children and help you bear this irreparable loss."

Work During Epidemic
The President then spoke of the recent influenza epidemic and the work which the members of the Red Cross had rendered in the diet kitchen. It was decided to express the appreciation of the assistance given in this work by those who are not members of the Society by inserting a card of thanks in the local press.

Reports of Activities
The Secretary, Mrs. W. J. Miller, then read her annual report. There is a membership of 32 life members; 102 subscribing; 134 active, and 293 associate. Money was raised for the needs of the society until in June by the efforts of the women, when an active Provincial campaign was put on, the city of Brandon subscribing \$42,000 of which \$12,000, or \$1,000 per month, is to be turned over to the auxiliary.

A reorganization took place in August in regard to trench comfort work, and the Canadian War Contingent Association, which works through and under the guidance of the Red Cross grew out of it. The Brandon Society was honored in having the Acting President chosen as one of the Vice Presidents of the Provincial Association. The help so generously given by the various societies in the city enabled the Red Cross to get out its first allotment of War Contingent comforts in record time.

Knitting and Sewing
The reports of the knitting and sewing convenors show how faithfully the women of Brandon and those of

the surrounding country (who worked through the society) have labored; 4,564 pairs of socks and 215 other knitted articles having been made; 2,991 pairs of pyjamas and 210 personal property bags; 286 dressing gowns and 173 day shirts as well as many other small articles make up the total. Credit must be given to those societies outside the city who worked so faithfully through our society until the time of reorganization.

Treasurer's Report
The treasurer's report showed that the sum of \$14,426.96 has been raised as follows:

Oct. 9th, 1917—Balance forward \$366.93

Membership fees—Life members, \$150; Subscribing members \$465; Active members \$297.50; Associate members \$493.00

Donations—Sundry \$522.65; Tack Club I.O.O.F. \$97.36; Mrs. Burdill's Class \$350; City Grant \$200; Our Boys Club (Mrs. Van Norman) \$500; Mardi Club \$155; Public Schools \$146.30; Brandon Hills Busy Bees (Teachers) \$50; Sparling Ladies' Aid (Chatter) \$129; Canadian Club (Women) \$30.25; "Our Day" Fund \$60; Hayfield Ladies' \$237.39; Hillsdale Red Cross Society \$250; Clarke Hall Ladies \$95; Terrace Soldier's Benefit Society \$100; Valentine (Per W. Ferguson) \$250; Glen Souris Schools \$7.15; Berestford Ladies \$50; Annual Presbyterian (W.M.S.) \$141.30; Valley Red Cross \$100; Carry On Club (patriotic pig) \$365; Brandon Girl Guides \$70; Grand Inf. Auxiliary of B.L.E. \$30; Stewartville Ladies' Aid \$100; Dr. Neil, St. Paul's, Lecture \$67.35; Kennedy Ladies' Guild \$170; McKelvie Bachelor Girls \$17; Financial Boards \$4,000.

Proceeds—Dances, Teas and Card Parties \$794.35; Ralph Connor Lecture \$648.66; Box Social, Forrest \$205; Pathophone Raffle \$220; Box Social, Poplar Hills School \$32; Winter Fair, Patriotic Steer \$110; Automobile Raffle \$1,166; Sale, Old Gold and Silver \$55.17; Monthly Collections \$1,027.45; Bank Interest \$25.30; Total \$14,426.96.

Expenditures—Head—Office \$2,049; Prisoner of War Fund \$265; Red Cross Campaign \$1,400; Materials \$8,489.51; Printing, Advertising and Postage \$66.25; Sewing Room Exp. \$48.75; Sundries \$53.40; Expenses, Dances City \$147; Balance in Bank \$1,918.05. Total \$14,426.96.

Prisoners of War Fund
The Prisoners of War Funds were in charge of Mrs. Peacock and Mrs. Harrison. Until the cost of keeping a prisoner became very heavy private parties "adopted" a man, but later it became necessary to ask various organizations to help. \$1,542 was raised for this fund—which always proved a very popular one. In June a part of the money obtained in the drives was devoted to this cause—some \$100,000 from the Province so this branch of the work was discontinued.

A short address was given with regard to the Red Cross work during the past year. The hope was expressed that the "ideal of service" would not be lost and that the Brandon Red Cross Society as an organization would carry on after the war work was ended.

The following officers were elected for the year 1918—President Mrs. Kenneth Campbell; 1st Vice-President Mrs. R. R. Dowling; 2nd Vice Mrs. A. R. Irwin; Hon. Treas., Mrs. G. E. Peacock; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. W. J. Miller; Cor. Secretary, Miss S. Beuplier; Mrs. A. B. McLeod Convener of knitting and Mrs. G. Ferrier Convener of Sewing. The executive has been enlarged to 21 members exclusive of officers.

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSION TO MEET IN BRANDON

The Public Welfare Commission will hold a public hearing in the Brandon Court House, on Monday, January 20th. This Royal Commission is empowered and requested to make inquiry and report to the Provincial Legislature on phases of charitable and welfare work. The Brandon General Hospital, the Hospital for the Insane, the jail and other public and private institutions will be inspected.

FIGHTING MAY BE AVOIDED IN POSEN

Paris, Jan. 9.—The German Government has opened negotiations with the Poles who have invaded the Province of Posen, according to Frankfort Gazette, which says there are hopes of an understanding that will end before fighting will be reached.

FRENCH UNDER SECRETARY OF AVIATION RESIGNS

Paris, Jan. 9.—Jacques Dumesnil, Under Secretary of Aviation has resigned.

WOMEN TAKE LEADING PART IN DISCUSSIONS BY GRAIN GROWERS

The real significant feature of the local association as men. Comparing the reports now in hand with the reports of the same associations for 1917 there is a straight increase during the year of 344 members. This is not a matter of guess work or speculation. It is an actual increase of paid up membership, and whatever other branches may have gained or lost, these hundred associations have it to their credit that they have added 344 members to our strength in the province.

Strength of the Association.
In dealing with membership the Brookdale has the unique distinction question naturally arises, what is the strength of the Association? Until we further improve our system of reporting the statistics it will be impossible to give an answer that will be quite up to date. At the present time two statements are possible in reference to our strength. First, The receipts and reports show that 183 local associations forwarded to the Central Office for the year 1917 dues for 6,307 members. This total is reached by inclusion of dues for 1917 forwarded from December 1st, 1917, all through the year 1917 and through the year 1918, and is beyond question a correct expression of our standing for that year. Second, For 1918 up to December 31st, while only 102 associations have returned their annual reports, 192 associations have paid dues which (exclusive of amounts to be credited to 1917 accounts, and amounts received during December last on 1917 accounts) represent 7575 memberships. This is a clear gain to date over 1917 of 1266 paid up memberships with a large number of local associations that there is a list almost, if not quite, as long as associations which during the years have been reported as dormant, not active, or "dead," and another list somewhat longer of associations that have made no response of any kind to communications from the Central Office. The whole situation emphasizes the urgent necessity of taking up at once the task of more definite oversight, more systematic visitation, more effective assistance to the struggling local association in order that lapses and fainting spells and deaths among our branches may be rendered less frequent or if possible entirely prevented.

Practical Necessities.
From a review of the year's work, I am impressed with the necessity for special provision being made in taking up the work of the New Year, along the following lines:

Extended field work not only to organize new branches but to strengthen and encourage many that are weak. The supplying of more literature of the movement in the form of bulletins and pamphlets, providing with some continuity studies in the principle for which we stand. The appeals for literature are very frequent and cannot be ignored.

Increased effort directed especially to the enlistment of the young people and the women of the communities and the tringing of local community leaders. Insistence upon the obligation of local boards to consult together and to really direct the activities of their association.

Directors' Report.
The directors of the Association in making their annual report would respectfully remind the convention that the conditions that have prevailed during the last four years have made it difficult if not impossible to carry on the work of the Association in the most effective manner. Though now, happily, the war has drawn to a close it is not to be expected that the conditions created by the war will cease immediately. Besides being handicapped during the whole year by conditions directly attributable to the war, we have during the last two months been seriously hampered by the prevailing epidemic of influenza. Particularly is this true in regard to carrying out of a series of district conventions covering the entire province. This series had been planned with considerable care but in the great majority of cases we were compelled to bow to the decision of the higher powers and we found that "The best laid schemes of mice and men gang all a-glee."

During the Summer, a somewhat extensive educational campaign was carried on under the joint auspices of the U. G. G. and our Association. This campaign was attended by a great deal of success, attributable in large measure to the very effective service rendered by a number of members of our Women's Section.

A number of matters of vital interest to the Association have from time to time been under consideration. Some matters referred by the last convention to the Board have been dealt with as follows: First, as to an act governing the sale of farm machinery. The matter was laid before the Government as directed and we had expected that by this time an act would have been placed on the statute books. This has not yet been done; but we have every reason to believe that at the coming session of the legislature a satisfactory act will be passed.

Weed Inspector's Fees.
In regard to the Noxious Weed Act, the following figures based upon the reports received up to December 31st give some indication of the progress made:

One hundred and two local associations have filled in and returned the forms sent out for their reports. Forty-three associations have reported their annual meetings and the election of their officers for 1918. Of those whose reports are in, five associations report memberships of over one hundred, as follows—Morris, 182; Strathclair, 123; Forrest, 121; Nings, 107, and Birnie 101. Twenty associations report memberships of fifty or over.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARM WOMEN ORGANIZED HERE

To Further Policies Laid Down by Canadian National Council of Agriculture

One of the greatest developments in the progress of the rural women of Canada is the organization of a national council of farm women, which took place on Wednesday.

The new organization is to be known provisionally as the Interprovincial Council of Farm Women of Canada. It is for the purpose of co-ordinating the work of the various provincial organizations, and to have a national machinery for the conduct of the vast amount of national business that is constantly before the organized farm women that the new organization came into being. A recommendation is being forwarded to the Canadian Council of Agriculture that the newly formed Interprovincial Council of Farm Women shall become a section of the Canadian Council of Agriculture for the purpose of furthering among farm women the policies as laid down by the Canadian Council of Agriculture in its recent platform, and that such Women's Section of the Canadian Council of Agriculture shall have full autonomy for the conduct of such business as shall particularly concern women and children.

The officers elected were: President, Mrs. John McNaughton of Saskatchewan; Vice-president, Mrs. Walter Paribby, Alberta, and Secretary, Miss Mabel Finch, Manitoba. The head office of the council will be located at 306 Bank of Hamilton Building, Winnipeg.

There were present at the meeting, representatives of the women's departments of the farmers' organizations in the various provinces, including Mrs. George Brodie, of Newmarket, Ontario, President of the United Farm Women of Ontario; Mrs. John McNaughton, of Harris, Sask.; Honorary Secretary of the Women's Section of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association; Mrs. J. S. Wood, of Oakville, Man., President of the Women's Section of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association; Mrs. J. F. Ross, of Duhamel, Alta., Vice-President of the United Farm Women of Alberta, and Miss Mary P. McCallum, associate editor of the Grain Growers' Guide.

10 DEAD RESULT OF FIRE IN PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh, Jan. 8.—Ten persons are dead today and a score of others are suffering from injuries as the result of a spectacular fire and explosion which wrecked the Film Exchange Building on Pennsylvania avenue last night. The damage is estimated at \$1,000,000.

your directors held a conference with representatives of the loan companies, and an agreement was reached to the effect that weed inspectors should not be permitted to charge against a parcel of land an amount exceeding \$7.25 per acre. This has become statute law.

In regard to telephones in railway stations. The representative of the C. N.R., while refusing to assent to the general principle for which we contended, very readily consented to have a telephone placed at a point in regard to which special representation had been made. The representative of the C.P.R. was more sympathetically disposed toward the general principle, but gave us no decided answer.

One of the most important works of the year has been that done through our connection with the Canadian Council of Agriculture. Our Association has four representatives on this Council, who with the other members have been in frequent consultation with various bodies over matters of public interest. The most important work of this body has been the revision of the Farmers' platform which will be presented to you for endorsement during the convention.

Peep to the Future.
Now what about the future. During the past four years the great question for our Association in common with other Canadians has been "What is the most effective contribution that Canada can make in the winning of the war?" Important as were all questions of economics and internal policies in themselves, they were necessarily secondary to the one supreme issue. Now, however, that the war has been won and the cause for which we fought has triumphed, these questions which have been of secondary importance again assume the supreme position. The great question now is not the winning of the war but the paying of the cost. Through sums of money must be raised of which we had never dreamed. The equitable distribution of that burden is the problem of the hour. Your directors feel that if an undue share of the burden is not to be borne by the tillers of the soil that there must be no relaxation in our efforts to secure by organization, by co-operation and by political action the acceptance of the policies for which we have been contending during the history of our Association.

YOU NEXT?

A factory worker was heard to remark: "We often have accidents, but I've escaped so far." He little thought he would be next. Yet he was! His injury was only a slight one and he neglected it. It began to fester. Then blood-poisoning set in and developed so quickly that he had to have his arm amputated.

How about you? You may be next! You can safeguard yourself against the result of accidents, as many other people have done, by keeping Zam-Buk always handy. Miss S. A. Wernicke of Hilton, B.C., accidentally ran a needle so far into her finger that it pierced the bone. She writes: "My hand became so stiff and swollen that I could not use it. I naturally tried every remedy I knew of, but it only got worse. Blood-poisoning developed and extended right up my arm. The pain was intense, and I was certain that I would lose my arm, which was in a terribly inflamed and swollen state, and literally covered with lumps. A friend advised me to use Zam-Buk, which I did, and it was not long before the pain grew less. The inflammation was all drawn out, the swelling and lumps disappeared, and my arm was soon quite well again."

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