

Sock Teas

The women of Fort William began an interesting fundraising campaign to purchase socks through chain teas at the beginning of 1915. The idea was that a woman would invite ten friends to her house for tea and each guest would pay ten cents to come, ensuring the hostess received one dollar. Furthermore, each guest who came made, by way of their acceptance, a promise to also hold a tea. This chain of teas would then have raised ten dollars to be used towards buying socks. The Women's Patriotic Auxiliary kept track of the teas held and the money donated.¹

The sock teas were quite effective and in a month, had almost raised their goal of \$100. There were also other donations to the sock tea fund; a Mrs. Moffat donated \$100 on her own, which was immediately used to purchase socks to be sent to the front. The Women's Patriotic Auxiliary in Fort William was so successful that they received a letter from the officer in charge of the 96th Regiment. The 96th Regiment was the regiment they were sending their proceeds to, and they were very happy to receive the socks and wristlets for their men.² Socks were one of the most common items soldiers required. This was due mostly to the various conditions they were expected to fight in and having a clean pair of socks was important to prevent "trench-foot" and gangrene from setting in.

¹ "Patriotic Chain of Teas," *Fort William Daily Times Journal*, February 15, 1915, page 2.

² "Women's Patriotic Auxiliary Meeting," *Fort William Daily Times Journal*, March 5, 1915, page 2.

Patriotic Chain Of Teas

Women of Fort William are reminded again that "your king and your country need you" to knit socks, and it is hoped that many "Queen Mary" chain teas will be organized. The method is this: You invite ten friends and each one pays ten cents, thus making up a dollar at each tea. Each of the ten invited guests, by her acceptance pledges herself to give another tea, therefore ten dollars towards the fund for buying socks will be secured when the first tea is given. These dollars are to be handed to Mr. Arthur Jarvis, at the Imperial bank, and, it is hoped that one hundred dollars will be raised in this way by the time it is needed for the bale to be sent off in June for the soldiers at the front, by the women's patriotic auxiliary. Any one can start a chain of teas, but the secretary of the auxiliary, Dr. Clara Todson, should be notified of the intention and a report should be made to the secretary by each one giving a tea, in order that all names of persons helping in this way be recorded in the monthly reports. At the tea, the guests may knit socks or do any work they wish, but the chief thing is to forge the chain and make up the ten dollars for the buying fund by means of the ten cents charge to each tea guest, at the initial and the nine following teas making up the chain. The cup of tea and a wafer or bread and butter, are the regulation refreshments. Mrs. E. R. Wayland gives the second tea in Mrs. Cochran's chain tomorrow afternoon. Who will start the next ten dollars rolling.

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