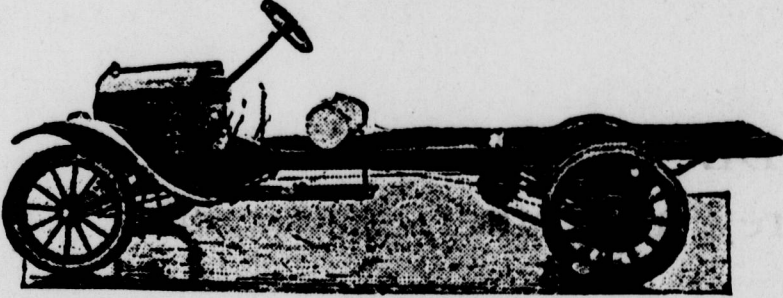


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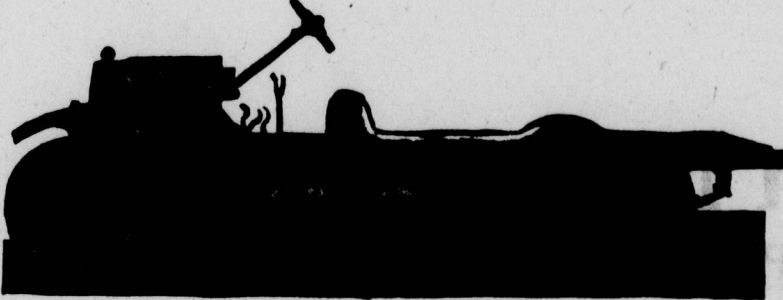


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## RED CROSS ACTIVITIES

Contributed by  
**MISS LOUISE AYER,**  
Secretary Olympia Chapter.

The question is frequently asked, and with much show of reason, why the work of relief performed by the Red Cross is not done by the government. Mr. Davison recently explained very fully why it is not.

In the first place, he says, it was tried and found not to be practicable. The work of the Red Cross is largely emergency work and the machinery of the government does not move swiftly enough to perform it. The Red Cross cuts red tape mercilessly and gets the thing done. The very fact that it is a voluntary association and that its members are not working for profit gives the people confidence in it so that it can proceed without the cumbersome system required of government action.

And then there is the expense. Think what it costs to collect taxes and compare that with the Red Cross war drive, where every dollar collected went to relieve suffering. There are expenses attached to such a drive, of course, but they are paid by those who are able to do so, and not out of your subscriptions; and the requirements are infinitesimal compared with the government's ponderous machinery.

But most important of all is the spirit aroused and nourished by the opportunity to give without compulsion. Humanity naturally wishes to be fair and generous, but it just as naturally doesn't want to be bilked. The war has aroused all the latent generosity in our souls and the Red Cross gives it a chance to act.

And last but not least, consider what our government has on its hands to do just now, and be thankful that this huge burden of relief work is not added thereto. This splendid Red Cross, with its able, disinterested heads and its millions of eager assistants, is not a burden, but an opportunity, not only does it relieve suffering but it gives a safe and useful outlet to the emotions.

### Letters From "Over There."

The letters of our boys in France are full of interest notwithstanding the censor. One speaks of being in London and on a dark, unlighted evening standing at a railway station to see the wounded come in from the battlefields. Some on crutches, some blind, many so wrapped in bandages as to be almost invisible, but every one of them smiling!

Another, whose service requires him to travel extensively about the country, sends a word of cheer. He says things look better over there than we think at home; that we would be amazed at the tremendous preparations our government has made. Many praise the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. The latter association certainly runs us a close second. While not so broad in its purposes, within its lines of service it is incomparable.

When the Red Cross finds another society at work in the devastated regions of France, it promptly cooperates with it. For instance it found the Society of English and American Friends (Quakers) putting up little cottages, sending in farm machinery, providing chickens and rabbits, to give the poor penniless people a chance. The Red Cross immediately offered its help and now the two groups of workers are acting together to restore these villages.

The French people think us very practical because, as soon as possible, we try to make the despoiled people self-supporting. With a roof over their heads, a few household utensils, some chickens and other stock, these thrifty French families quickly recover their hold on life.

### Pleasant Glade Makes Record.

One of our newest auxiliaries, Pleasant Glade, organized a month ago with 14 members, deserves special mention for the astonishing amount of work it is turning out. They discovered sphagnum moss in their vicinity; the men gathered it, the women picked it over and sewed it into surgical pads, and 250 of these have been completed. Besides it has made 70 hospital garments and 8 refugee garments. It is planning to send birthday gifts to each of its 12 soldier boys. Isn't that "going some?"

### Speed Up Dressings!

Surgical dressings! That is where Thurston County Chapter must speed up. Your secretary recently visited a small chapter east of the mountains and found them far outstripping us in this branch. Many of the women there pledge themselves to cut a bolt of gauze a week. The rooms are kept open every day. Excuses for non-attendance meet with high disfavor.

The following verse was published

### In the Southern Woman's Magazine: SURGICAL DRESSINGS.

Interminable folds of gauze. For those whom we shall never see. Remember, when your fingers pause, That every drop of blood to stain This whiteness falls for you and me. Part of the price that keeps us free To serve our own, that keeps us clean From shame that other women know. Oh saviors we have never seen, Forgive us that we are so slow! God—if that blood should cry in vain And we have let our moment go!

### Articles Not Needed.

Notice: We are requested by national headquarters to make no more of the following articles: Hot water bottle covers. Handkerchiefs. Comfort pillows. Operating stockings. Table napkins. Ice bag covers. Heel rings. Knitted wash cloths.

### Watch Out for Insurance.

Do you know of any boy in the army or navy who has not taken out insurance? If so, either attend to it yourself or notify the Red Cross.

The time for securing such insurance has been extended to April 12. This insurance means everything to the soldier, for there is to be no pension system such as attached to previous wars. Now a soldier can take out a policy for \$10,000. His premiums will be deducted from his pay. If he is permanently injured he will receive a stated sum every month so long as he lives. If he survives without disability, he can continue the policy to his own advantage. If he loses his life the insurance is paid to his beneficiary—parent, wife, or child, whose welfare is of more consequence to him than anything else.

### What the Boys Think.

A soldier writes from France: "I've sure got to hand it to those men with the Red Cross on their arms. They all worked like dogs in that hell out there. They seemed to have but one idea—to do their duty—and apparently cared nothing for their own lives while doing it."

That this is true is proved by the fact that the names of a certain number of men who wear the Red Cross appear on the casualty lists.

Our boys may and do love the French, but they don't love their tobacco. One writes: "Their tobacco is all right till you smoke it, and then there's a case for the Red Cross!"

### Soldiers and the Red Cross.

Private Peat in the March Red Cross Magazine says:

"To us, the soldiers who have been 'there,' to those of us who have suffered and who know, one of the basest calumnies which the German propagandist scatters abroad is the slur against the Red Cross."

"On the battlefield we do not actively think of the organization as the Red Cross. To us it is but a branch of the army—the Army Medical Corps, the R. A. M. C. But we know full well that the Red Cross is working through them, that the one insignia is the honor bar of all."

He was wounded and saved his life by using the emergency dressing which is placed in every soldier's kit. He says: "What if the supply of emergency dressings had given out before reaching me? If all the Red Cross workers who handle surgical dressings could realize even to half the extent, the importance, the vital importance of their work, there would be three women to each job where there is only one now. You may save the life of your own son, husband, brother, or sweetheart, by commencing to work for the Red Cross within the next hour."

With such facts before us it is a great comfort to know that the Thurston county chapter is making rapid strides in surgical dressings. Last Thursday evening, the first of the business women's nights, 28 women were working. Three thousand dressings were made last week.

The Tacoma chapter has a unique little scheme of helpfulness all its own. A number of women go down to the hostess house in the afternoon at their own expense and darn socks for the soldiers. Their only stipulation is that the socks shall be clean—they do the rest.

It is announced that a Red Cross house soon will be constructed in each of the army and navy training camps. It is intended primarily to be a lounge and rest haven for convalescent soldiers. It will also be an administration center for the field director of the Red Cross, an emergency lodging for summoned relatives of those soldiers who are dangerously ill, and for Red Cross nurses and staffs.

The American Red Cross now has 22,000,000 members, 800,000 of

whom are in the Northwestern division. Isn't that a powerful army?

It is not unfitting that Thurston county chapter should express sorrow for the death of Judge George E. Morris of the supreme court.

From the beginning of the great catastrophe, Judge Morris' interest in our war work was intense and practical. Until the last few days of his illness, on every week-end and holiday he and Mrs. Morris entertained from two to six soldiers from Camp Lewis. He said:

"I don't want officers and 'attractive' men. I want just plain ordinary boys who need some home life."

His admiration of the cleverness with which Mrs. Morris performed her many Red Cross duties was a pleasant thing to see. And up to within a fortnight of his death, when in constant pain, he bravely refused to permit her to entirely abandon her work for suffering humanity across the seas. A good man, a just judge, a patriotic citizen!

If you had happened into headquarters one day recently you might have seen a homely yet beautiful sight—10 bath robes for invalid soldiers, perfectly made by Miss Josephine Smith and Mrs. R. E. Braun. Three of them were made by Miss Smith in 10 hours. No mere man can appreciate that feat, but you women can, especially those who are doing Red Cross sewing and know the nicety required. These two patriotic ladies make three-fourths of all the bath robes manufactured by the chapter.

The Junior Red Cross is at last well under way. Prof. C. E. Beach is chairman, with supreme control. He has appointed Mrs. Ada J. Lewis director of work and Mr. S. E. Mowell treasurer. Miss Lillian Grube will have special charge of the high school sewing. With this admirable organization the Junior Red Cross will become what it should be—the foundation for every species of humanitarian work in Thurston county.

### All Yanks in Trenches Carry Red Cross Comfort Kit.

Every American woman who has helped to pack a Red Cross comfort kit for our boys "over there" will be interested in a cablegram received at the national headquarters of the American Red Cross from Major James H. Perkins, American Red Cross commissioner to Europe.

It is as follows:

"Every American soldier now entering the trenches carries an American Red Cross comfort kit containing towel, shirt, writing paper, pencil, soap, handkerchief, socks, mirror and tobacco. The number of kits cannot be stated, but the fact that every soldier has one means that the work done by American women is a big comfort to the soldiers now on the firing line. This fact should be a solace to the American women who have made them as well as to the soldiers. More kits wanted with socks and tobacco."

The campaign to raise a second \$100,000,000 has been announced by the American Red Cross for the week beginning May 20. To date nearly \$90,000,000 has been appropriated for war relief work.

### NAMES "WAR SAVINGS DAY."

Governor Sets Aside Next Wednesday for Special Observance.

Next Wednesday, March 20, has been designated by Governor Lister as "War Savings Day," and he urges that "all of our people purchase at least one war savings stamp on that day."

The proclamation sets forth that this is one way in which all of the people can help the government in a substantial manner, and that all should invest to the full degree of their ability.

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\$5.00 worth for \$3.50  
SMALL FRUIT AND ROSE BUSHES  
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He has to his credit many wonderful results in diseases of the stomach, liver, bowels, blood, skin, nerves, heart, kidneys, bladder, bedwetting, catarrh, weak lungs, rheumatism, sciatica, leg ulcers, and rectal ailments.

If you have been ailing for any length of time and do not get any better, do not fail to call, as improper measures rather than disease are often the cause of your long standing trouble.

Remember above date, that examination on this trip will be free and that his treatment is different.

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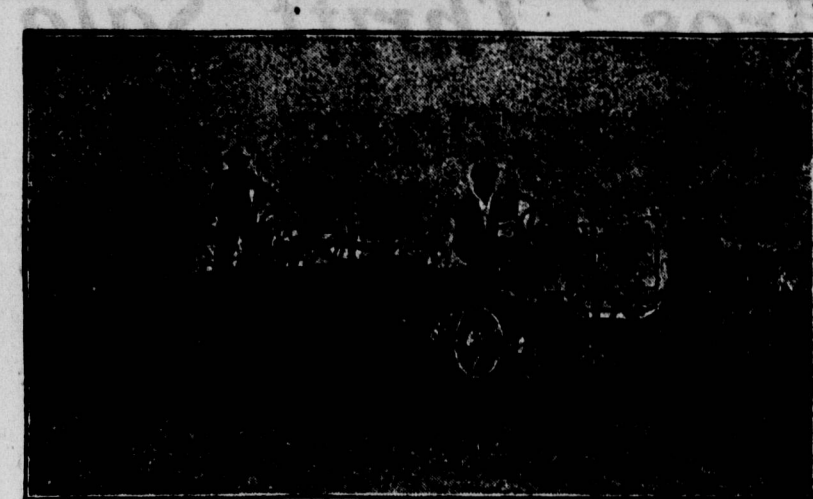
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