

## THE WAR

It is impossible at present to prepare an accurate statement of the number of Indian enlistments, but from an approximate estimate the minimum may safely be placed at 2,000. This is an excellent record in view of the fact that the total number of Indian men of military age does not exceed 15,000, of whom many are located in remote districts, and are not sufficiently in touch with civilization to be eligible for military service. In the older and more settled parts of the Dominion, and especially in the province of Ontario, the number of enlistments among many of the Indian bands will compare favourably with the showing of an average white community, and some bands have sent practically all their eligible members. The Six Nations of Brantford, whose total male population between the ages of twenty-one and sixty-five is 1,163, have sent more than 300 men; the majority of the officers and noncommissioned officers of " D " Company, 114th Battalion, are Indians of this band. All the eligible members of the Chippewas of Nawash band, at Cape Croker, Ont., have enlisted, there being 67 of this band on active service out of a total adult male population of 108. The Chippewas of Rama, out of a total male population of 57, contributed 37 men; the Chippewas of Saugeen have sent 39 out of a total adult male population of 110; the Chippewas of Georgina and Snake Island have sent 10 out of a total adult male population of 23; the Chippewas, Munsees, and Oneidas of the Thames have sent 64 out of a total male Adult population of 368; the Indians of the Sturgeon Falls Agency have sent 35 out of a total adult male population of 103; the Mississaguas have sent 31 out of a total adult male population of 64; the Indians of Prince Edward Island have sent 25 out of a total adult male population of 61; the Coté band, in Saskatchewan, has sent 21 out of a total adult male population of 43.

Special mention must be made of the Mississaguas of Scugog; the total adult male population of this little band is only 8, and out of this number no less than 7 have enlisted; the remaining man is unable to enlist owing to the fact that he has reached the age of sixty-five years.

The department, frequently receives testimonials of loyalty from Indian bands, and letters from individual Indians, which are fired with a zealous and sincere patriotism and often display a highly intelligent interest in the progress of the war and a remarkably clear grasp of the principles which are at stake. Many interesting letters have been received from Indians at the front describing, in some instances in a particularly graphic manner, their experiences and impressions.

The Indian members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force continue to maintain the loyal and honourable traditions which they have established during the past three years. Many Indians have been killed in action, a number are prisoners in Germany, and several have been decorated for conspicuous gallantry.

As I have stated in a previous report, the Indians excel as snipers, and many of them have distinguished themselves in this branch of the service. It has been reported that an Indian sniper named Ballantyne, of the 8th Battalion, before being wounded, killed more than 50 Germans, the majority of whom were themselves snipers, and it is understood that a number of other Indian snipers have made equally remarkable records.

I regret to state that Pte. Augustin Belanger, a Fort William Indian, whom I mentioned in my report of last year as having been awarded the Military Medal, has since been killed in action. Pte. Joe DeLaronde, a Nipigon Indian, has been awarded the Military Medal.

Capt. A.G.E. Smith, a Six Nation Indian of Brantford, has been awarded the Military Cross; he has been three times wounded.

It is an inspiring fact that these descendants of the aboriginal inhabitants of a continent so recently appropriated by our own ancestors should voluntarily sacrifice their lives, on European battlefields, side by side with men of our own race, for the preservation of the ideals of our civilization, and, their staunch devotion forms an eloquent tribute to the beneficent character of British rule over a native people.

The Indian women continue to do their share by knitting socks and mufflers and supplying various comforts for the soldiers. Branches of the Red Cross have been established on a number of the reserves, and the activities of these organizations have been conducted with efficiency and success.

The head office of the Saskatchewan provincial branch of the Red Cross has reported that some of their finest sewing and knitting has been received from the Indian Red Cross societies.

The Indian Women's Patriotic, League on the Six Nation reserve at Brantford was established nearly three years ago, and its efforts have met with continuous success. The purpose of this institution is to minister to the needs of the Indian soldiers, and its war work largely corresponds to that of the Women's Canadian Club in white communities.

The Indians in all parts of Canada have contributed, very generously to the Patriotic, Red Cross, Belgian Relief and other war funds. The following is a list to date of the contributions from the various bands arranged according to provinces, and it will be seen, therefrom, that the total amount of cash donated is \$19,224.26, which is a very substantial amount for the Indians to give, in view of the limited resources at their disposal: -

### **Ontario**

Chippewas of Beausoleil on Christian Island \$100 00  
Cockburn Island 200 00  
Sucker Creek 500 00  
Sheguiandah 500 00  
Manitoulin Island 500 00  
Chippewas of Sarnia 200 00  
Sheshegwaning Band 500 00  
Chippewas of Saugeen 500 00  
West Bay Band 500 00  
Rice Lake Band 100 00  
Georgina Island Band 50 00  
South Bay Band 200 00  
Dokis 1,000 00

Nipissing 500 00  
Moravian Band of the Thames 200 00  
Chippewas of Walpole Island 100 00  
Henvey Inlet 100 00  
Pottawattamie Band, Walpole Island 25 00  
Indians of Kenora and Savanne agencies during Treaty payments (and a few whites) 344 15  
Chief J. Ackewance, members of his and Frenchmen's Head bands and two half-breeds at Lac  
Seul 89 75  
Four Indians of Lac Seul Band 6 00

### **Quebec**

Abenakis of Pierreville 50 00

### **Manitoba**

Sioux Indians, Oak River 101 00  
Indians of Rosseau River 9 60  
Oak River Indians 51 00

### **Saskatchewan**

Councillor Saulteaux, Carry-the-Kettle Band, Assiniboine reserve 10 00  
Indians of File Hills Colony 502 10  
White Bear Band 1,000 00  
Sturgeon Lake Band 100 00  
Thunderchild's Band 200 00  
Councillor Saulteaux, Carry-the-Kettle Band, Assiniboine reserve 20 50  
Stony, Red Pheasant, Moosomin and other Indians 156 20  
Beardy and Okemasis Bands, Duck Lake agency 100 00  
Moochenins, Indian, Onion Lake agency 1 50  
Pasquah 1,000 00  
Muscowpetung 500 00  
Carry-the-Kettle Patriotic Association, Assiniboine reserve 164 00  
Carry-the-Kettle Patriotic Association, Assiniboine reserve 120 95  
Onion Lake agency, Sask 100 50  
James Smith's Band, No. 100, Duck Lake agency 100 00

### **Alberta**

Blood Indians \$458 00  
Samson's Band 1,000 00  
Blackfoot 1,200 00  
Whitefish Lake (Indians and whites) 7 50  
Blackfoot 100 00  
Hobbema Indians 41 15  
Blackfoot Indians 200 00  
Jas. Seenum's Band, Whitefish Lake reserve, Saddle Lake agency 50 00  
Saddle Lake, No. 125 14 50

**British Columbia**

Metlakatla 50 00  
Stuart Lake Indians 24 80  
Campbell River Band 100 00  
Cape Mudge Band 55 56  
Homalco Indians 16 75  
Total \$13,820 51

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE RED CROSS FUND AT OTTAWA**

Ontario. ...  
Alnwick \$100 00  
Saskatchewan. ...  
Thunderchild's Band 106 00  
Battleford Indians 119 00  
School children, John Smith's reserve 7 35  
Alberta. ...  
Blackfoot Indians 34 10  
Blackfoot Indians 100 00

**CONTRIBUTION'S TO BELGIAN RELIEF**

Quebec. ...  
Montagnais children, Pointe Bleue reserve 5 00  
Alberta. ...  
Enoch's (to Belgian Relief, Montreal) 300 00  
Enoch's 200 00  
Whitefish Lake (Indians and whites) 7 50

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL PATRIOTIC, RED CROSS AND OTHER WAR FUNDS**

Ontario. ...  
Rama (Orillia Patriotic Fund) \$50 00  
Parry Island Indians (23rd Regiment Overseas Contingent Fund) 100 00  
Cape Croker (Patriotic Fund, county of Bruce) 200 00  
Mississaugas of the Credit (Battalion Funds, 114th Battalion) 200 00  
Six Nations (Women's Patriotic League) 50 00  
Alberta. ...  
Stony Indians (Cochrane Patriotic Fund) \$50 00  
Stony Indians (12 cords wood to Cochrane Patriotic Fund) 39 00  
Stony Indians (15 cords wood to Associated Charities, Calgary) 48 75  
Blackfoot Indians (to the Gleichen Patriotic Fund) 207 00  
Blackfoot Indians (Gleichen Red Cross Fund) 1,154 00  
Blackfoot Indians (Gleichen Red Cross) 56 00  
Blackfoot Indians (Gleichen Red Cross) 61 80  
Duncan Clark, Blackfoot Indian (donation to Gleichen Red Cross) 5 00  
Blood Indians (Local Branch, Red Cross)

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL PATRIOTIC, RED CROSS AND OTHER WAR FUNDS**

British Columbia. ...

Squamish Indians (British Columbia Patriotic Fund) \$341 25

Masset and Skidegate Indians (to War Funds, Skidegate district) 150 00

Metlakatla Indians (to Prince Rupert Red Cross) 1,000 00

Stuart Lake Indians (to Local Patriotic Fund) 279 00

Total \$19,224 26

In addition to the foregoing, various contributions were offered amounting to \$8,750, which the department was unable

to authorize owing to the financial position of the bands in question.