

Children Invest Over \$200,000 In War Savings Stamps and Aid In Extensive Salvage Campaign

*Patriotic Funds Receive More Than \$10,000
in Donations—Varied Work Stirs Whole-
Hearted Enthusiasm of Pupils and Parents*

(By Inspector J. W. VanLoon)

Hamilton school children are more war conscious than ever before!

As Canada is now in the fifth year of war, more than half of the pupils in the elementary schools have never attended school in time of peace. Added to the ever-present radio, press, billboard and conversational reminders of war out of school, are regular and constant reminders within the schools.

The school, like the Government, the factory and the home, is geared to play its part in the successful prosecution of the war. Within its doors, displayed on classroom, hall and auditorium walls, are a variety of poster materials urging and encouraging pupils to assist the war effort in different ways—"Help Stamp Out the Enemies of Freedom," "One Down and Two to Go," "Save Scrap Metal," "Waste Paper Must Go to War," "Skating Party To-night, Support Your War Effort." Many of these posters have been procured from the National Salvage Committee, but many others are made by the students themselves.

Frequent Reminders

Competition within the school, class against class, the school against its past record and the school against an adopted quota is evidenced in all schools by prominently displayed graphs or animated thermometers. In addition to these ever-present visual reminders of a job to be done, are the frequent and daily oral reminders of principals, teachers, class prefects or team captains.

Realizing the urgent need for money to carry on the war, and heeding the Government's request for all citizens to save and to lend for victory, the pupils in Hamilton schools have invested upwards of \$200,000 in War Savings Stamps. The sale at present is on the up-grade.

In the case of the younger pupils, it is known that much of this money comes from the homes, but with respect to older pupils, a great deal of it represents weekly savings. In order to handle this large volume of small sales, an

organization has been set up in each school through which weekly purchases may be made.

Great Salvage Work

Perhaps the greatest single activity—that requiring the greatest effort on the part of the pupils—is collecting salvage materials. There is no age limit in this patriotic effort. Through these collections children realize they are sharing in a great cause, that they are providing material necessary to carry on the active war and, as well, they are being taught valuable lessons in thrift.

Paper easily leads in salvageable materials collected. More than 2,000 tons have been reclaimed for war work by Hamilton school children. The collection of paper is not an easy task. Every Hamilton citizen must, at one time or another, have watched children wrestling with a slithering pile of paper, in his arms, or down on the ground, as he made his way against wind and rain to the class-room. Paper collections, although con-



J. W. VAN LOON

sistently made, from the beginning, have had their ups and downs. In order to retain interest new and varied competitions must constantly be employed. Schools are continually trying new incentives, encouragements and rewards, in order to maintain maximum effort. Motion pictures and class concerts are sometimes held after school hours to which admission is a stated contribution to the salvage collection. In some schools a salvage membership has been evolved for those wishing to join one or more of the school clubs. The fee means bringing sufficient quantities of either baskets, waste paper or wire coat-hangers to the estimated salvage value of 25 cents. As many are anxious to participate in the activities the response results in a good quantity of salvage being collected.

To Patriotic Causes

Other materials collected, but in diminishing quantity, are baskets, metal hangers, metal, rags, records and rubber. The receipts for last year's salvage totalled \$7,718.78. Before the war much of the proceeds from this source was

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA

2

used for the purchase of books, pictures, lanterns and other school equipment. Knowing the greater needs of others during these times, over 80 per cent. of last year's proceeds have been turned over to one or other of the patriotic causes.

The Hamilton Citizens' Committee for War Services received a large portion of last year's funds. This money was used in equipping the women's canteen, in buying certain additional equipment for H.M.C.S. Star, and in carrying on activities such as assisting in concert parties for men in camps in this vicinity, and in providing Christmas parties for wives and children of men serving overseas.

Through the co-operation of this committee, delegations or classes of boys and girls from many schools have visited the women's canteen and the new quarters of H.M.C.S. Star to see how the money donated from their salvage efforts has been spent in providing needed equipment. Many home and school sewing clubs received money from the salvage funds of the public schools with which to buy materials used in their splendid work.

Since the outbreak of war, Junior Red Cross groups in the schools have taken on additional responsibilities. General health and nutritional programs now receive greater stress than ever. Special classes for teaching home nursing, first aid and war emergency have been organized. The contributions made to the Red Cross and the Junior Red Cross during the last school year amounted to \$8,207, and, in addition to this, 12,000 articles have been made by members of these groups and donated to the Red Cross, the I.O.D.E. and other organizations. In each Junior Red Cross class voluntary cash collections are made during

the week. These collections are often augmented by special effort in the way of programs, hot dog sales and hobby fairs. The money raised is used either in providing wool for the group or is sent direct to headquarters.

Cash Contributions

Cash contributions to various patriotic funds for the school year ending in June, 1943, amounted to \$10,375.83. Most of this money was raised through collections, school concerts, motion pictures, skating parties, etc.

The schools have continued to co-operate with the Hamilton Services Magazine Collection committee by sorting out all recent magazines from the collections of waste paper and making these available to the committee. The figure for 1943 is not yet available, but in 1942 a total of 266,762 sorted publications went to the committee and to the navy and merchant marine.

Many Sunday school and senior public school boys and girls, together with many teachers in both public and secondary schools, under the sponsorship of the Hamilton Teachers' Council, have assisted in the annual Navy League and Red Cross tag days. Every Christmas large numbers of boxes

have been packed and sent to an ever-increasing number of ex-students in the armed forces, by several schools. Much credit is due to a large number of parents who, through the Home and School Associations and sewing clubs, have spent many hours in sewing, knitting and repairing clothing. By making up clothes from goods donated they are, in many cases, trebling the value of the original donations used in the purchase of raw materials.

Steady Encouragement

The war effort in the schools has been constantly encouraged and guided by a special committee of the Board of Education known as the war effort committee. This group gives leadership, guidance and co-ordination to all efforts of both children and parents. It has also been active in planning, organization, purchasing raw materials in quantity, providing accommodation and giving encouragement and leadership at all times.

The war effort, of which the Hamilton schools are justly proud, has been made possible only through the whole-hearted co-operation of pupils and parents, the Board of Education members, teachers and principals alike.

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA