

YEAR 85, NO. 122

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1918

SECOND SECTION

## WORK OF THE Y.M.C.A.

## WAR DEMANDS HAVE RECONSTITUTED THE INSTITUTION.

Thousands of Soldiers Have Found a Home Influence in the Big Red Building on Princess Street—F. J. Wilson is Master of the Mansion.

No more spontaneous endorsement of the splendid work of the Y. M. C. A. has been given in Canada than the contribution of over \$4,000,000 to the Red Triangle fund recently when the objective aimed at was only \$2,225,000. It was a practical testimony of the appreciation of the Canadian people for the interest that the Red Triangle organizations at the battle-fronts have taken in the sons of Canada who have gone forth to fight the battles for the Empire and Humanity.

In press and pulp the deeds of the Y. M. C. A. workers in the dug-outs near the front line, in the rest camps, and in the hospitals were recounted, and the story of the heroism of these men, who have gone forth to fight the battles for the Empire and Humanity, was an inspiration to those in quieter walks of life. The devotion to their task of caring for some lonely Canadian lad, and their efforts to bring a home influence to him have been emulated in many other ways.

In the less conspicuous sphere of duty the Y. M. C. A. in Canada has looked after the soldiers since the beginning of the war, and in every city and town where there is a branch of the association the soldiers regard it as their social centre.

F. J. Wilson, general secretary of the local Y. M. C. A., and master of the big red mansion on Princess street, was seen in his office recently, and in his quiet and unassuming way he told of the wonderful work that had been accomplished in Kingston. It was a marvellous story, and citizens have probably no idea of what has been done for the soldiers.

Like every other institution, the Y. M. C. A. has been affected by the war. Being an association primarily for the young man, the demands of war withdrew from active membership many thousands of the best-spirited men in the Dominion. Higher and thither the call of war urged them, but whether in their home town or at the other side of the Dominion or across the sea, the uniform of the King was a badge of welcome at the Y. M. C. A.

With the enlistment increasing daily and with the entrance into Kingston which is the headquarters of Military District No. 3, of hundreds and thousands of men from the surrounding country, the Y. M. C. A. felt that something must be done for the boys who were away from home. Invitations were extended to battalion commanders to have the men in their charge make use of the Y. M. C. A., and, as a result, almost since the beginning of the war the institution has extended comradeship and enjoyment to the soldiers.

A visit on almost any evening would show scores of soldiers spending their spare hours in the spacious rooms. Writing rooms were set aside and little jogs to the memory that there were loved ones at home waiting patiently for a letter from the boy who had gone away from home. "Have you written to mother to-day?" or "How about a letter for home?" or some other such inscription met the eye of the soldier as he entered the room. The Y. M. C. A. knew that some boys when they had left home seldom thought to write a few lines. The people left behind were not forgotten, but for many a young man the writing of a letter was incomparable in difficulty and tediousness to the hard day's drill in the boiling sun. Nevertheless, the little signs that were placed in the room brought to mind the familiar face of mother or dad or the little sister who were so proud of the absent member of the household, and a short letter to the folks was usually the result.

Paper and ink were supplied gratis to the soldiers, and it is a noteworthy fact that during the year 1917 over 28,000 sheets of paper and 18,000 envelopes were supplied to the soldiers in the Y. M. C. A. rooms. Nor was it an extraordinary year, for during the summer when there were eleven thousand troops at Barrieffield, the quantity of writing paper and envelopes supplied was huge. The Y. M. C. A. also acted as a distributing centre for the soldiers' mail, and thousands of letters have been forwarded from the Y. M. C. A. to their own friends.

The privileges of the "Y" were

## MADE IN CANADA



open to all soldiers, and a pleasant game of billiards in stimulating environment or dominoes or checkers were favorite pastimes of the khaki boys. There was a constant demand for checkers during the evening, and some strenuous games were recorded. The plunge was freely used by the soldiers, and it proved a boon to the lads as they came from the camp or from the barracks. As many as 12,000 men were accommodated during one year. The men came individually or in groups, and even parades under an officer were not infrequent occurrences. Soap and towels were supplied at a merely nominal sum, and the appreciation of this privilege of the baths has been unbounded. And so it happened that while the boys who were preparing to do their bit were taking advantage of the privileges of the Y. M. C. A., others who had been to the battlefront were returning. They had seen the splendid work of the Red Triangle across the seas, and on their return they naturally turned to the Y. M. C. A. At every port of debarkation the Y. M. C. A. has an officer, and each returning soldier is given a ticket which he can present to the general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. where he is located. This introduces him to the secretary, and he is granted a ticket giving him privileges in the institution for six months.

At the local Y. M. C. A. hundreds of returned soldiers have presented their cards and have partaken of the advantages offered to them. Any service in the power of the officials has been rendered, even to the checking of parcels and valuables. Mr. Wilson stated that while the soldiers were in the baths they usually left their money and watches and other precious possessions at the office. Thousands of dollars worth of rings and rings and watches, as well as money, have been checked, and since the beginning of the war not five cents has been lost or mislaid.

Of recent months, with the scarcity of hotel accommodation, large numbers of soldiers have been coming to the "Y" in the hope that dormitories are located there. There is a great need for dormitories where men can secure lodgings at a moderate rate, and it is the fond dream of the officials that some day sleeping apartments will be erected. In spite of this deficiency, however, the officers at the Y. M. C. A. have been doing all that is possible for the soldiers. Lodgings have been secured for the men through the aid of the officials, although Mr. Wilson stated that there was a surprising lack of houses where accommodation for transient visitors could be secured.

That the efforts of the association have been appreciated is evinced by many appreciative remarks that have been made and by letters that have been written from men in France. Mr. Wilson is an enthusiastic worker for the association, and is held in high esteem by the large numbers of citizens with whom he comes in contact. Always he retains the respect of the young men, although there is no happier comrade in the association. He has kept the association in excellent condition, and has the entire confidence of the Board of Directors. Tireless in his efforts, he has introduced many new ideas into the activities of the association, and has increased the membership of the "Y."

With the soldiers he is a great favorite, and they have been at all times welcome visitors to the institution.

Mr. Wilson is ably assisted by Samuel Liffley, who has been boys' work secretary for several years. Both have labored strenuously for the success of the institution, and that they have been successful is shown by the interest that is felt by the men in the city in the welfare of the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Wilson has pronounced views on the future of the association as a whole, and his observations have come largely as a result of conversations with returned soldiers, who in the course of heart to heart talks have shown that they have brought back a certain feeling from the front which is common to their comrades.

The narrow sectarianism which has sometimes embittered and antagonized the workers in the same cause—the preaching of the gospel of Christianity to every one—is to be modified. The thousands of men who have faced death in No Man's Land come back with a certain realization that above all there is a Great Being to whom they may turn for succor when in distress. In the consciousness of a Providential Being that holds their lives in His hands. The men who have never uttered a prayer before call upon the unseen Master for strength and comfort in the moments of danger, and they invoke the aid of the Almighty. Such men do not recognize the narrowness of a sectarian creed, but the universal omnipotence of a loving Father.

At the front the Y. M. C. A. acts as the church for the soldiers, and naturally enough the same spirit prevails. Men of all creeds partake of the same benefits, and a discernible community of feeling develops through the Y. M. C. A., which is carried from the battlefront to the homes in Canada. The sense of God as the Father and all men as brothers is more deeply grafted into the souls of many soldiers than might be considered probable, and the Y. M. C. A. has fostered this altruistic spirit throughout.

Roman Catholicism and Protestantism to many are no longer incompatible, but both are parts of the greater religion that either—the religion arising from the consciousness of the divine in the soul of man.

The diversity of creed may pass away, but the universality of divine sentiment is certain to remain long after the guns have ceased to roar and the soldiers have returned to their homeland.

Just as the Y. M. C. A. has been the religious centre at the front, so at home there is every reason to believe that men who never entered a church before enlistment will turn to it as their church. And it will not be found wanting. In the future, as at present, the Y. M. C. A. will continue to render all possible assistance to those who have borne the hardship of service and who answered the call of duty in the pressing hours of their Empire's need.

Nor will the Y. M. C. A. act as a competitor of the churches. Since its inauguration the association has been rather an auxiliary of the church, and it will endeavor to link up the men who come to it to some Christian body. Nevertheless, though the church may be the man's Sunday home, the Y. M. C. A. will be his everyday home, and there he will always find an uplifting atmosphere, where in the quiet of the evening the men may gather and re-tell the old tales of the wonderful days in the service of King and country.

## The Best Medicine For Little Ones

There is no medicine for little ones to equal Baby's Own Tablets. The Tablets are a mild but thorough laxative; pleasant to take; do not grip, and never fail to relieve the little one of constipation, indigestion, colic, or any of the other minor ailments. Concerning them, Mrs. Jos. Mousserolle, Red River Ridge, N.B., writes: "I believe Baby's Own Tablets are the finest medicine for little ones I have ever used. From my own experience I would recommend every mother to keep a box on hand." The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## The Man on Watch

So judges have to be paid bonuses to keep them out of temptation. The rest of us have to keep out of it without being bonused.

How does that Montreal judge arrive at the conclusion that boxing is not a useful occupation? He must admit that at any rate boxing is a useful art.

Talking about wills, the Lampan is led to remark that in some cases it is better not to make a will as the law provides for the fair distribution of estates, and the next of kin cannot feel hurt as all are treated alike by the absence of a last testament.

The Portsmouth Philosopher when asked what the Sinn Féiners were fighting for replied that they did not know themselves, but they would not be satisfied until they got it.

Would those Sinn Féin traitors have had any ground for a klick if they had been sent to sea by themselves and been the target for a torpedo from a submarine of their friends the enemy?

A recent episode shows that dogs are just as uncontrollable in the backyard as on the street.

Late events have shown that references are needed as much in writing a house as in engaging a domestic.

Al. Newman will have to carry

## Children's Shoes

THE buying of children's shoes is a difficult problem for parents these days. We believe you will want to know some of the important facts that we can tell you on this subject. So far as your own boots and shoes are concerned—that is, shoes for men and women—you know that advanced prices are necessary. This situation has been accepted as inevitable.



But when it comes to paying advanced prices for children's shoes, some parents are apt to regard that as a different matter.

As a matter of fact, while there is less material in a child's shoe than in an adult's, they cost almost as much to make. A boy's shoe costs as much today as did his father's a few years ago. And this is a condition which it is not possible to avoid.

Efforts to buy shoes for children at low prices because they are children's shoes, are not practical. Suppose you were to demand children's shoes from your dealer at the prices current two years ago; he in turn would exert pressure on the manufacturer to supply a cheaper shoe, one which he could sell for less money than conditions make possible. The result would be most unsatisfactory, because to cheapen a shoe beyond a certain point, just in order to meet an impossible price, is wasteful. Such a shoe cannot give the wear it should.

Make it a point to buy good shoes for your children—shoes of sterling quality, and be assured that a good shoe cannot be made except at a reasonable price, everything considered.

We make thousands of pairs of children's shoes a year. They are made in a factory where extreme care is taken in the selection of materials, where the grade of workmanship is high, and under manufacturing conditions of the greatest efficiency and economy.

In Ames Holden McCready shoes you get full value, and it is not possible to get the same value for less money.

The next time you have occasion to buy children's shoes, ask your dealer to show you shoes branded A.H.M. Perhaps your children are wearing these shoes now—but the next time, as a matter of value and economy, look for the A.H.M. stamped on the sole.

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Simply get an ounce of Othine—double strength—from any druggist and a few applications should show you how easy it is to rid yourself of the homely freckles and get a beautiful complexion. Rarely is more than one ounce needed for the worst case.

Be sure to ask the druggist for the double strength Othine—as this strength is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.

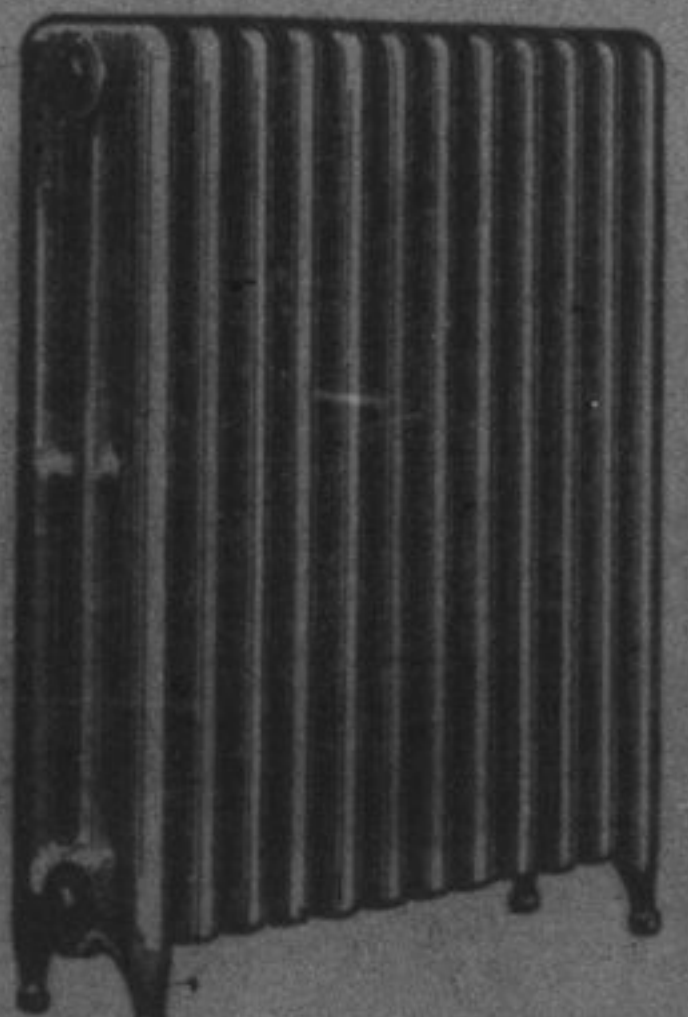
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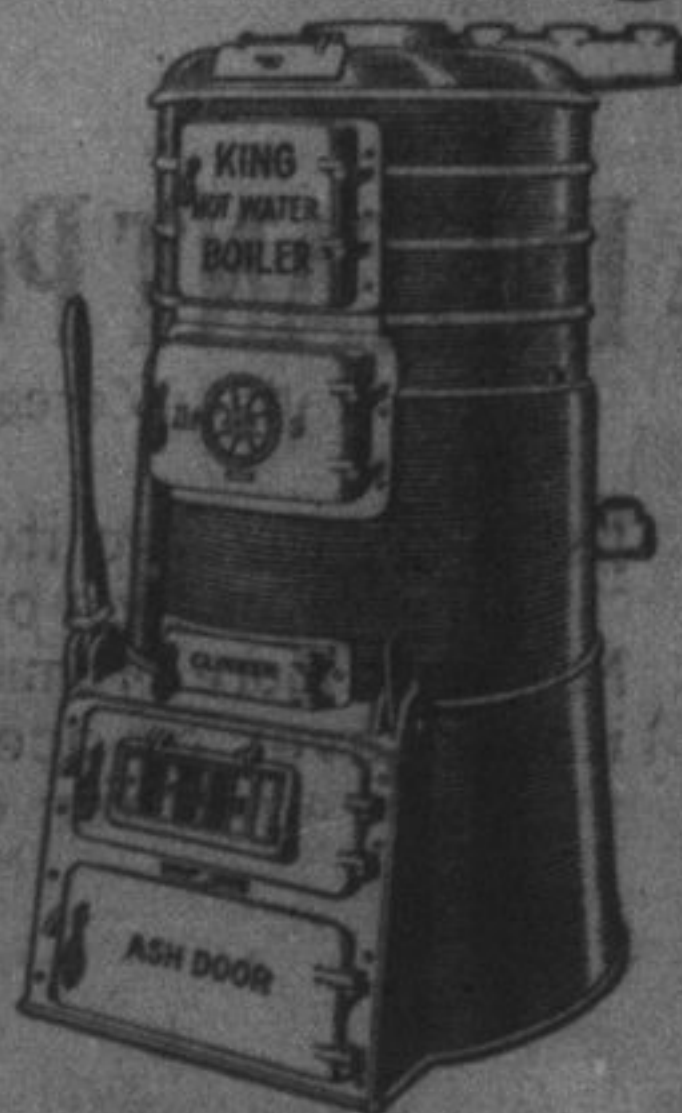
There are fourteen constructive advantages in the King Boiler, and Imperial Radiators have an exceptional capacity for throwing off heat quickly, uniformly and steadily, maintaining an even temperature even in the severest weather. We shall be glad to give particulars of a King Hot Water Heating System suited to your requirements if you favor us with an enquiry.

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