

# Home, Business Women, And Nurses Volunteer

This is the last in a series on Women's War Work.

By MARY E. JAMES

The Women's Voluntary Services, Toronto centre, one of 22 in Canada, has done an outstanding piece of warwork in co-ordinating women's services and securing helpers for all sorts of patriotic work.

One of its biggest efforts last year was the enrolling and training of volunteers for the Government-sponsored Wartime Day Nurseries. It also organized a home patrol or "woman-a-block" for emergency help and information on salvage, collections, rationing, nutrition campaigns, etc. The "Miss Canada" stamp project, through which the services of hundreds of business girls were enlisted, the "warsages" sale and other projects.

## Canadian Club.

Maintaining a tradition of war work from the first Great War, the Women's Canadian Club, with a membership of over 2,000, makes its main contribution by dissemination of knowledge on the Allied war effort. It brings to its platform experts on facts, figures and authentic information. Monetary contributions are on a per capita basis, a portion of the fees is sent to headquarters in Ottawa to help provide speakers for clubs finan-

cially unable to engage qualified speakers. Book and salvage collections, etc., were held at several of its 14 public meetings. At one \$400 was collected to provide comforts for the sick bay of the Allied Merchant Seamen's Club at an eastern port.

## Home and School.

Most of the 58 associations of the Toronto Home and School Council undertook a war project of its own last year, instead of concentrating on a unified program as previously when the Council made units of clothing for children of Britain. Typical of the individual projects were the "shelter shawls" made for Britain by the music committee, members of which crocheted squares at home which were fastened together at meetings.

## Part-Time Helpers.

Endeavoring to eke out the help shortage in hospitals, by voluntary part-time work on a paid basis is the special wartime project of the Toronto Women's Liberal Association. Members are registered with the association and "on call" to assist with hospital chores. Idea of accepting pay at regular rates is to maintain hospital standards, also not to interfere with labor. A large quantity of sewing and knitting was also done by members.

Paramount since the beginning of the war has been the effort of the Women's Progressive Conservative Association to raise funds for war work. Among its many activities is the fund to help the 2,000,000 British women volunteers, whose work is arduous and dangerous. Last year 13,811 sewn and knitted articles were turned in by riding Red Cross groups. The sum of \$1,110 was raised by social events to swell the fund.

## Community Project.

Rosedale War centre, formed the first year of the war, is comprised of members of Rosedale Community Club, Rosedale United Church W.A. and W.M.S. They saw Tuesdays in Rosedale Church, and have two members who are refugees from war-torn Europe. In three years they have made more than 8,000 garments. And since February, when the surgical supply group was organized, have completed one unit of more than 1,600 pieces per week.

## Nurses Contribute.

The Victorian Order of Nurses makes its contribution chiefly by caring for families of men in the services, and in meeting the industrial nurse requirements, in addi-

tion to the Red Cross and other work of groups and individuals. Sixty-six industries—the majority doing war work—were visited and interviews given by the doctor, nurse or personnel manager in an effort to decrease absenteeism through illness. There were 11,764 visits made to families of men in the armed forces.

In preparation for the possibility of epidemic or other emergency, St. Elizabeth Nurses have aided the Red Cross in teaching home nursing classes and interesting key women in imparting instruction to foreign groups. Among those taking instruction was a group of Carmelite nuns whose community promised the Red Cross that in the event of an epidemic or disaster that it will release two Sisters to work full time in the community, the offer being readily accepted.

Others taking the course were a Felician sister working among Polish people who, in turn, instructed the rest of the community; and a Hungarian sister, who volunteered to teach a group of Hungarian women emergency nursing. The St. Elizabeth sisters organized household patients into knitting groups. One old Scottish woman considers the knitting war work a blessing in disguise because it keeps her

from "aweyaring for Donald," her deceased husband.

## Advertising Women Help.

Chief activities of the Women's Advertising Club were work for the Navy League, the R.C.N.V.R. and Bombed Victims of Britain. A total of 1,612 garments were made; \$500 worth of merchandise was packed into ditty bags for the Merchant Navy, and comforts sent to the Women's Auxiliary Air Force of Britain.

About 300 articles for the Women's Voluntary Services of Britain were made by members of the Second Mile Club of men and women no longer in their youth, with time on their hands.

149  
WAR  
EUROPEAN  
1939  
CANADA  
WOMEN

116-901-009