

“KINGSWOOD”

:: Massey-Harris ::
Convalescent Home

IN ENGLAND

For Canadian Soldiers “KINGSWOOD,”


DULWICH,

LONDON, S.E.


Bulletin No. 3



One of the Entrance Gates.



Opening of Massey-Harris Convalescent Home



By the Lord Mayor of London

Although patients had been regularly cared for for several weeks, the formal opening of the Home did not take place until Thursday, June 1st.

It was very appropriate that this ceremony should be performed by Sir Charles Wakefield, Lord Mayor of London, and that the presiding officer should be Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada. And it was very fitting that it should take the form of a garden party, for the grounds of Kingswood are of singular and diversified beauty. From its terraces a glimpse is obtainable of the spires and gables of Dulwich College, and away in the distance the dome of St. Paul's, the campanile of Westminster, and the more distant heights of Highgate and Hampstead. The well-kept lawns and avenues and gardens, with the ornamental lake winding in and out of the trees, and the artistic stone-built bridge gave a picturesque setting to the large and influential gathering of invited guests.

In the midst of these lovely, park-like surroundings two large tents had

been erected, one for the opening service and the other for refreshments.

The visitors were received in the Recreation Hall by Mr. C. W. Dawkins and Mr. H. B. Robinson, Managers of the European Branch, the ladies of the Reception Committee being Mrs. E. V. Raynolds, of Toronto, Mrs. Dawkins and Mrs. Robinson.

The Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Sheriff Skead and Miss Skead arrived at 4 p.m., and after greetings were over the Lady Mayoress and Miss Skead were presented with bouquets.

As the Lord Mayor and party arrived on the scene, the fine band of the Canadian Cavalry Depot of 41 pieces gave spirited renderings of "O Canada" and "The Maple Leaf," and afterwards played an admirable selection of music during the afternoon.

The guests, to the number of from 300 to 400, among whom were a large number of Canadians, then adjourned to the large marquees erected on the lawn, where Sir George Perley took charge of the proceedings with the following remarks:



1.—Sir Geo. Perley.

2.—Lady Mayoress.

3.—Lady Perley.

4.—Lord Mayor.

Even in this dreadful war, we sometimes have some pleasant things to do, and this afternoon we are here for one of those purposes. I have to thank very much the gentlemen who have arranged the opening of the Home this afternoon on my own behalf and on behalf of my wife for having done me the compliment of asking me to be Chairman at this gathering. It certainly is a great pleasure to me.

According to the prospectus which has been handed to me of this Convalescent Hospital or Home, the staffs and organizations of the Massey-Harris Company were in favor of joining together in the support of some worthy patriotic object, and believed they had within their ranks potential influences which could be organized in the interests of the Empire.

I am sure I am voicing your sentiments, ladies and gentlemen, when I say that no more worthy purpose could have been suggested than that which is proposed in this work, and seeing, as we do to-day, the result of this feeling, we may congratulate all the ladies and gentlemen who have had to do with it, and we may congratulate ourselves that we have among us people who are of that mind and willing to put it into action.

The Massey-Harris Company is an institution in Canada; those of you who live there know that. To those who live in this country I must simply say that it is one of the oldest and among the largest well-established businesses in the Dominion of Canada.

Now, the Massey-Harris Company has not done this work as a Company. I think it has been put on a broader and higher basis than that. The Company itself has given a large sum of money towards this object, but, as a matter of fact, a part has been contributed by the individuals connected with the Massey-Harris Company, members of the staffs of the different Branches in Canada, and also in foreign countries, because this Massey-Harris Company is spread pretty well over the British Empire, with Branches in many cities in Australia and South Africa, and several of the large cities of Europe.

Now, the members of the staffs and the individuals in the Company decided that they would start this Home, subscribe the money to to equip and maintain it during the War. I may say in this connection that nothing they could have done for the Canadian soldier would be more appreciated or, I take it, is more necessary. While I am saying this, I would like to pay my tribute to the splendid medical and hospital arrangements which have been put in force during this great war. When I say that, I speak advisedly, as I know a lot about it, and what I have to say applies not only to the Canadian Medical Service but also to the British as well. We all know that never in any great War has any Army been as free from disease as our Army of to-day. There is practically no typhus, a disease which decimates armies more than anything else.



Reading from right to left,—Sheriff Skead, the Lord Mayor, and Mr. C. W. Dawkins, Man. European Branch.

Then with regard to the care of the wounded from the trenches until they reach the hospitals in this country, I know it is done in a most admirable way. Now, this work is done for Canada under the Canadian Army Medical Service, of which Surgeon General Jones is the head in this country, and I am sorry that he is not here to-day. He has been away, but hoped to return in time; however, he has not been able to get here. That work is supplemented by the Red Cross, and every effort has been made to make our wounded comfortable and happy. The people of Canada support the Red Cross in every way with money and time, and in this country the Service is under the control of Colonel Hodgetts, who has done it admirably. I am also happy to say that we have in this country the President of the Canadian Red Cross, Colonel Marshall, who has given up all his time to the work since the War began.

Now we need places for our Convalescents. The British soldier comes back after he is wounded; he goes through the hospital (and we send British and Canadians to the same hospitals—they mix together). Our Canadian hospitals take in any wounded soldiers, no matter whether they are Scotch, Irish, Australasian or Belgian, but such is not the case with the Convalescent Homes. When the British soldier is out of the hospital, he can go to his own home, as his friends are probably living within a comparatively short railway journey, but our men coming from Canada need to be looked after in their convalescence. They have

no homes to go to in this country, and it is for that purpose that this splendid institution has been founded by the Massey-Harris Company.

Nothing that they could have given us would be more appreciated or, I take it, more needed. You have seen for yourselves the splendid result in the choice of a building, which is in every way admirably suited for the purpose. They have sufficient and ample grounds for our boys to get the fresh air and sun, which are so necessary to bring them back to health. I speak on behalf of the Canadian Government, and I congratulate all the boys who are going to get the benefit of this institution. I consider it a fine example of patriotism. It is typical of things which are being done to alleviate suffering, which at the present time is so very necessary, and I hope it will inspire others to follow their good example.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honor to be the Chairman of this meeting. As I have said before, it gives me great pleasure, and I appreciate the compliment exceedingly. It is not for me to take up more of your time to-day in speaking. We are proud and happy to have the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Sir Charles Wakefield, here to open this Home, and with him his gracious consort, the Lady Mayoress.

I, therefore, would like to say on your behalf to the Lord Mayor that we appreciate exceedingly his courtesy and kindness in acceding to the request of the Massey-Harris people that he should open this Home, and I will now ask him to do so.

The Lord Mayor spoke as follows:

It has given my wife, Mr. Sheriff and his daughter the greatest possible pleasure to come out here to-day.

I have had, during my mayoralty, to attend many functions in connection with the War, but—I am going to say this without any mental reserve—none which have given me greater pleasure than that of to-day. I congratulate the Massey-Harris Company, their directors, shareholders and staffs on their public spirit, patriotism and munificence, in creating and undertaking to maintain, without outside help, a Convalescent Home of their own for the reception of wounded soldiers of the Dominion of Canada. As far as I know, this will be the only institution of its kind founded by a single establishment and entirely kept up by the regular contributions of its members and workers. If that be so, it is an example which, even at this period, might be taken to heart and followed by other great commercial Companies and Corporations in various parts of the Empire.

Not only do I congratulate the Company on the excellent idea of creating and supporting this Home, but I think they are exceptionally fortunate in having secured, so near the heart of London, such an ideal place in which their

generous intentions can be carried out. They have here a fine old mansion with room for 95 beds. The Estate consists of over 30 acres, with a miniature lake, tennis and croquet lawns and a golf course. I am quite envious of some of you men here when I hear about the golf course. I am supposed to be a golfer, but I have not had much opportunity during my year of office, and if some of you men will invite me some spare afternoon to have a game with you, I shall be here.

You are within half an hour's ride of the offices of the Canadian Government in Victoria Street and hardly more from the offices of the Massey-Harris Company in the City. You have, therefore, all the advantages of a central and easily accessible position, combined with the health-giving air and natural beauties of this delightful suburb of the Metropolis.

It is quite superfluous for me at this juncture of the War to refer to the priceless services of the Canadian Forces. Those services are such that whenever I see a wounded soldier I take off my hat to him, because if it had not been for their magnificent bravery, we should not be here—we should not have the opportunity of opening this Convalescent Home. The War is too far away from us. Some of us have not got sufficient imagination to know what these brave men have done. Those services have been gratefully recognized again and again, and will forever be a theme of pride and admiration, not only in the Mother Country and in their own Dominion, but throughout the whole of the Empire and wherever the English language is spoken. I can almost predict that the German historians of the War will allude, perhaps with grudging praise, to the prowess and fighting capacities of the Canadians, of which they have had such

bitter experience. However that may be, the exploits of our Canadian troops will always fill a warm place in the hearts of every man, woman and child in the Empire, and anything that we can do for them while they are here wounded, before they return home, will be rendered with gratitude and pleasure.

With these words I declare the Home open, and I pray that the blessing of God may be extended to the patients, their doctors, nurses, and all those whose generosity has enabled it to be brought into being.

The Medical Service was represented by Col. MacLaren, A.D.M.S., who spoke as follows:

As General Jones is not here and it does seem a splendid and most appropriate opportunity that words should be spoken on behalf of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, I must confess that while I am not at all keen about making a speech, I feel that this is an occasion when one feels proud of the opportunity of saying a few words.

Now it does not require, I think, a professional man, nor one particularly keen on the details of the construction of a Convalescent Home or Hospital, it does not require one of these, I repeat, to form a correct opinion in reference to the efficiency of the Convalescent Hospital which we have just had an opportunity of inspecting. These advantages were so plain and so outstanding that it does not require argument; it is a case when one does not require to be careful in one's adjectives. One cannot, and is not at all liable to make too exaggerated statements in reference to this Convalescent Home. Now it is very obvious that it has beautiful surroundings, grounds that will enable the men to get about for air and exercise. It is restful and it is beautiful.



I do think that the longer one lives, the greater regard one pays and the more value one attaches to the influences of surroundings. The longer one lives, I believe, the greater regard we have for people's peace of mind and comfort and happiness and these qualities do have an important influence, not only on one's condition of contentment, but they do have a marked influence on the condition of health and the recovery of health, and, therefore, I do ask what more suitable place, what more attractive surroundings and inducement to recovery could there be found than in just such a Home as we have seen to-day?

Further, it is open to all the members of the medical profession to see the favourable surroundings and the encouraging conditions which are afforded here for those convalescing. To those coming back with unnerved minds, who have been under shell fire for a long period, one can readily understand how encouraging it would be under these conditions.

There is just one other matter I would refer to, Sir George has already mentioned it in a brief way, and that is the policy which governs the Canadian Expeditionary Hospitals now in France. As you know, there are a number of Canadian Hospitals, both general and temporary. These Hospitals are conducted in a similar way to the British. Both Canadians and British, Australians and others from different portions of the Empire are admitted, just as they are to the British Hospital, there is no distinction. There are, as I say, Hospitals for the care of the sick and wounded of the British Forces. In the same way the Canadian Hospitals here, that is to say, the Canadian Hospitals which deal with the requirements of the sick and wounded, work on the same principle as the British. As Sir George Perley pointed out to you, our base is a long way off. The base of the British Army is Great Britain. Our base is in Canada; therefore we require special facilities for the prolonged care of our men, as they cannot naturally go home, as they do here in England. We have also Convalescent Hospitals where Canadians are taken in.

Let me say here one word further and that is our great appreciation of the magnificent generosity and practical patriotism of the Massey-Harris Company. Their name, of course, has been very familiar to us, but they have by their action now brought themselves even nearer to us than heretofore. I beg to say that it has been a very great pleasure to have the opportunity of being here to-day on this memorable occasion of the opening of the Home.

Col. Marshall, President of the Canadian Red Cross, then said:

I would say on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross Society that I am delighted as their

representative to be here. The Massey-Harris Company is as well known to Canadians as their parents. We respect them and honour them for the good work they are doing in their own line, and in this line they are evidently going to be equally successful. Whatever the Massey-Harris Company set out to do, one may be sure they will succeed.

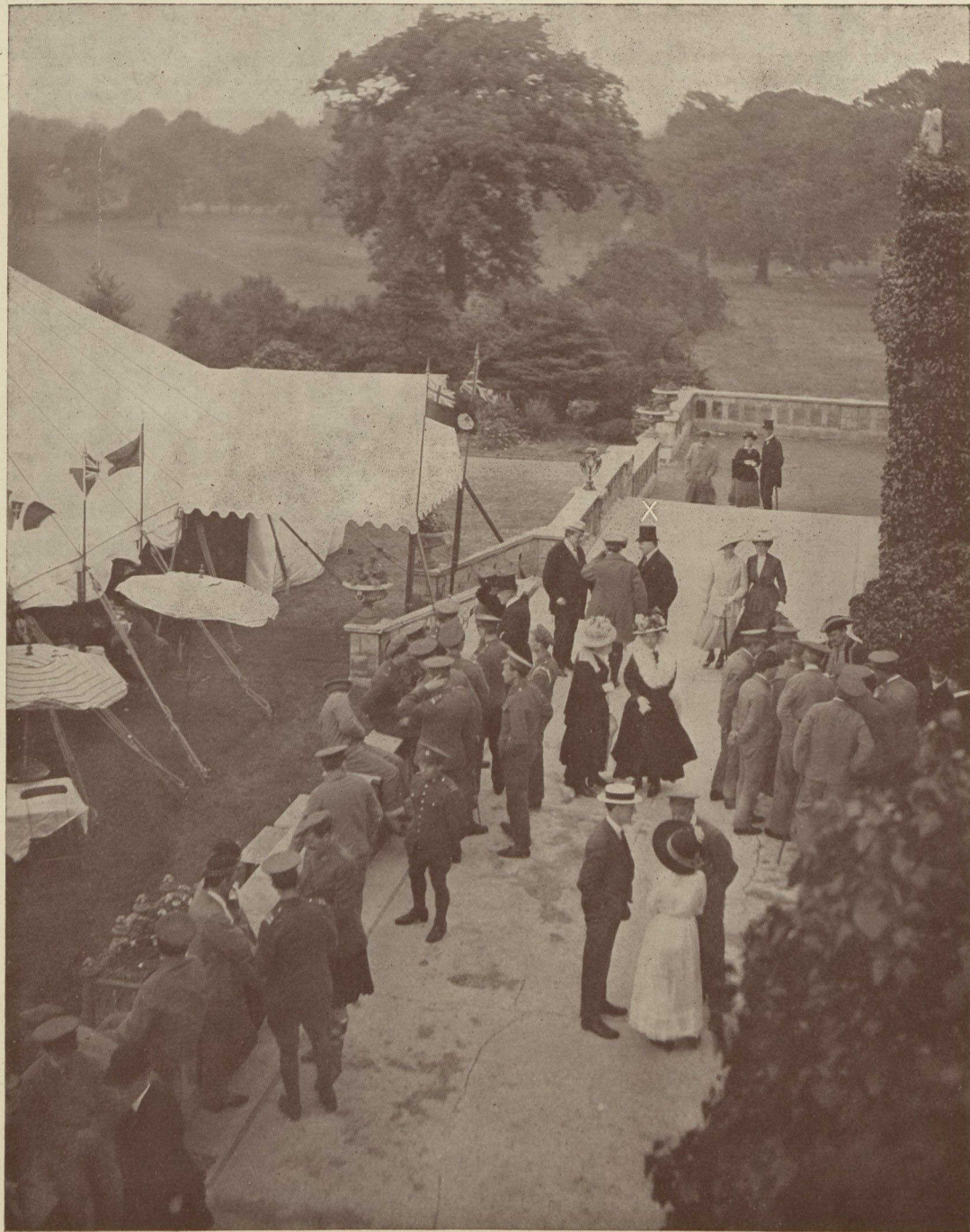
I have been in this country now for some time and for the past ten days have been visiting Hospitals, and if this War has taught us nothing else, it certainly has taught the British people how to conduct a hospital. It has taught them more than that, that the women have something else to do than the occupations and lives they led before. The women of Canada, and I am sometimes sorry I am not one of them, have demonstrated that they can do all that can be expected of them, and our Commissioner is now worried as to how to dispose of the shipments that they are sending over to him, so that they will be wisely given away. We are not only able to take care of our own troops, but those of some of our Allies. It is our pleasure to-day to give 1,000 cases of goods to the Belgians and also some thousands to the Russians. I say with all due modesty we should be glad to receive a repeat order. Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Red Cross Society, I am grateful for the privilege of visiting many Hospitals, and I hope to visit many more before I go to France. I am not here to boast to you or to say what we have done, because we Canadians believe we have only commenced.

Mr. C. W. Dawkins, Manager of European Branch, replied for the Company:

Like Colonel MacLaren, I am not keen to make a speech, but it is very easy to speak when you are full of your subject, and I am heartfelt of the kindness with which we have been received here to-day and the support which we have received from the good friends who have come to this gathering to encourage us, and those who have spoken before me to help us on our way. Very nice things have been said about this Home and the spirit that animates those who are behind the movement, but I think you will all agree that, fine as the Home is, nothing is too good and no effort is too great on behalf of those who have shielded the Empire with their bodies.

The kind words which have been spoken will find a very vast audience, as Sir George has said, because Massey-Harris personnel is to be found in any centre of the world where harvesting machinery can be used.

The inception of this scheme rests with Sir Lyman Melvin-Jones, our President, to whom, more than any other person, the credit is due—if credit is due—for the Home in its present form. He focussed the desires of the staff and



View from the Terrace. X—M. H. B. Robinson, Asst. Man. European Branch.

the shareholders. He set the plans, and we on the spot had no more to do than to carry out to the best of our ability the outline that he had laid before us. This Home is the result, and we flatter ourselves that we have very nearly accomplished all that he set us to do. We have been open really for some two months in a tentative way, but we thought it better to grow into our stride, and only when the Home was at its full capacity to ask His Lordship to start us on our course. We look upon this as a part of Canada's contribution to the Empire's work of alleviation, and, therefore, we thought it most fitting that His Lordship, as the chief custodian of the dignity and interests of this, its chief city, should start us on our career, and that Sir George Perley, Canada's High Commissioner in the heart of the Empire, should preside. To these two gentlemen our thanks are due, and our thanks are warmly given, for their help and encouragement this day, and for the kind words they have spoken. I include, naturally, in this Mr. Sheriff Skead and the Mayor of Camberwell, who are with us, for their sympathetic support.

We have to thank also in a double sense Colonel MacLaren and the Medical Service, not only for speaking to-day, but also for the uniform assistance that we have received from them. We were quite ignorant in the early days of the requirements of such a Home, and but for Colonel MacLaren and his staff and General Jones, we should still be without a practical knowledge of many things that have proved most useful. We owe a great deal to them and cannot extend too warmly our thanks for their help.

Also we have to thank this neighborhood in general. We have been very warmly welcomed here. Our kind friends in the district have made us almost feel that we were a credit to the locality, and they have come forward with entertainments, motor trips, etc., and have been very genial indeed. They have helped the

men all round, and we owe thanks to them, because their sympathy has made things easier for us. And in remembering this I must not forget the patients themselves—I would rather not say patients—our guests. Their co-operation has meant great things to us. These grounds, to example, would not have been presentable had it not been for the Trojan way in which they buckled to and got things in shape. They have made us feel that they take a pride in their temporary home, and that is the spirit we like them to meet us with.

Many of the guests have written words of appreciation of the object of the Home and of the very successful opening, and congratulations are due to Mr. C. W. Dawkins, Mr. H. B. Robinson and Mr. W. B. Jamieson for the perfect arrangements. Mrs. E. V. Raynolds and others were also very helpful.

The catering was most satisfactorily attended to by Selfridges, one of London's most famous specialists in that line.

The guests were admirably served by young lady friends who acted as waitresses. We are indebted to Gen. Steele for the presence of the Military Band during the afternoon.

The next Bulletin, which will be issued in a few days, will contain some cuts illustrating the life at the Home and also some additions and corrections to the "Roll of Honor."

Altogether our way has been made very easy and it will be our fault if the Massey-Harris Home is not made helpful to the Services and a credit to Dulwich, to London, and to Canada.

It had been the hope of our President, Sir Lyman, to be with you to-day, or failing him, one of the Directors, but distance and business pressure have intervened. They are with us in the spirit, however, and I have a cable from them that I should read out to you:

"Please convey to the Lord Mayor and Sir George Perley the thanks of Directors. We greatly appreciate their kindness in opening our Home. We trust the function will be very successful, and especially hope that the Home may attain the ideal we have for it, namely, a place having every requisite for physical comfort and health-building, and at the same time not lacking the real home atmosphere provided by mutual consideration, sympathy and general helpfulness among all members of the family." (Cheers.)

I am sure it would gladden Sir Lyman and the Directors if they could hear your mark of appreciation.

I can only say that on behalf of the members of the Company I thank you all cordially for joining with us, especially those who have spoken so encouragingly, and can confidently add that our utmost will be done that this Home shows in the accomplishment all it shows now in the promise.