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 gueets, by her acceptance pledges herself to give another tea, therefore ten dollars to wards the fund for buying socks will be secured when the first ten 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 gtart a chain of teas, but the secretary of the auxiliary. Dr. Clara Todson, whould 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 linit 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 tes 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.

tt Women's Patriotic Auxiliary Meeting

Yesterday afternoon the monthly meeting of the women's patriotic auxiliary was held in the public library beture reom. The members present were: Mrs. G. A. Graham, president, Mrs. W. A. Matheson, vice-president, Mrs. W. A. Matheson, vice-president, Mrs. W. A. Matheson, vice-president, Mrs. W. W. Birdsall, treasurer, Mrs. C. W. Jarvis, convenor of the insitting committee, Mrs. W. Hind, convenor of the sewing committee, Mrs. N. Brigden and Mrs. T. M. Piper. The special sock fund has now reached the sum of \$75 ns a result of the chain teas. The \$100 donated by Mrs. Moffat as proceeds of the patriotic concert in the Corona will be used to purchase socks to be sent off to the front at once. Four laundered hight shirts have been forwarded directly to the Red Cross society, Toronto, by Mrs. T. J. Beggs, of Heron Bay, and credited to the Fort William women's patriotic auxiliary.

Forty pillows from Marillo we-Auxiliary Meeting riotic auxiliary.

Forty pillows from Marillo women's institute have been acknowledged by the Canadian Red Cross society, as per women's auxiliary, Fort William. The following letter was received from the officer in charge of the 96th regiment by Mrs. G. A. Graham; Dear Madam:

I have the honor to thank you for 136 pairs of socks and 65 pairs of wristlets which will be distributed in accordance with your request, to the men who have volunteered for overseas service and are at present mobilized in Fort William.

This is a most kindly not on the part of yourself and the association which you represent, and I can assure you, on behalf of the men, that it is very much appreciated. I have the honor to be, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. LITTLE,

Lieutenant-colonel. Dear Madam : pair each.

Other donations: Mrs. R. C. Morgan, \$2 for wook, Mrs. W. Stevenson, \$1.50 for wook, Mrs. McDonald, \$1 for material; Mrs. D. M. Mitchell, six pairs socks. Mrs. G. A. Gruham was authorized to buy socks with \$100 proceeds of Mrs. A. C. Moffat's concert, and Mrs. Vernon Hart to buy one hundred pairs hed socks.