

centimes (one cent); moreover, the profits realized at the end of the month are sufficient to organize petty concerts, entertainments for the benefit of the soldiers, to give them a pass-book of "La Caisse Nationale de retraite pour la vieillesse" (old age pension fund). On this subject, an officer explains the working of that national old age pension fund that a great many French citizens are not cognizant of, it is sad to have to say so. They have done better still. With these savings, funds are sent to the wives of married soldiers.

'I am in favour of this co-operative principle for another reason that I will briefly point out. We have stated that we wanted to educate, from a social point of view, the citizen while in barracks. Well, then, co-operation is one of the best means to give that social education. It is thus that we shall train the working classes and that we shall get them ready to take their legitimate share in the economic administration.'

The other communication has been made by a superior officer, Commandant Grat-tau, at the last general meeting of the National Anti-Alcoholic League.

'We have made,' says this officer, 'at Fontainebleau, at the Lariboisière barracks, a conclusive experiment which can be applied to all the French army whenever the minister desires.

'We have opened in connection with our reading and writing rooms, a special room where a soldier while resting after his labour, can get, at the rate of two cents, a cup of coffee, tea or chocolate and in summer, cool beer.

'All beverages consumed are of the first quality and are most carefully prepared before being served.

'At the end of 1904 the results were as follows:—

	Francs.
Gross receipts.	3,690 15
Expenses.	2,820 15
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Net profits.	870 05

'At the close of October, 1906, we had as a general result:—

	Francs.
Gross receipts.	28,472 20
Expenses.	21,648 37
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Net profits.	6,823 83

'What have we done with these profits?

'We divided them into six items:—

	Francs.
Manager (a soldier selected by his companions, receiving fr. 0·35 per day and 5 per cent of the profits).	781 32
Improvements to the library.	457 15
Providentfund for the benefit of all the men in the battery	356 25
Entertainments given in the room.	566 25
Retiring fund (each man having his own pass-book).	2,980 50
Improvement and rest fund.	1,682 36
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	6,823 83

'As a result of the opening of such a room, we have had the pleasure of witnessing a total absence of serious punishments, not one court martial was held, not one case of disciplinary court, almost no more confinement to jail or barracks.

'Our gunners rarely leave the barracks; they are contented to stay in, enjoying the home-life there.