

Y.M.C.A. PREPARING ANOTHER DRIVE

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A Dominion-wide campaign for \$1,100,000 will be conducted by the Y.M.C.A. from May 5 to May 9. Steps are being taken by Y.M.C.A. men in Port Arthur to get their organization in readiness for the May drive. Port Arthur's quota has not yet been set. The following extract from a speech by Major Best will explain the Y.M.C.A.'s need of money and the state of their finances. It is interesting to note that the Y.W.C.A. will receive \$175,000 of the \$1,100,000 objective.

"During 1918 the Canadian Y. M. C. A.'s expenditures amounted to approximately \$4,000,000 of which about \$3,000,000 were received in subscriptions from the Canadian public and the balance from profits of canteen operations in England and France.

"This year our expenditures will amount to about \$2,900,000. Of this amount about \$2,000,000 will be provided for from assets on hand in the shape of cash and goods overseas and in Canada, and in canteen profits to be made this year. The balance, \$900,000, will have to be secured by public subscription. In addition to this amount the sum of \$175,000 is being raised to provide for the National Budget of the Y.W.C.A. who are doing a similar work to the Y.M.C.A. in providing for the soldiers' dependents and other national work.

"In raising these funds it should be remembered that all the subscriptions this year will be used on the Home Military work and the Regular and Extension program of the National Council. No money is being asked for the overseas work, as there will probably be sufficient funds overseas and canteen profits to finish the work over there."

In the future, as in the past and present, the Young Men's Christian association intends to be the friend and helper, in the most practical, tangible and whole-hearted way. Returned soldiers are now giving the best proof of the way they bank on the "Y" in their zealous enlistment on the workers' staff in charge of the Dominion-wide \$1,100,000 campaign May 5 to 9, when the Y. M. C. A. will ask Canada to ratify its budget to cover future work, including the extension of the association's activities into the hamlets and rural places of the Dominion.

For Soldiers Overseas

A brief word as to what the association has done for the soldiers overseas will explain why the Y. M. C. A. feels justified in asking the people of Canada to endorse by their contributions its new program. The overseas work of the "Y" embraces, and has embraced during all the years of the war, service in the British Isles, Belgium, Germany and Siberia, as well as the work of special secretaries in Northern Russia and Palestine. In all these localities the Y.M.C.A. provided for the troops the three-fold benefits of comfort, entertainment and in-

spiration—comfort to recoup the physical body, entertainment to relieve the mental strain of continual facing of the hazard of death, and last and greatest spiritual guidance and inspiration.

The following extracts from an account, written by a prominent newspaper correspondent, of the work of the Y.M.C.A. during the great and terrible battle of Vimy Ridge, will give an idea of the organized and efficient work of succor and help done by "Y" workers during the actual heat of battle:

"Eleven Canadian Y. M. C. A. dugouts were so placed that every "walking wounded" man, coming out, had to pass at least one of them. Every man who came along was given a hot drink, a packet of biscuits and a packet of cigarettes. Past the collecting point was another dugout with similar supplies, and at the evacuation point, workers at a third dugout provided coffee, biscuits and cigarettes. If there happened to be any man who came over all those three places, he probably got three lots of supplies, if he wanted them.

\$20,000 in Baseball Goods

"Last fall the association placed an order for \$20,000 worth of baseball goods for the use of Canadian soldiers in France. This is as much as any one of the great national leagues in the United States would buy in 12 months. Inclusive of this sum for baseball goods, the association spent \$30,000 on athletics—lacrosse, basketball, wrestling and tug-of-war outfits all being provided.

With the Home-Coming Man

A work which the Y.M.C.A. has been doing all through the war, is still engaged in, and will continue to do until the ultimate Canadian soldier has returned home, is the smoothing of the long journey by ship and rail. The function of the troopship and troop train secretaries (of which there are at the present time 25 travelling on the transports) is a very important one, and means something more even than the really beneficial work of entertaining the returning men. Briefly, it means this: That the "Y" workers are one of the greatest possible agencies in preparing men from the field of battle for re-entry into civil life. The soldier has come out of active service with his ideas on life turned around. He is all unsettled; perhaps has no definite plan for the future. In this condition he comes under the influence and care of the psychologically skilful chaplain or secretary who, knowing by long experience with similar cases what he needs, directs his thoughts into the right channels, gets him interested in the future, and helps him to pick up the dropped threads of the old life.

These secretaries carry canteen supplies, games, literature, gramophones, lanterns—in a word, all things which are needed to make time on shipboard or in passenger coach pass not only pleasantly, but with the maximum of profit in an educational and spiritual way. Only specially qualified men are chosen as transport secretaries.

On the troop trains every device and convenience that will make the time pass pleasantly both to the soldiers who are returning comparatively sound in health, and to those who are shaken in nerve and limb, is thought up and supplied. Western men go to eastern seaports to meet returning western army men, bringing them at once the news and atmosphere of the west. All those business men who go thus to the seaports, and note the work of the "Y" staff at the disembarkation points, in the meeting of returning men, providing for their needs, and making them feel at home, come back filled with enthusiasm for the Y.M.C.A.

Religious Work

The religious end of the Y. M. C. A. program is always very strongly emphasized, and will continue to be emphasized. At the front, during the fighting and after the armistice, the "Y" continued, in addition to the services generally held in the Y.M.C.A. huts, to organize and regularly to hold Bible classes, good-night services, "sing-songs" and addresses by special Canadian or English speakers; this besides the personal interviews and the hundreds of thousands of leaflets distributed.

Work of the same kind—services, addresses by prominent ministers or laymen, "supper Sundays" (in which sometimes as many as 600 men are fed at a sitting), and other social functions of a hospitable or educative kind—is continued for the Canadian returned man in the "Y" huts established in each of the chain of larger cities reaching across the Dominion.

The work of the Young Men's Christian association for the Canadian soldier, in spite of the endeavor of the "Y" to be of the best service during the Great War, is not finished, nor does the association intend to slacken its effort in the slightest, until every man of the Canadian army, whether from the city or from some remote farm in the far west, is demobilized and back in his own family circle.

To Follow Soldier Home

Nor even when he reaches the home hearth, will the "Y" let him "be." Its secretaries and organizers will be "laying for" him in the smallest village and the furthest farm, waiting for the day when, after he has got used to being at home, the spirit of restlessness begins to seize him again. That will be the ripe day to turn his attention to the fact that he is a Canadian citizen, and that by education and moral development he should be preparing himself to assume the duties of Canadian citizenship, instead of dissipating the days of his strength in fruitless search after excitement and sensation.

This restless one will find in his home village or in his rural community an organized Y.M.C.A. There will be religious influences; there will be books; there will be experienced teachers. But this will not be all. There will in addition be at his disposal experts in developing men socially, teaching them to play, sandwiching work with entertainment "according to season," showing him that it only needs a little organization to make his rural community as pleasant—nay, to him, two-fold more pleasant—than the bustling city where, in spite of all the whirl of life, a stranger from the country is as lonely as a man in the middle of the Sahara.