

SUTHERLAND BRANCH
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY.

A meeting of the County Committee was held in the West End Hall, Golspie, on Thursday. Her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland, president, occupied the chair, and received a cordial reception. The Honorary Secretary, Dr MacLachlan intimated apologies from Mrs Campbell, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Wright, Mrs Egerton, and Mr Mennie.

The Secretary reported that as instructed he had written to the work parties with the result that the Brora Work Party, per Mrs Hunter, had sent them a very handsome contribution, and Mrs Hunter had that day brought six beautiful and warm Cardigan jackets for the use of the sick and wounded as a donation from herself.

Mrs Macrae, Bonar-Bridge, the president of the Work Party there, had sent him a sympathetic letter saying that her committee had instructed her to say that they would send a parcel of comforts for the sick and wounded at an early date.

The Secretary reported that in connection with the Orthopaedic appeal he had sent out circulars to all ministers, missionaries, and laymen representing all denominations in Sutherland to have a special collection on behalf of the objects as well as circularised representatives of all parishes in the county. Two of the churches already had collections. Lairg Free Church, per Mr George Macdonald, had sent him £5 7s 9d, and the representative of the Free Presbyterian Church at Strathy Point had sent him the handsome contribution of £6 10s 6d. He had no doubt that the rest of the churches would follow this quick lead and so bring Sutherland into line with other counties which had done so well for this deserving object. Some representatives had sent him contributions which would be acknowledged in the local press.

The Secretary then read a letter from Mr J. Inglis Kerr, the organising secretary of a special Flag Day to be held during the week beginning the 2nd July, the special object of which was to raise £100,000 for disabled soldiers and sailors. They as a Committee were in the habit of holding one flag day only in the year. Last year they would remember they raised for a special object on the recommendation of the Executive of the Red Cross £242 8s 5d. Other counties were organising all sorts of entertainments, fetes, lawn tennis tournaments, and free sales for the purpose of raising money, and he had no doubt Sutherland would respond. After discussion, the Secretary was instructed to get more information in this matter before active measures could be taken.

The Secretary intimated that Miss Flora Bentinck, Dornoch, had taken up duties as a cook in a military hospital. The Secretary then read a letter from an applicant placing her services at the disposal of the Branch for nursing employment. He would like to read a part of this letter to them as it might be an object lesson to many who were not playing the game nor never intended to. The letter said:—"As my only brother was killed in action a few months ago and having nobody to place in his rank to defend our dear country, I find it my duty to apply as nurse. I returned home to keep company to those left at home, but find the call of the wounded and of the sick too much for me to remain, especially seeing the call for workers."

The letter was very favourably commented on. The Secretary said he had already taken action in the matter. The Secretary read a letter he had received from Mrs John Punton, New York, whose husband is in the employment of Mr Carnegie, enclosing him a cheque for £7 10, being half of the process of a raffle which she had got up herself and which brought in the sum of £15. In the letter she also stated she was sending Mrs Hardie, Clashmore, £7 10s. The money was to be devoted to purchase work for Dornoch as well as Skibo-Clashmore. He had written Mrs Punton thanking her for her kindly interest. Mr Alex. Morrison, also in the employment of Mr Andrew Carnegie, before proceeding to New York had left instructions that the proceeds of the sale of his bicycle were to be given for Red Cross purposes. The bicycle had been sold and the purchaser had given the Secretary £3, which he suggested should be added to the county funds of the branch. Both donors are natives of the county, the former from Evelix and the other from Scourie, and their action might be emulated by natives both at home and abroad.

The members present expressed pleasure at the kindly actions.

The proceeds of a concert at Clashmore, got up for Red Cross purposes by Mrs Hardie, amounted to £8 12s 6d, and a house to house collection at Dornoch and parish, arranged by Mrs Campbell and assisted by the members of a very experienced committee, realised £65 8s 5d. Dr MacLachlan stated that he had granted permits to these work parties to hold the concert and collection.

The Secretary then intimated the work which had been sent by the Dornoch Branch to the headquarters at Aberdeen since their last meeting, which amounted to 100 articles of all sorts of comforts for the sick and wounded.

The new branch at Rosehall since its inauguration in January of this year had sent over 200 articles for our wounded soldiers.

At the close of the meeting Her Grace brought up the question of forming a V.A.D. detachment for the county. After discussion, a committee consisting of Mrs Hardie, Mrs Bremner, and the Secretary was appointed to investigate and report on the proposal at an early meeting.