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Patriotic fund

Patriotic Giving

by

Rural Municipalities



**How the people of North
Simcoe gave to the
Patriotic Funds**



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HOW THE PEOPLE OF NORTH
SIMCOE GAVE TO THE
PATRIOTIC FUNDS.

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THROUGH the Canadian Patriotic Fund, Canadians said to the soldiers "Go to the front, and we will care for your wives and kiddies." Through the Canadian Red Cross Society, Canadians assured the families left at home that the husbands, sons and brothers on the firing line would be given the best possible care and receive the best possible comforts. With these assurances to be lived up to, campaigning and organising for these funds is an activity in which every stay-at-home can engage with earnestness, enthusiasm and satisfaction. The reward is knowing that you are doing a "bit" for the nation. There is a place for each one, not that there are not many in the field, but that the field is so wide. At present the Canadian Patriotic Fund is asking for seven and a half millions for the ensuing year, while the Canadian Red Cross Society should have nearly, if not an equal amount. It looks like a huge contract to provide the money, but it will be forthcoming. From end to end of the Dominion the response will be such as will emphasize a

Collingwood township farmer's brief, concise and pointed declaration at a recent campaign meeting, "All I have I owe to the King and State. All I have the King and State may have." That is the spirit which counts.

But, it was not the purpose of these paragraphs to be an essay on the recognition of responsibility and the performance of a duty by Canadians. Instead, it is intended to review briefly some of the results in the interest of the Patriotic Funds secured in the northerly and western parts of Simcoe County and the eastern townships of the County of Grey.

The first campaign was launched in the town of **Collingwood**, where the municipality had been endeavouring to take care of its own soldiers' wives and families, but with indifferent success. It was felt that the Canadian Patriotic Fund offered what was in reality required, inasmuch as it would not only bring to the families in Collingwood comfort and supply their needs, but afford the people of the town an opportunity of exercising their generosity towards soldiers' families elsewhere. To the inaugural meeting about twenty-five had been hurriedly invited. All but two were on hand, though but from one to three hours' notice had been given. Prof. C. N. Cochrane of the Speakers' Patriotic League, spoke briefly, outlining the aims, objects and plans of the Canadian Patriotic Fund. This was followed by organization, leading men of the town

readily accepting responsibilities which obviously incurred the devotion of much time and the spending of no inconsiderable energy. It is unnecessary to follow all the details. Mr. W. C. Rean was sent to direct and assist in the campaign. Ten thousand dollars was the amount set to be raised, but on the first day over \$9,000 had been secured, while on the second and last day half as much more was raised, making a total of \$13,500. Over \$5,000 was paid in cash, the balance being spread over the then remaining seven months of the calendar year. Shortly before this Collingwood had successfully launched a campaign in behalf of the Canadian Red Cross Society—\$2,400 having been contributed, a part of which was forwarded to the head office in Toronto and a part expended in purchasing material for comforts, while since, on Trafalgar Day \$2,100 was given in response to the appeal from the British Red Cross.

Collingwood's example evidently spread a benign influence over the surrounding municipalities, urban and rural. The village of **Creemore** followed, aiming at \$2,000 and giving \$5,000, divided between the Patriotic Fund and the Canadian Red Cross Society, 65 and 35 per cent. respectively. **Stayner** came along with \$2,600, apportioned the same way, one hundred more than the sum set to be given, while **Alliston** excelled with \$5,500, almost double the figure named. From the towns and villages the contagion spread to the township, where there was no

hesitation on the part of those approached. At first the municipal councillors, not as councillors, but as citizens of a common country engaged in furthering a common cause, and second, by means of them and public meetings, the people generally. The reception in all cases was inspiring, the farmers recognising they had a responsibility to answer and a duty to perform. It was not a case of persuasion.

The township of Nottawasaga came first. On the day of the presentation of the case, the Township Council, the Farmers' Institute and the Women's Institute were in session in the Scotch village of Duntroon. When the speakers had concluded, Reeve Scott said, "It is up to us to do our duty and do it now," and with his Council and people organization of a branch was there and then effected. It was decided to make a canvass for voluntary subscriptions. Officers were elected, two captains appointed for each of the twelve polling subdivisions and at a meeting of the executive a few evenings later, every officer and twenty-three of the captains were present, a splendid manifestation of the interest and enthusiasm that prevailed. At this meeting arrangements were made for a number of public meetings and the date set for the canvass. The result was that contributions amounting to \$6,500 were received, a great part being cash.

In Collingwood township the Council led by Reeve McLennan, was first approached and through public meetings the

people were consulted. At these, upon a vote being taken, the Council was recommended to make a straight levy of three mills on the rateable property, in addition to the special provincial tax and a special levy by the county; also that the local branch of the Patriotic Fund arrange for a canvass of the non-ratepayers. By this course it is expected that at least \$5,000 will be divided between the Canadian Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross Society in the same ratio as that adopted by Creemore and Stayner.

The township of Osprey is now engaged in a campaign to raise at least \$4,000 by voluntary subscription, 25 per cent. for the Canadian Red Cross, the same for the British Red Cross and 50 per cent. for the Patriotic Fund.

In the **township of Flos** a public meeting was held on Thanksgiving Day, when by unanimous vote it was decided to recommend the township council to raise by promissory note or debenture, a provincial statute of the last session legalising either, \$5,000, this money to be divided, British Red Cross \$1,000, Canadian Red Cross \$1,000 and Patriotic Fund \$3,000. This has since been done.

In **Oro Township** a campaign was concluded this week. The amount aimed at was \$3,000, but it is anticipated that it will be exceeded. This campaign was initiated at a public meeting called at the instigation of Reeve Ball, the councillors and prominent farmers in the township.

In all of these townships, branches of the Canadian Patriotic Fund have been organised and affiliation completed

In Sunnidale and Vespra townships organisation is under consideration, and it is expected will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion in a short time.

In all of the campaigns reviewed the Speakers' Patriotic League, which has its headquarters in Toronto, has been of inestimable assistance. Speakers have been readily and freely supplied at practically no cost to the Patriotic Fund, the League doing the financing, except in an occasional instance where exceptional circumstances prevailed, or the municipality assumed the indebtedness.

The Patriotic Fund said to the soldiers, "Go and fight and we will care for your families." The boys in khaki went away with a confidence that the trust would be fully fulfilled—and it will be, though seven and a half million be required to do the work assumed and as much more to help the Red Cross. Urban and rural Canada are one in this.