

17th Oct: 1917. THE N

BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY (SCOTTISH BRANCH).

BRANCH FOR THE COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND.

WITH the Duchess of Sutherland as the original mover and propelling force for the inaugurating of a branch of the British Red Cross Society (Scottish Branch) for the county of Sutherland, a meeting for that purpose was held in the West End Hall, Golspie, on Thursday afternoon, which was attended by a good number of both ladies and gentlemen. In the absence of the Duchess of Sutherland, the Marchioness of Stafford presided.

The Marchioness, after expressing the pleasure it gave her to preside over a meeting which had been called for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a branch of the British Red Cross Society for the county of Sutherland, stated that the Duchess of Sutherland was most anxious that a branch should be formed. The Duchess had asked her (the Marchioness) to do all she could while in the north for the movement. Now that they were met that day she most fervently hoped that the inauguration of a branch would be the result. The Society and its principles were worthy of every support, and once the real object of the Society was known in the County she was sure the response would be enthusiastic, as it had always been in any deserving object that had been brought under the notice of the people of Sutherland. They had expected that Major Fleming Glasgow, secretary of the Scottish Branch, who is an expert authority in the work, would have been present to give them a lucid sketch of the work done by the Society, but unfortunately he could not come north on the date of their meeting. However, he intimated that he would be most willing to come on a future date and do all in his power to assist on the movement. Provost MacLachlan, who was present, and who had kindly acted as hon. secretary in the movement, would be able to give those present an idea of the objects of the Society. On his she had much pleasure in calling. (Applause.)

Provost MacLachlan, after thanking the Marchioness for conferring the high honour upon him of requesting him to give a sketch of the work of the Society, said it had been a real pleasure for him to act as hon. secretary in such a worthy movement. (Applause.) He would have called the meeting sooner in the season, but as they all knew, the visiting season in Dornoch was just finished, and during that period he had had more than enough to do. That was his sole reason for not calling it sooner. The Duchess of Sutherland was keen on a branch being formed, and he assured those present that he, along with his professional brethren, would do all they could to further the idea and convert it into real fact. (Applause.) Provost MacLachlan then gave a lucid and instructive insight into the working of the Society. The movement, he stated, was a voluntary one, and the object of the Society was to make provision in case of war. Although such a thing never happened, the

Although such a thing never happened, the training that the members would receive would put them in the position of being able to render first-aid at any time to those who required it. The work, apart from anything else, was a noble one, and the satisfaction that the members would derive from the information imparted to them, and the pleasure they would gain in administering that instruction, would more than compensate them for their trouble and time spent. The county of Sutherland had always been to the front in progressive and beneficial movements, and he had no doubt that once the real purpose of the Society's existence was understood, the response would be an enthusiastic one. (Applause.)

Colonel Morrison, factor for the Duke of Sutherland, said he had much pleasure in moving that a branch be formed. The county of Sutherland had not been behind in Territorial affairs, and in such a worthwhile movement as the one it was proposed to go on with, he was sure the response would be a hearty one. (Applause.)

Rev. John Mackenzie, U.F. Church Golspie, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Dr Simpson, after expressing the pleasure it gave him to be present and formally approving that a branch of the Society be formed for the County, said that perhaps, they would allow him make the suggestion it would be better to leave off the appointing of a Committee to carry on the work until a larger meeting was held later on. In the meantime he suggested that a small Committee be appointed to carry out the arrangements for that meeting, and to make the objects of the Society known throughout the County. (Applause.)

Mr Argo, county clerk, seconded the suggestion, which was unanimously agreed to, the Marchioness stating that the idea was an excellent one, and one which she entirely agreed with.

The Committee appointed was as follows:—Colonel Morrison, factor for the Duke of Sutherland; Dr Simpson, Messrs Archd. Argo and Jas. Mennie, Golspie; Lieut. and Mrs Egerton, Helmsdale; Mr Dr Bremner, Golspie; and Mrs J. I. Cameron, Kirkton; along with Dr Jas MacLachlan, Dornoch, as hon. secretary. Mr Alex. Mackenzie, Craigard, Bonar-Bridge, who arrived when the meeting was in progress, was also associated with the movement.

The Marchioness at this stage of the meeting said that she would like to be present at the large meeting which was to be held, but as she was going abroad that would make it impossible for her to be with them. However, the Duchess, who was very keen on the movement, would, she expected, be present. (Applause.)

On the motion of Lieut. Mackay, Golspie a vote of thanks was accorded to the Marchioness for presiding, and after a similar compliment had been paid to Provost MacLachlan for acting as honorary secretary of the movement, the proceedings, which were most harmonious and interesting, terminated.