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THE CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

A splendid response has been given by Canadian school children to the appeal for aid to Russia. Reports from all parts of the Dominion are that the imagination and emotions of everyone, and particularly of youth, have been stirred by the heroism and the sufferings for the Russian people.

The youth of Russia, millions of young men and women are carrying the burdens of battle, are engaging the might of the Nazi forces and taking the heaviest toll of our common enemy. The youth in Russia are providing the scientific and technical services that keep a modern army efficiently in action. Russian school children are in the battle too, some are serving in the guerrilla brigades. Some are emergency workers in the war plants. Children are performing various duties for civilian defense and for the maintenance of public morale. All children are suffering bodily and spiritually from this war which is being waged so furiously on Russian soil.

The offer of help from the school children of Canada to the children and parents in Russia has deep spiritual value. The medicines, clothing and other supplies that will be shipped to Russia will not only heal the wounds and comfort their bodies; it will also gladden their hearts. It will lift the spirit of the Russian people to know that warmhearted Canadian children are with them in their great hour of need. This has significance for good international relations in the future.

It is thought the schools in and around Toronto may achieve a record in their aid to Russia efforts. To Dr. C.C. Goldring, superintendent of Toronto schools is due, acknowledgment of his inspiring leadership. And Dr. Goldring is supported by the majority of trustees. At Dr. Goldring's suggestion, Toronto schools observed an "aid to Russia" day secondary school children helped in the tag day, and money-raising and clothing collection activities are at a lively stage in the schools.

The pupils of Runnymede collegiate in York Township deserve honorable mention. There is an outstanding example of what can be done by children when their idealism is aroused. In this school the enterprise to help Russia was initiated and conducted by the student body. There are about 850 students in the school and on January 14 they started with an objective of \$500. They have presented \$850 to the Canadian Aid to Russia Fund, which is \$1 per capita. The money was raised by dances, basketball and other events, without any expense to Aid Fund. Some pupils worked after school hours, most of them practiced self-discipline and donated their personal earnings and savings for the Fund.