

THE ONTARIO MILITARY HOSPITAL, ORPINGTON.

HOW CANADA CARES FOR THE WOUNDED.

A large number of friends accepted the invitation of Lt.-Col. Richard Reid, Agent-General for Ontario, to attend the opening of the extension of the Ontario Military Hospital, Orpington, Kent, by the Right Hon. Walter H. Long, P.C., M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, on Thursday, July 5th.

The guests were met at the station by motors from the hospital, and received by the Matron, Miss Margaret Smith, R.R.C., and the Commanding Officer, Colonel Macpherson. Miss Smith has had considerable experience of military nursing, having served in the South African war. Afterwards she had an interesting experience of nursing on an Indian Reserve.

The opening ceremony took place in a large hut, and while the guests were assembling a military band played patriotic airs, including "The Maple Leaf" and "O Canada." Amongst those present on the platform supporting Colonel Reid, with Mr. Walter Long on his right and Sir George Perley on his left, were Major-General Turner, commanding the Canadian Forces in England, Colonel Simpson, A.D.M.S. of the District; Colonel Macpherson, Officer Commanding, Matron Boulter, R.R.C., representing the Matron-in-Chief, and others.

Colonel Reid, on behalf of the Government of Ontario, extended a hearty welcome to those present, and explained that shortly after the outbreak of war the Government of Ontario set apart a large sum of money as a War Relief Fund, for the purpose of sending comforts to Canadians in camps in England or actively engaged in France. As there was money to spare he was asked to look into the matter. He visited France, and, as a result, recommended that a military hospital should be established somewhere between London and the south coast, and eventually it was decided to secure the present site and establish a military Unit of 1,040 beds. This was ready in February, 1916, and admitted patients at the end of April. It was not intended specially for Canadians, but received men from all the different branches of the Empire and from the Allied countries.

At the end of 1916, it was found that there was not sufficient hospital accommodation for the Canadian Forces in the British Isles, and the Director of Medical Services asked the Canadian Government whether it would be possible to double the accommodation at Orpington. This the Government decided to do, and the 1,040 beds of the new Unit were now ready for occupation.

The Right Hon. Walter Long said that he was very glad to respond to Colonel Reid's invitation, in his capacity of Secretary of State for the Colonies. He was charged with the proud and pleasant task of declaring the hospital open. Their Chairman had told in simple language a wonderful tale of what was really an immense

work. This splendid gift, the combined offering of the Province of Ontario and the Dominion Government, was a proof of what was going on in the war. The Empire had found itself. War was horrible and involved enormous sacrifices and unlimited suffering, but, though it scored and seared our hearts with signs of suffering, it afforded splendid evidence of the Empire's unity. There were those who had thought that the curious, loosely connected links would not bear any great strain, but the war had given the answer, and in helping each other we were really helping ourselves. Mr. Long spoke of the work of the doctors, sisters, nurses, and attendants. Why was it, he asked, that when we went into a hospital we went into a different atmosphere, in which were combined the calm and quiet of a cathedral, with the joy of a public entertainment? It was the presence of good and cheery women, and skilled men, which made a visit to a hospital an education, and more stimulating and helpful than any other visit in the world.

He expressed the hope that as long as the war lasted, the hospital would continue to be a home of rest and recovery for those who had risked their lives for the Empire.

Sir George Perley accepted the hospital, fully equipped, on behalf of the Dominion Government. He spoke of the work of the medical profession, and of the devoted work of the nurses and other ladies. To them, as well as to the surgeons, the happy results were due. The best place, he said, to get back your cheerfulness if you could not go to the front, was to go into a hospital.

Colonel Macpherson expressed his pleasure at welcoming the guests to the hospital, and Surgeon-General Foster, Head of the Medical Department of the Canadian Forces, and Colonel Simpson, also spoke.

The guests then dispersed to visit the hospital, which consists of huts, and is built on sloping ground. The various departments are connected with corridors open at the sides. The wards, long and cheerful with walls green in tone, contain 46 beds, each covered with a spotless white counterpane and provided with two comfortable pillows. The diet board hangs at the foot. A single ward is annexed, and a Sister's Room with large window through which the whole general ward can be kept under observation. A bathroom, a kitchen, a linen cupboard, and a utility room are also attached to each ward. There are two serveries attached to each hospital, from which the meals are dispensed to the wards.

All patients are admitted through the Out-patient department, where those who are able have baths and leave their clothes, while the stretcher cases are passed through.

The operating theatre is very complete, and is provided with four operating tables. There are dental, throat, nose and ear, and eye departments, and even a newspaper stand, a barber's shop, and a post office. Then there are pack stores, milk stores, and meat stores, and a small mortuary chapel reverently arranged.

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