

SUTHERLAND BRANCH OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

A meeting of the County Committee was held in the West End Hall, Golspie, yesterday. Mrs Bremner was moved to the chair. Dr MacLachlan, honorary secretary read letters from Mrs Campbell Dornoch; Mrs Kerr, Lochinver; Mr Hardie, Clashmore; and Mr Munro Altass, Invershin, agreeing to accept membership on the county committee.

The Honorary Secretary intimated that a memorandum had been sent to work parties on the east coast of the county asking for their assistance for comforts for sick and wounded soldiers. He also announced the results of "Our Flag Day" held on 2nd December last and subsequent days. The amount collected was £242 8 5d, which was a very creditable sum and reflected great credit on the headmaster and headmistresses of the schools throughout the county who had organised the collections. The pupils and friends also deserved praise for their invaluable service in collecting and the people for giving to this benevolent object.

The Honorary Secretary read the annual report for year ending March, 1917, which showed that since registration in the latter end of 1916 the Branch had been put on a much sounder basis, that overlapping was now practically done away with and from all Red Cross Work Parties goods were sent to their Headquarters at Aberdeen for allocation by the Commissioner who distributed them for the clamant needs of the sick and wounded soldiers.

The financial statement showed a balance of £1 15s 11d, there being practically no expenses, all labour being voluntary. A sum of £77 19s 10d was received from Mr James F. Hardie, factor for Skibo, being the amount voted by the children on Skibo Estate towards Red Cross purposes and representing the balances available of the amount annually spent by Mr and Mrs Carnegie on the fete for the children of Skibo Estate.

The Honorary Secretary stated it gave him great pleasure at last meeting in announcing that Mrs Carnegie had sent £100 to Mr Hardie for the purchase of a motor car for Red Cross work. In looking over his correspondence regarding Red Cross affairs he came across a letter from Mr George Lauder, then at Ospisdale, dated August 17, 1914, to him intimating his desire to present a motor car which had only been a short time in use to the Red Cross. The car was in Edinburgh and Mr MacLachlan suggested it should be handed over for Red Cross purposes there. This was the second car the Branch could claim as having obtained for Red Cross purposes.

A letter was read from Mr Charles Mundell, Dalchork, enclosing a cheque for £216s, being proceeds of a concert for Red Cross purposes held in Lairg on 2nd February. They as a Branch were deeply indebted to Mr Mundell and his friends in Lairg for their handsome contribution to their funds.

The Secretary intimated a subscription of £1 from Mrs Cameron, Kirkton, for Red Cross purposes.

Mrs Hunter, Aldersyde, Brora, also brought a large parcel of comforts from the ladies of Brora for the sick and wounded which will be much appreciated.

The Honorary Secretary also intimated the following gifts:—

The Skibo-Clashmore Work Party have sent last week to the Commissioner Headquarters, Aberdeen, for allocation for the sick and wounded soldiers the following articles:—12 shirts, 12 bed jackets, 2 pillow cases, 13 pairs bed socks, 1 sheet, covers, 62 pairs socks, 24 towels.

The Dornoch Ladies' Red Cross Work Party sent, per Mrs Campbell, St Gilbert's to headquarters Aberdeen, for No. 9 Red Cross Hospital—Millicent Sutherland Ambulance, B.E.F.:—3 pyjama suits, 17 bed jackets, 4 serge wraps, 48 pairs socks. For allocation by the Commissioner:—day shirts, 1 hospital shirt, 2 scarves, helmets, 2 wool caps, 36 pairs day socks.