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:: Massey-Harris ::  
Convalescent Home  
==== IN ENGLAND ====  
*For Canadian Soldiers*

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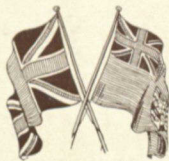
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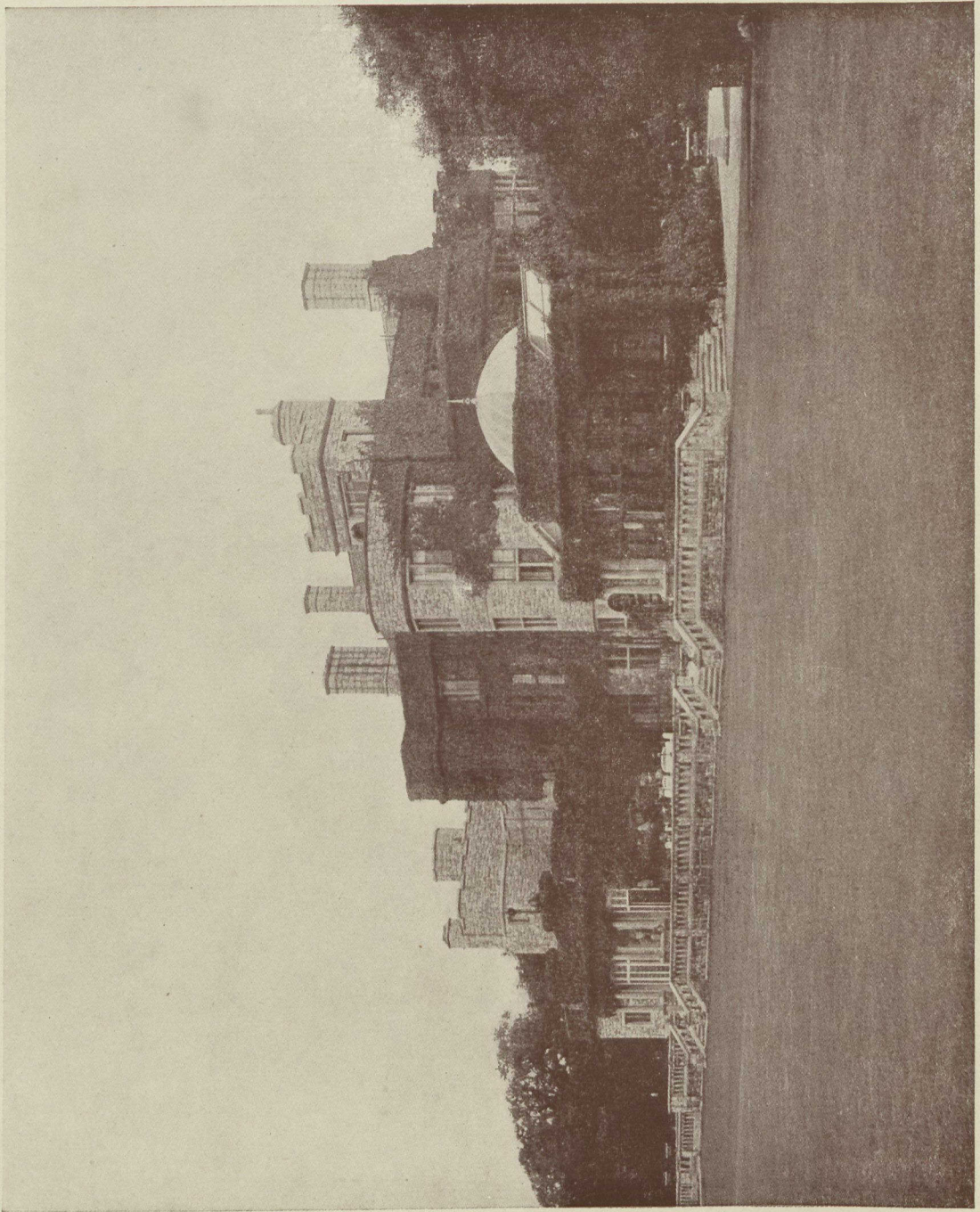
"KINGSWOOD,"

DULWICH,

LONDON, S.E.









# Massey-Harris Convalescent Home



**To the Office, Factory and Sales Staffs of  
Massey-Harris Co., Limited, Verity Plow Co. Limited,  
and Bain Wagon Co., Limited.**



For some months past it has been apparent that there was a considerable and growing sentiment among members of our several Staffs throughout Canada, in favor of the whole organization joining together in the support of some worthy patriotic object. It has been felt that within our own ranks there was a potential factor to be helpful, that should be organized in the interests of the Empire, and also in the interests of the individuals connected with our own and affiliated Companies.

In order that this increasing sentiment might take on practical form, the Directors of the Company have been considering, for some months, the advisability and possibility of establishing and maintaining a Convalescent Home in England, primarily for Canadian Soldiers, the equipment and support of which would be provided to a limited extent by the Company, but chiefly by voluntary contributions from its Directors, Shareholders, and the Office, Factory and Sales Staffs in Canada.



In deciding upon a Convalescent Home, the Directors feel that it is a form of helpfulness that will appeal to all, and could not think of anything that would be more universally approved of than a combined effort to comfort, and, as far as possible, lessen the sufferings of those representing Canada at the Front, who might be wounded or ill.

With this in mind, and before presenting the matter to our Shareholders and Staffs generally, we thought that we ought to look into the situation sufficiently to have something concrete to suggest to them, for their support. The President brought the matter formally to the consideration of the Directors some months ago, and finding them unanimously in favor of the undertaking, wrote to the Prime Minister of Canada, also to the Minister of Militia, enquiring if there was a real need for such help, and they, in turn, took the question up with the Canadian Medical Officers in England, who cordially approved of the plan, stating that there was a very urgent need of just such help.

At the same time we requested our London Management to take the steps necessary to secure a suitable property to carry on such a work. These preliminary enquiries have taken longer than we anticipated, and it is only within the last few days that a satisfactory location with suitable buildings has been found.

In the meantime, the organization of the various participants was proceeded with, and resulted in the formation of a general Committee composed of the Directors, two or three Shareholders (not connected with the management of the business), the Managers and Assistant Managers of all our Canadian Branches, and of our London, England, Branch, the Superintendents of our Factories in Toronto and Brantford, and General Managers of the Verity Plow Company and Bain Wagon Company. Each Branch and Factory and Affiliated Company will have its own Committee for the securing



of the subscriptions, and the collecting and forwarding of the funds, the Branch Manager being Chairman for the Branch, and the Factory Superintendent Chairman of the Factory Committee. Each Committee will thus have representation on the General Committee, through its Chairman.



An organization meeting was held at which the general plan of securing and supporting such a Home was heartily approved of, and tentative plans agreed upon as follows:

(a) That the Company should make a reasonably substantial contribution which, combined with a portion of the contributions from the shareholders, should be sufficient to equip the Home, and possibly, to provide for rent and taxes. This would make sure that the contributions of the several staffs would be used for maintenance.



(b) It was decided to solicit subscriptions payable periodically over two years, providing the war lasts that long, or if it should end sooner, for the duration of the war, and a reasonable time afterwards, to allow for the proper care of convalescents, before being discharged.

(c) That every member of the Office, Sales and Factories Staffs should be given the opportunity of voluntarily subscribing to the Maintenance Fund of the Home, with the hope that every member of our extensive organization within Canada would be willing and able to participate to such an extent as will give them a live interest in the undertaking.

(d) That subscription cards should be prepared (with coupon receipts attached) for signature, showing the amount that the signer is willing to pay into the fund monthly or quarterly. It is understood that the subscription is to be entirely voluntary on the part of each member of the several staffs with the thought and expectation that every one, who possibly could, would "do his bit" and do it willingly and cheerfully.

(e) It was hoped that every one would find it possible to be a participant in this very worthy and patriotic undertaking, and that everyone would have an enthusiastic interest in its great success.

(f) That bulletins of the work should be issued from time to time, so that every subscriber might be kept in touch with the conduct and usefulness of the Home.

### **"KINGSWOOD"**

After much searching, and many disappointments, the Committee are able to announce that they have been able to secure for the Home one of the fine old mansions, of which there are so many in the Mother-Land. Many of these estates, though very beautiful in themselves, are totally unfitted for such an undertaking as we have in view. We, therefore, consider ourselves very fortunate in



finding a modern-built mansion, with room for 95 beds, and all the accompanying kitchen, dining-room and lavatory space necessary for that number of inmates, in addition to the staff that will be required to give them the needed care and attention.

"Kingswood," as this place is called, is situated in Dulwich, one of the suburbs of London, or rather one of the many places that, combined, make up London. The estate consists of over 30 acres, is within thirty minutes ride from the Houses of Parliament, and less than an hour from our European Headquarters at 53-55 Bunhill Row. The house itself is spacious, well arranged, and can be readily adapted for the purposes for which we want it. There are large rooms down stairs, some of which might be converted into wards. Some of the 37 bedrooms will hold but one patient, some but two; there are four that will readily accommodate up to fifteen. Bathroom and latrine accommodation is fairly ample, but some shower baths may have to be installed. The drainage is unquestionably good. The heating is admirable. The kitchens and laundries are large and up-to-date. In addition there is ample space for recreation, reading and smoking rooms.

The location is within 500 yards of the Crystal Palace, and there are in the neighborhood many of the amusement distractions which medical men say are necessary for the rapid and complete recuperation of men who have been laid aside by wounds and sickness.

The grounds are beautifully laid out with trees, flower beds, shady walks, artificial lake, tennis and croquet grounds, and a golf course. There are also good outhouses, stable, garage, etc., and about 3 acres are laid out for a market garden, and in excellent shape.

Our hope and intention is that this ideal place will become a real home to many a scarred and temporarily unnerved Canadian Soldier. As far as practicable the medical service, nurses, and other attendants, will all be Canadian, so that any of our soldiers who may partake of the hospitality of the Home will get, from association



with sympathetic and helpful Canadians, the courage and the helpfulness, that are so necessary to rapid recovery.

Major McCoombe, of the Canadian Medical Staff, has made a careful examination of "Kingswood," and pronounced it eminently adapted for a convalescent Home, and expressed the opinion that the premises could be more quickly brought into service than any other place he had seen.

In this little circular we give you a view of the house itself, and one of the views of the grounds. From time to time we will give further illustrations and descriptions, so that every one of our staffs will have an intelligent, and we hope, an appreciative knowledge of the Massey-Harris Home in England, for Canadian Soldiers.

### **CHATHAM HOUSE, RAMSGATE**

Previous to securing "Kingswood," for some weeks the Directors were negotiating through the London office with the owners of "Chatham House," Ramsgate, a Boys' School at present unoccupied on account of war conditions. This is a very desirable property, well suited for a Home, with ample accommodation for over 300 beds. In addition to some very onerous conditions insisted upon by the proprietor, it was felt that to run it to its full capacity would be too large an undertaking for us, and the premises were turned over to the British War Office to be used for the same purpose and to the largest extent possible. In order to facilitate the prompt launching of the project by the Imperial authorities, the Directors agreed that our Company would itself pay the rent for two years, a proposal which was very gladly accepted.