

# THE CANADIAN C.O.

Vol. 1 No. 2

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Montreal, Canada

## Study Groups.... For Peace... and Tomorrow's World

### A PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, who livest in all pure and humble and gracious souls, we pray for those who, at the cost of persecution and oppression, have striven to maintain freedom, truth and unity.

AMEN

### Notes from Camps

September, Bowser, B.C. :- Today the air is heavy with smoke as it has been for several weeks, because at this time every year logging companies burn the "slash" that is left on their operations after the removal of all valuable timber. The weather is abnormally dry this fall and many of these fires, out of control and no longer confined to slash, are burning on the island, making plenty of work for the C.O.s.

At present the boys from our camp near Bowser are trying to stop a fire which is burning dangerously close to Cathedral Grove, one of the few areas of virgin timber left on the Island. They are working day and night shifts in co-operation with the fellows of neighboring Horne Lake camp. Unless rains come soon many of the fires on the Island may reach really dangerous proportions.

Various preparations for the winter have been and are being made at our camp. Tents have been replaced by prefabricated huts, and a recreation hall is presently being constructed. Then, for out-door all-weather work, rain-proof clothes and boots are being provided. After the fires are controlled, work will be snag-felling for a few months, and later reforestation of logged-off areas.

The most important topic of conversation at present concerns leaves. The camp continually buzzes with rumors,

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Plans to train men and women who will be better equipped for interpreting the peoples to one another after the war are coming to the fore. From England, the U.S.A. and here in Canada news is coming in of groups acting to create an informed public opinion and to prepare themselves and others for service in the post war world.

In England the course of study started by the Society of Friends has been well received and participants are now on their third month of training.

The study is carried out through the medium of correspondence courses, with study groups and vocational schools being arranged wherever possible. The extent to which collaboration will be possible with other organizations similarly bent, is being looked into. Arrangements are being made by The Canadian C.O. to receive these courses.

An American organization "The Commission to Study the Organization of Peace" has this to say about the Transitional Period, i.e. the months or years of Armistice. "Everyone knows that, as regards a permanent peace, this may well be the crucial period. Some things will need doing immediately the war ends, but in the more lasting matters the world will best be encouraged to go slow". The Commission realises that the nature of the present conflict has wrought moral and intellectual havoc... long enduring principles of civilisation have been attacked, nations have lost their independence and millions of youth have been indoctrinated with beliefs contrary to the moral principles upon which civilisation has been built. Behind all this lie profound social changes. The first problems claiming immediate attention will be epidemics and food. The meeting of these needs then calls for world wide preparation now. Other immediate problems will be

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# THE CANADIAN C.O.

## The Leaven In The Lump.

A periodical of Canadian Pacifist news published every two months at Montreal, Canada.

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## The C.O. and The Soldier...

Where is the C.O. to be found who has not had at least one of his or her close friends or "fellow member in a family", join the military service of our country? In our friendships we shared our thoughts, we worked out our aims, and we laid bare our ideals together. Above all, we appreciated one another's differences of opinion, and with tolerance and kindness worked towards our common goals. "Should auld acquaintance be forgot" now that we once again differ?

We must realize that those of us who reject violence and those of us who will use it, have the same stake in the world of tomorrow, that only together with a will to build out of the ruins of today with both our brain and brawn can we shape the world of peace and plenty.

While we disagree profoundly with these our friends in their belief that by going to war they are protecting the values of our society from extinction, yet we admire highly those who do so from depths of convictions and the sincerity of their belief.

cont'd in next column.

The measure of society is the quality of human relationships. Thank God for that. The way we live; the values we keep uppermost in our lives will determine the destiny of mankind more surely than international conflicts. Our faith is to be measured not by the magnitude of the things we oppose but by the extent to which we promote a better way of life - by the understanding spirit and the example which we ourselves show. How do we measure up as peacemakers? The Rev. C.M.W. Davis has set down three principles which he calls "keys to open the gates of mercy on mankind".

- (1) When we treat man as an end in himself and not as a means to an end the Kingdom of God has already begun.
- (2) Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
- (3) Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

To deal with men justly is not enough. Unless we experience a glow of sympathy and love towards anyone who comes to us honestly looking for help and sympathy, we fall short of the standards set by the Master. In the words of G.D.H. Cole "You can't feel that glow about people until you know them personally, and you can't know personally more than quite a small number of people. That is why real democracies have either to be small or to be broken up into small human groups in which men and women can know and love one another".

Most men prefer to be with the crowd, to feel safe with the lump, rather than to be lost with the leaven - and that is the reality which we must face up to.

If we cannot stop war's barbarism we can still be merciful to its sufferers, we can be neighbor to him that falls among thieves. We can be the leaven in the lump.

THE C.O. AND THE SOLDIER cont'd.

Above all, not even such fundamental differences in opinion should break the bonds of love and fellowship which have united us up to now.

# AMERICAN REFUGEES

Governor Ralph L. Carr of Colorado, on speaking of the arrest and detention of residents of the U.S.A. of Japanese ancestry has said: "If we do not extend humanity's kindnesses and understanding to these people, if we deny them the protection of the Bill of Rights, if we say that they may be denied the privilege of living in any of the 48 states and force them into concentration camps without hearing or charge of misconduct, then we are tearing down the whole American system".

The widespread fear of these days has driven American authorities to relocate citizen and non citizen of Japanese blood under such circumstances and in such a manner as to heighten racial consciousness. Let us recall the words liberty, decency, justice as we review the following facts:

- (1) Out of 100,000 residents evacuated, 7 out of 11 are American citizens.
- (2) The chairman of the Congressional Committee investigating National Defence Migration and the director of the Alien Enemy control unit in Washington have stated this year their belief in the loyalty of the great majority of these persons.
- (3) Official denial of sabotage being committed at Hawaii before, on or after December 7 has been made by Secretary of War Stimson, and others as late as April 20, 1942.
- (4) Tens of millions of dollars were lost to these people and tons of produce to the United States.
- (5) The labour standards under which they work represent a form of involuntary servitude.
- (6) The practice of "protective arrest" by arresting the innocent and not the guilty is a denial of democracy.
- (7) A people with a splendid citizenship record is having its family trees broken and privacy lost. Resulting from such abnormal living instances have been recorded of lowering of morals, increase of gambling, petty larceny and cynicism.
- (8) The detained group is coming to be regarded as "enemies of our country."
- (9) American citizens of Japanese origin are not extended the rights allowed Italian and German aliens.

- from a pamphlet published by the American F.O.R.

It is of supreme concern to us that bitterness and unfounded prejudices should divide men and make a mockery of brotherhood.

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## HELP!

1. Your editor would like to keep as complete a file as possible of C.O.s in the news. If you come across any news item, editorial, or report of trials of any C.O. would you please send us a clipping?
2. In order to help us make good our promise to come out with the paper every other month, and on time, please send us your news items, contributions, etc., as early as you possibly can.

- Thank you.

## The Tragedy of War....

Not that we might suffer  
Even unto death, O God;  
For we have tasted of Thy goodness;  
But that the children, the innocent, the defenceless  
Should be maimed,

Thou hast given to man the power  
To succour the twisted bodies in the bombers' path.

But there are worse things:  
Our children taught by radio and funnies;  
Magazine and movie, the patterns of hatred -

Young men, adventurous, courageous, attributing war  
To this madness or that, eager for the fray,  
Who have learned of anger and vengeance,  
But not of mercy and loving kindness;  
Too young to die, knowing not Thy world -

The moral looseness of young bodies  
Seeking to steal a fleeting pleasure  
Ere death makes good the claim it has staked -

The drifters, men and women both, whose rule book  
Has been cast aside for the duration -

And children, claimed and unclaimed alike  
Left without parental care  
While fathers and mothers fight and work  
For the safety and security of the new generation -

The stalwart citizens, civilian and in armour  
Whom danger has awakened to the bigness of Thy world;  
Firm of purpose, they give unreservedly  
To a cause whose boundaries are marked in space  
By a nation or group of nations, and in time  
To a period of international upheaval;  
Playing the braggart when enemy cities are laid waste -

Such is war's great tragedy:  
That their hearts are only ajar instead of open  
To Thee and Thy people in all the world.  
That they are not devoted to a cause  
Which would consume them and demand  
Their best efforts for their whole lives.  
Should they excel even Methuselah.

- F. McN.



## From Our Mailbag...



### MY TASK

By now we are all well settled and have our feet firmly planted on the ground once more. Sometimes our tasks seem monotonous and rather useless but then if we can do these things well, perhaps soon the opportunity will be given us to bear witness to our convictions amidst the same dangers as the soldiers and in some work of mercy calculated to help relieve even a little part of the suffering and death in the world today. Such is my hope.

- from an A.S.W. Worker in B.C.

### A REQUEST

As I am anxious to contact any other Anglicans who may be in C.O. Camps I am wondering if you could insert a little note asking for the name and address of any Anglican C.O. in camp or not yet called. As far as I know I am the only Anglican C.O. in A.S.W. Camps and I only know one other Anglican C.O.

Henry Morrow,  
#8532,  
B.C. Forest Service  
Camp G.T.4,  
Websters Corners, B.C.

### PRIVILEGE - WHERE?

Some time ago I saw it expressed in a note from a C.O. back home that we out in the Forest Service of B.C. were fortunate because we have the opportunity of applying and testing our religion. The statement of course started me thinking. At first I felt a little resentful that someone who knew nothing of what we were enduring should tell me of our good fortune. For those of us who are separated from all our friends and families not to mention the married boys with wives and children living on 50¢ a day seems anything but a privilege. As I said before quite naturally the first of our thoughts were resentful, and rather than being cheered as was the intention of the letter we felt depressed.

As time went by however I began to realize that this letter was not altogether wrong. There is no doubt about it, our religion is standing a test and it is up to each of us to see this thing through. Besides this it certainly does show us our friends and sympathizers back there. The thing that strikes me most is how much more of a test it is for the religion of the people at home.

Most of us are making fifty cents a day to provide us with all necessities:  
cont'd on Page 9.

### STUDY GROUPS FOR PEACE IN TOMORROW'S WORLD.....Cont'd from page 1

Civil disorder, Economic Collapse, Uprooted Peoples, etc. In general conclusion it is stated that "the traditional methods of ending a war" will prove quite "inadequate and should be abandoned".

It has been suggested by A.J. Muste that our job as pacifists might be defined as follows:

- (1) To build a community of mind and spirit, thoroughly grounded and able to face its spiritual warfare squarely.
- (2) To maintain a tension in teaching and action with nationalism, capitalism, and imperialism in their various manifestations.
- (3) To train activists, capable of representing the movement in the organizational field and ready for present relief work and post war reconstruction.
- (4) To assert an ordering principle, able, when men turn from chaos, to rally them to work for the Good Society.
- (5) To prepare a mature theory of the Road To Power in order to gain power with others rather than over others.

Cont'd on Page 9

## NATURE

Websters Corners, B.C. - We are located in a grand spot on the mainland only about 30 miles from Vancouver and although we aren't sure whether it will be a permanent camp or not we know that we'll be here at least until the end of September. We are right at the foothills of the mountains and some of the peaks are less than 10 miles away. It certainly is grand to see those white peaks sticking up into the sun or watching them on the skyline as the sun goes down. Yesterday noon we climbed a large hill and what a beautiful sight we got. Mountains in the distance, the Fraser River twisting along away to the South-West, closer, our own little Alouette River, a beautiful little stream that they say just teems with salmon in the fall. I hope they are right.

Everyone out here treats us marvelously so we really have no complaints. Of course we miss our friends back home and especially our wives but we certainly learn to appreciate the things we have when we are away. What a marvelous thing the homecoming will be. The boss we work for simply couldn't be any better; he knows his job, knows how to handle men and will do anything he can to help us out. The food and everything else is the very best and we have everything we need.

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## FOOD CONDITIONS IN EUROPE.....

As the war goes on, official reports indicate an increasingly alarming state of extreme scarcity of food in many parts of Europe. This is a direct result both of the war and of the food-blockade policy of the United Nations. In Great Britain and the United States committees have been formed by the Churches and other interested groups to study the whole problem in an effort to present the facts as they are, and to form the public opinion necessary to make the military authorities do something to relieve the problem.

The Facts: Reports from GREECE picture "haggard crowds of half-starved children storming the foodships, crying

pitifully for food". The official ration is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. of bread per day, as compared with 27 ozs. during normal times. Greece cannot be fed by land routes, so that even if the Germans wanted to provide food for the Greeks, they have not the transportation facilities. Epidemics are threatening, and only immediate action on our part can save the people from almost total annihilation.

In BELGIUM the Germans provide enough cereal to maintain the daily ration of half-a-pound of bread. Cats are sold for 100 - 125 francs and dog-meat is 50 francs up for the pound in Black Markets. The Red Cross states: "There is abundant reason to believe that the health of several generations may be irretrievably impaired.

In FRANCE, both occupied and un-occupied, a 50% mortality rate increase is reported - attributed to lack of food.

In HOLLAND, the nutritive value of daily rations had, in 1941, gone down to less than half the normal value, in calories.

In POLAND, while Germans receive  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of bread per week, Poles receive  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. and Jews, 1 lb.

In FINLAND, "70% of the children under seven are dying of starvation" reports a representative of the Red Cross.

Controlled Relief: The question is, "Is it possible to keep any food that we might send, out of the hands of the Germans?" The answer is that in all those places where there has been a responsible neutral agency, such as the International Red Cross, the Germans have respected it, and have not interfered with the stores or their distribution to the people.

Public Opinion: It is imperative that all interested groups and individuals who have a concern about this problem should study the available reports, and help make the facts known to their neighbours and the whole community. It is a question of life and death for millions this winter...and winter is nearly here!

(Copies of a full report can be obtained by writing to Famine Relief C'tee, Drayton House, Gordon Street, London, W.C.1, and enclosing 3d.)

# C.O. News... from Far and Near

## TORONTO FRIDAY NIGHTERS

The group of pacifists in Toronto continue to meet regularly on the first and third Friday evenings of each month.

A short devotional period is usually followed by what, to many of us, is the most interesting item of the evening - the reading of letters from the different C.O. Camps.

It is not altogether because of the news these letters contain, that they are so important to us, but because, hearing from these boys who have gone out from among us makes us realize that we, on the home front, and they, bearing the brunt in those distant camps, are part of the fellowship of souls knit together in the endeavour to prove that the way of love, not the way of violence, can bring about a better world.

The group has named itself the Christian Pacifist Fellowship and has decided to continue as an independent unit, while urging any members who wish to do so to join the larger Quaker Fellowship or Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The distributing of comforts to the lads in the Alternative Service Work Camps and the assisting of dependents of C.O.s now in camps are two of the major jobs carried out by the group. Study and discussion periods form another valuable part of the program.

In October Mrs. Jack Finlay and Mrs. Joe O'Connor left for British Columbia to spend some time with their husbands who are working in A.S.W. Camp. Our best wishes will follow them.

## BRITAIN'S WOMEN C.O.S

To introduce this subject we present what facts we have at hand.

Men of 18 ~~and 20~~ and women of 20 to 30 are liable to either military or industrial conscription. However the law recognizes conscientious objectors only in relation to military conscription, and not in relation to civil work. Hence objection to civil work usually has resulted in prosecution and often imprisonment for men, and in several cases so

cont'd in next column

## GREAT BRITAIN...

In the August Bulletin published by the Central Board for C.O.s in Britain (17 constituent bodies) some parliamentary proceedings of July 9th are recorded. Mr. Bevin, Minister of Labor and National Service revealed that over 63,000 men have applied to be registered as C.O.s in this war as opposed to 16,000 last time. To June 6th 1,714 of the women in the age group called up had so registered. In reply to questioning regarding the Central Board for C.O.s, Mr. Bevin said that any person with a conscience should have the right to clarify that conscience when presenting his case to a tribunal.

## AUSTRALIA...

On February 23, Australia amended her laws on exemptions to include non-combatant service thus bringing them into line with the British. (Applications are heard by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction from which there is right of appeal). Where conditional exemption is granted the C.O. is trained or employed at a wage less than standard though the employer must pay the full rate. The difference is allocated to a fund specified by the Minister.

## NEW ZEALAND...

In New Zealand where about 3% of the men called have registered as C.O.s laws are also stricter than in Britain. C.O.s are being detained in "Defaulter Camps" with work provided; there is no pay and no leave.

## BRITAIN'S WOMEN C.O.S

far for women also.

Women until May could only be recognized or registered as C.O.s if they have been called up or "proclaimed" for military service. However it seems now that if a woman insists on her right to a tribunal hearing, she will be heard, even though her group is not at the time being subjected to military conscription. If a tribunal recognizes a woman as a C.O., she will be classed as either a conditional or unconditional C.O.

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## NOTES FROM CAMPS...Cont'd from Page 1

but so far there is nothing at all of a definite nature. Just as a personal observation it would appear that morale ~~might~~ drop sharply unless something is done soon. Many boys have been in camps uninterruptedly for over seven months, and they feel that they should have a few weeks at home out of every six months. No doubt some arrangement will be made after the fire season is over.

## G.T. #4, Websters Corners ...

Originally our fire was just a small one covering about 10 acres of ground and burning a donkey motor and a truck but now it covers the whole side of a mountain. Twice it was considered under control and we went back to our other work, and twice it started up again. Had we been left guarding it by now it would probably be out with only a pine timbers scorched but today it is running up the side of the mountain with our only hope being to stop it from spreading in width and from coming down onto a flat stretch of green timber at the foot of the mountain. When we first were called the fire was just smoldering in the moss and burning the small bushes, however for the last three days it has been running up the side of a 5,000 ft. mountain. Sometime the flames will shoot right up a 100 ft. tree and on up 25 - 50 ft. straight in the air. It really is a beautiful sight to see at night when it lights up the whole sky. Every five minutes a large snag will topple over and go roaring down the mountain in a shower of sparks. Several times in the past few nights landslides have been started up by the fire and they make a tremendous clatter as they shoot down the side of the mountain. For the past three nights I have been on the night gang and tomorrow I am switching to the day crew so today we have one day off to rest up and write. When on the day shift there's absolutely no chance to write. We leave camp about 5:30 a.m. and get home in the dark. The fire is actually out of our district being 40 miles from camp but we are the closest to the fire and since there is no other fire in our own section here we are. Approximately 30 miles of the trip is paved, 6 is gravel, and the rest is just on trail which you have to walk. One mile is over

logs as narrow as 3 inches. We really should be good tight rope walkers when we finish if we care to do that type of work. At present we are working on a fire trail all along the front of the hill and if it is properly patrolled it should be effective in stopping the fire from spreading down into the flats beside the lake. Another crew is working up the side of the mountain to keep it from spreading. Everything seems to be getting a little more under control and possibly at the end of another week things will be pretty well taken care of but it really should be patrolled and watched right up to the time it rains again. Incidentally we haven't had a drop of rain for over a month and things really are getting dried up so we're just hoping that no other fire crops up to make our living more miserable.

There are 10,000,000 trees to plant this fall and winter so we should have plenty of work to do and the snags in our district alone will probably take a couple of years to clear away.

## BRITAIN'S WOMEN C.O.S Cont'd from Page 7

So far no industrial directions have been issued to unconditional C.O.s. Conditional C.O.s may be assigned to certain types of work, as determined usually at the tribunal hearing.

Information as to the numbers of women seeking registration is very scanty. That there are many C.O.s is indicated by the report in the press that in the North East Region of London alone there were 110 women C.O.s in the 20 - 21 age groups.

In conclusion we might well ask if we women in Canada are preparing ourselves to do any useful work if the government feels called upon to conscript us?

Please don't forget to add

"Station B"

to our Post Office address.



## Applying Non-violent Action Canadian Fire Fighters

The proof of the pudding is the eating thereof. On a small scale, by a small group of people in each case, the feasibility of non-violence has been proved many times. Of this method the Quakers are probably the best known exponents and they have, today, the honour of being trusted by both the allies and the axis. Were a whole nation to put its everything into goodwill, even in the face of being invaded, despite the aggressor's initial military victories, in the long run he would lose the moral battle. He would become the friend instead of the enemy.

Four stages have been suggested by which the principles of non-violent resistance could be carried out.

- (1) Refusing to settle the issue on the field of battle. That means not only that one does not prepare for the battle and thus expend much energy and material but the whole nation must expend the so conserved energy and money in promoting good will and international understanding.
- (2) Exploration into the aggressor's bill of complaints and list of wrongs, real or fancied suffered by him.
- (3) Sincere offers of co-operation with him in the redress of those wrongs which are thought to be wrong by the criterion which we apply to ourselves.
- (4) Working with the potential wrong doer of yesterday and converting him to our co-worker of today to promote better international and world relationships.

All of this implies that we must, if necessary, sacrifice as much as we would if we were waging a full scale war. Failures, where they have occurred have been due to a half hearted application of the rule "Love thy neighbour as thyself".

-from the Conscientious Objector.

PRIVILEGE - WHERE? Cont'd from Page 5  
Some who are married get along on 15¢ a day. Those at home can if they wish live on a comparable basis and put everything else they may earn into some worthy cause. How much easier it is for us to live our beliefs because we have no alternative, than for those who have no restrictions and have not as yet been called or who may never be called.

Contributed.

The Corps of Canadian Fire Fighters for service in the United Kingdom has now been recruited to its authorized strength of 400 officers and men. 20 members are conscientious objectors. 105 communities are represented in the Corps. No more recruits will be taken for the present, though men may still send letters of application to the Ottawa Headquarters and thus have their names on file for whenever more men are needed.

The C.F.F. will work with England's National Fire Service, "the fourth arm of the service". It has been organized as a part of Canada's war effort and has provided ace-firemen an opportunity to serve their country in their chosen profession. Members of volunteer Fire Departments, Air Raid Precaution workers from major cities, and inexperienced men from farm, factory, office and studies have also volunteered.

20 C.O.s are among the inexperienced "Junior Firemen". There are 7 Mennonites, 8 United Church of Canada, 1 Presbyterian, 1 Roman Catholic, 1 Brethren, 1 Brethren in Christ and one Church of Christ. They are not classified as C.O.s by the Corps nor have they been encouraged to join. They have been given the same chance to enlist as any inexperienced recruit.

Corps Headquarters announced to the press September 12 that the C.F.F. "may soon be armed against low-level machine gun attacks by Nazi Fliers." England's National Fire Service is considering arming its machines as a defence for fire fighters on active duty. The Canadian Corps is expected to follow the same course as the N.F.S.

STUDY GROUPS...Cont'd from Page 5

The keynote of this endeavour is struck by Beatrice Petrie in her September letter on behalf of the Toronto Friday Night Group to the lads in A.S.W. Camps - "Our constant prayer is that this tragedy of war will be succeeded by a peace motivated by Christian Ideals. We know of course that our vision of a just and durable peace will not become a reality through wishful thinking, but only through the unremitting efforts on the part of those who, activated by the Spirit of God, have the interests of their fellow man at heart - regardless of race, creed, or colour".

NOV 1961 MONTREAL  
 THE CANADIAN C. O.  
 POST OFFICE BOX 264, STATION "B"  
 MONTREAL, Canada.

Rev. Thomas Reesor,  
R. R. # 2,  
Pickering, Ontario

As the Sanskrit reads in

"SALUTATION TO THE DAWN"

"Look to this day, for it is life, the very life of life. In its brief course lie all the verities and realities of your existence; the bliss of growth, the glory of action, the splendor of beauty. For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow only a vision; but To-day, well-lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day."

HERE'S AN OFFER

Mrs. Grace Knight, when sending in her subscription, mentioned that she had some land which Canadian C.O.s were welcome to use for some co-operative scheme. Upon further questioning she wrote:-

"You asked for some description of the piece of property I referred to, and the possibilities I envisaged for it. The fact is, I had not reached the point of planning any scheme. I just wanted it known that if such a bit of land could be found useful to Canadian C.O.s at any time, I would be happy to have it used by them.

The land is Block 19, District Lot 2044, in the District of North Vancouver and comprises about one and one-third acres. When I visited the spot last summer the timber was untouched.

I do not know what more I can say other than to repeat that if any such spot could be of service I would be very happy to have it contribute to the welfare of Canadian C.O.s through both land and timber.

With every good wish."

(Mrs.) Grace Knight.