

children who are still living in these centres. Add to the huge family of 73,000 civilians the thousands of fighting troops that make up the Corps, and it can be readily appreciated that to meet the combined needs of both presents a problem that is one of the biggest the Canadian authorities in the field have had to face in their long experience in France. Yet it is being handled smoothly and satisfactorily to all concerned.

DENAIN.

In the large town of Denain there were over 20,000 civilians to greet the Canadians when they entered the place on the heels of the retreating Germans, who greeted our men with indescribable enthusiasm. They were told by the enemy that if they displayed flags or any signs of rejoicing the town would be bombed, but the French people knew differently, and when the infantry swarmed into the town at one end as the Boche galloped out of the other, flags of the Allies appeared as if by magic.

As soon as the occupation of Denain had been definitely established, a well-known French Canadian officer was sent forward as the Town Commandant. Earlier in the war this officer was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French authorities for gallantry in the field, and when the civilians saw the ribbon of this honour on his tunic and found that he was a French Canadian, he was given a welcome and reception that could not have been more demonstrative or sincere to the President of the French Republic or the King of the British Empire. The men shook his hands until his arm ached and the women kissed him in the most liberal and unabashed manner. He is now regarded by them as a kind of President or King. His word is law, and his instructions are obeyed with a cheerful willingness.

The inhabitants say that, had it not been for the supplies sent by the American Relief Committee, they would have fared very badly. Many of them were cast into the big prison in the town for the slightest offence, and some were found there by our men and, of course, quickly released.