

CITY HAS PROMISED ALL POSSIBLE AID

Will Confer With Military Ex- perts as to Ways and Means

KEEP PUBLIC WORK GOING

Must do Everything Within Power to Furnish Em- ployment

The Board of Control will meet Major-General Lessard and other officers of the headquarters staff this afternoon at four o'clock to determine what is the best action for the city to take as a war measure.

The Mayor stated officially to-day that the city would do everything in its power towards relieving distress and assisting wives and families of the men who go to the front. Special efforts will also be made to have all local improvement works continued. The Harbor Board has announced its intention of continuing its development work on the waterfront, giving employment to some 1,000 skilled and semi-skilled workmen; the railways will be urged to proceed with the new Union Station; and all possible works will be carried on to give as much employment as possible.

A special committee is now tabulating the names of all the men who have volunteered with the local contingent, with a view of determining their financial position and the number of people dependent upon them. The only volunteers who will not receive their attention are those whose welfare has been guaranteed by the city or by their employees.

Twenty Constables Going.

Chief of Police Grasset notified the Mayor this morning, that 20 constables had volunteered for active service, thirteen of them being army reservists. He was authorized to continue full pay to the men while at the front. The same policy has been adopted with regard to other men in the city service.

Regarding the proposal advanced by Controller Church to make a grant of \$250,000 as the city's contribution to the war fund, Mayor Hocken stated that money would be granted if, in the opinion of the military authorities, such action was deemed most advisable on the part of the city.

"What we intend to do first," he declared, "is to make a thorough study of the situation. I have arranged to meet General Lessard and other military leaders in the city at a special conference this afternoon. We should not vote a quarter of a million dollars without first discovering if it is the correct thing to do. I am ready to do anything. But it is a question if our chief concern should not be to protect the wives and families of the men going to the front.

"Nothing encourages a man to give his services to his country so much as the knowledge that those dependent upon him will not suffer," the Mayor continued.

May Insure all Lives.

"It is possible that the city may insure the lives of the whole Toronto contingent, two thousand in all. Insurance companies will take the risk at the rate of \$50 a \$1,000. We should be able to secure a lower rate from a syndicate of local companies. The total cost of this is estimated at \$300,000.

"We are fully alive to the gravity of the situation. In the interests of civilization the Kaiser must be licked. A German victory would wipe out the identity of Canada and we must preserve that identity. Toronto will do everything it can do."

Controller Simpson is equally prepared to do everything possible, but thinks that the chief concern of the city should be to care for those dependent upon the volunteers and to keep public works going.

"We must not exhaust our finances and cut off work for the thousands of workmen in the city," he declared. "We should have some central Federal organization, to which the city should contribute, to take care of the women and children."