"THE QUEEN'S TEA PARTY"

PRISONERS OF WAR DEPARTMENT
CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
VANCOUVER BRANCH

"THE QUEEN'S TEA PARTY" has been specially written for the Prisoners of War Department of the Vancouver Branch of the Canadian Red Cross, with the view of making the "Woollies" more widely known and enabling the committee to enlarge the sale of them, and thus send more money for the cause its members have so near at heart.

These "Woollies" are tiny figures about two inches high, made out of wool, and all (with one exception) invented by members of the Prisoners of War Committee.

They have had a wonderful success and orders have come for them from all parts of the world. Her Majesty Queen Mary graciously accepted a set, and also H.R.H. the Duchess of Connaught. A large order for "Woollies" was received at Christmas from the Duchess and Princess Patricia of Connaught.

So far it has not been found necessary to patent or copyright the "Woollies" as all other patriotic societies and charities have courteously recognized our rights to them.

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"The Queen's Tea Party"

HER MAJESTY, Queen Mary of England, had decided to give a tea party, and she had consulted the King before coming to this decision, because since the beginning of the war the King and the Queen had been so hard at work that they had not been doing much entertaining, but this was to be an exception. "You see, dear," the Queen had said to the King, "these Vancouver 'Woollies' are really doing a great deal for our poor prisoners of war. They have earned so much money, and having made us honorary members of their committee, I really think we should invite them to tea." The King said he quite thought so too. So the invitation was sent, and when it was received in Vancouver and was opened by the "Woollies" secretary, there was fine excitement. I can tell you they were just a pretty excited lot of people. You see it is a great honour to receive an invitation from a King and a Queen, so no wonder the inside threads of the "Woollies" (which take the place of their hearts) just quivered with delight. The invitation was written on a beautiful, big card, with the royal arms in gold at the top, and it said that the Lord High Chancellor (or somebody of that sort) had been ordered by their Majesties to invite the "Woollies" to tea at Buckingham Palace.

Now, the "Woollies" are a very funny committee, made up of all sorts of people. They have three honorary members: the King, the Queen and an Indian Rajah. These members are there for the honour of the thing, and not for work. The "Woollies" decided to have the Rajah because he had given such a lot of his money to help England to win the war, and had given a beautiful hospital ship for the wounded, so they thought he should have the honour of being on the committee. Then there was a Khaki soldier, with just a tiny band of red around his cap, which he hoped the Germans would not see and fire at, but in any case he did not intend to cover it up. And there was the Bantam soldier, too, just like the other only half the size—such a well-set-up little fellow. There was a Sailor, and a smart, handsome Kiltie; this Kiltie had been inclined to hold his head rather high, and to give himself airs, until the Mascot Piper had joined the committee, and he was a much finer gentleman than the Kiltie, being in full dress uniform—which meant that he was wearing a scarlet coat and tartan sash and high busby with a really splendid drooping feather. But best of all, he had bagpipes which he played beautifully, though the Kiltie, being envious, remarked that he couldn't see where the music came in, and, "in any case no one could fight in those silly clothes." The Nurse, who was also one of the members, thought the noise of the bagpipes would disturb her patient,

the Wounded Soldier, who carried his left arm in a sling and had been shot through the leg. This Nurse was a very pretty little person, with pink cheeks and blue eyes, which matched her uniform; but really she did not do her work a bit better than the older Nurse who had black eyes and a rather ugly face. There had been great discussion as to whether John Bull or Lord Kitchener should be the chairman of the committee, but finally they decided it must be Lord Kitchener, because he was riding his white charger and was sitting on a saddle which was much the same thing as a chair. John Bull didn't look a bit pleased and muttered a good deal to himself (for John Bull doesn't like to play second fiddle to anyone), but nobody paid much attention, as they knew he was just disappointed, and when they made him secretary he was quite pleased, for he said, "Anyone could be a chairman, you don't even have to vote, but it takes brains to be a secretary." Uncle Sam wished to be treasurer and to take care of the money. He had joined as a benevolent Neutral, but the rest said "No, that a Neutral, however benevolent, could not hold office." Whereupon Uncle Sam looked rather put out and puffed hard at his big cigar. The "Woollies" finally decided that Johnny Canuck must have the position, as he was a native-born son of Canada.

The really funny members of the committee were the animals, for as a rule

animals do not sit on committees, only you see as this was a very special war-time committee it was an exception to the general rule. There was an elephant and a camel and a bear, and a British Lion who never seemed to mind how much one twisted his tail; and there was a bear who had so little tail one could not twist it at all. There were several dogs, one a gun dog that had helped to draw the guns for the King of Belgium, and two fine French poodles, and a Dachshund, who, being of German extraction, felt very uncomfortable, and kept as much as possible in the background. But best of all was the British Bulldog, who guarded the Union Jack. This dog was a great favorite with John Bull and always kept close at his heels. John Bull, being secretary, had to open the letter which contained the invitation to tea, and when he read it to the committee he was so proud that he literally seemed to swell and grow larger and larger, and he is a pretty fat gentleman, anyway. It is a big honour to be invited to have tea with the King and Queen, and John Bull felt it an honour to even read the letter. The "Woollies" all thought the invitation should be accepted, and began to discuss how it could be managed. It wouldn't cost them much money, for "Woollies" don't need train and steamer tickets like other people; they just need stamps, and stamps are not very expensive. They agreed to pack in close to one another so that they would not need a very large box in which to travel.

When the time came to start they all jumped in and settled themselves down for a good, long journey. The Dachshund got as far away from the Lion as possible, for he thought that in the dark mistakes might happen, and it was just as well to be on the safe side—which meant the side farthest from the Lion. The Nurses were a little nervous and hoped they would not be torpedoed, but Jack Tar assured them there was very little danger, as he was there to take care of them.

The journey was rather gloomy and tedious, for they were allowed no lights; but after a while they arrived safely in London, just one day before the date of the tea party, and they had nice time to strengthen-up before starting off for Buckingham Palace. Lord Kitchener, as chairman, and the one who knew most about etiquette, took command of the party and told them in just what order they were to go, and how to behave. When they arrived at the palace there stood the King and the Queen, and, if you will believe it, they were actually dressed in their coronation robes.

The Queen had talked it over beforehand with the King, and they had agreed it would please their guests if they were to wear their royal robes.

"You see, dear," the Queen had said, "these good friends of ours from British Columbia would like to see us in our best coats and frocks, and we wish to give

them pleasure"; and the King had answered: "My dear, how wonderfully kind and thoughtful you are."

The Bantam soldiers led the procession: Lord Kitchener had arranged this because he thought that otherwise they would be lost sight of, being so very small; then came the Army Chaplain and the Doctor, followed by the Soldier and Kiltie. The Blue Jacket led the elderly Nurse, squeezing her hand in case she should be nervous, while the pretty young Nurse helped the Wounded Soldier, who had sufficiently recovered to limp along with the help of her arm. Then came the Piper, playing his pipes, and next came the camel and elephant, each with its rider, followed by the lion and the bear, and after them the dogs, four abreast.

Then came John Bull and Uncle Sam arm-in-arm, holding their top hats in their hands, and last of all came Lord Kitchener himself. As the procession approached and was greeted by their Majesties, they told what they had each one done for the cause. "We," said the Bantam, "earn ten cents, and many a parcel of food have we sent to the prisoners of war. A number of little boys and girls just love to have us pinned to their coats, for all of us have safety pins on our backs, so that people can wear us, and they call us 'Mascots.' One little boy in Vancouver won't go to bed until his little 'Woolly' has been pinned on

his nightie, for he wants his soldier to take care of him while he is asleep."

After the Bantam came the Chaplain, Doctor and Soldier, and each explained how much he had made. The plain, elderly Nurse blushed when she confessed that twenty cents was all that she was worth, while her little blue sister could get fifty cents, but the Queen smiled and said as long as we did our best that was all that could be expected of us.

When everyone of the committee had been greeted, and either shaken hands with or been patted by the King and Queen, then the chairman, Lord Kitchener, asked permission to read a statement setting forth what the "Woollies" Committee had accomplished for their Majesties' loyal and brave soldiers, now prisoners of war in an alien land. The "Woollies," you see, liked long words, and thought "alien land" sounded better than "Germany."

"On August 21st, 1915, the Khaki Soldier began the work of providing food for the prisoners of war, and was by degrees joined by the rest of the 'Woollies.' During the last seven months your loyal subjects have not been idle, and by their exertions have earned a sum of just $2,000, which your Majesties no doubt know, is more than 400 pounds. We hope, after the honour of this visit, to return home again and continue our work as long as it is needed.

"God save the King."

The King and Queen were much pleased at hearing how much the "Woollies" had accomplished and thanked them most sincerely. "We, too," said the King, "will do all in our power to help the prisoners, and we are proud to think that those of you who cannot be fighting for our just cause are still doing your share in helping the brave men who fought and suffered for us. Return, O my subjects, and continue this, your excellent work."

After the ending of this speech, the party proceeded to the tea room, where they were joined by the Rajah, gorgeous in his jewelled attire. Special food had been provided for the animal guests, and a most agreeable time was spent before their Majesties bade a gracious farewell to the party.

Before starting on their return journey the "Woollies" paid a visit to the Canadian Red Cross Headquarters in Cockspur Street, desiring, as their chairman explained, not only to pay their respects to Mrs. Rivers Bulkeley and her associates, but to see what the prisoners' parcels were like, for which they were earning the money, and how they were packed and sent. After concluding this visit, the "Woollies" tucked themselves back again in their box, the chairman addressing and stamping it before himself jumping in and pulling the lid to. A fortnight later they were back in Vancouver and hard at work again.

V. E. S.

Price List of "Woollies"

Soldier	$ .10
Bantam	.10
Nurse	.20
Nurse (face hand-painted)	.50
Kiltie	.25
Bluejacket	.50
Johnny Canuck	.50
Miss Canada	.50
Russian Bear	.50
Bulldog	.25
Belgian Gun Dog	.25
Lion and Dog	.50
Japanese Dog	.25
Australian on camel	.75
French Poodle	.50
Lord Kitchener on white charger	$1.00
Indian on elephant	.75
John Bull	.50
Uncle Sam	.50
Piper	.50
Cossack	.50
King George	1.00
Queen Mary	1.00
Indian Prince	1.00
Princess Mary	1.50
Queen Victoria	2.00
Souvenir Box, small size	.50
Souvenir Box, large size (hand-painted)	2.00

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