



THE RED TRIANGLE



FAREWELL TO THE HIGHLANDS.

A respected elder of a Scottish Church said that if the Canadians did not depart soon there would not be a tree nor a lassie left in Strathspey.

The incident was quoted by Major J. A. Calder at a farewell celebration of his Forestry Company who are about to sail for home after, for two and a half years, making the Strathspey district resound with their axes.

This Company, the 110th, was largely recruited in Edmonton, where Major Calder, its C.O., was a well-known alderman. It has helped to win the war by taking 9,845,596 superficial feet of lumber and 921,197 lineal feet of pitwood off the heather-clad hills of the Northern Highlanders of Invernesshire, while occupying two camps at the Sluggan Pass and at Nethy Bridge. Around them, not quite so thickly as the distilleries but much more active in war-time, were other Forestry Companies of Canadians, for the pines, as well as the men of Scotland, have done their part.

While clearing the slopes of their larger growth or picking them out one by one from the glens of the Countess of Seafield's enormous estate, the foresters have found time to make hosts of friends with, in a measure, the result mentioned by Major Calder above.

On the eve of striking camp the farewell celebration, in the form of a concert, supper and dance, was organized. In the company of over 500 the "best friends" from all parts of the Strath more than outnumbered their Canadian hosts. All the appointments, including the decoration of the banquet hall with Scots fir and flags, and with a picturesque arrangement of peavies, axes and cross cut saws to crown all, were exceedingly well carried out. To Sergeant Low, the Canadian Y.M.C.A. representative at Nethy Bridge, had been entrusted the organizing of the entertainment programme held in the Y hut. The Fitzgerald Concert Party of four London artistes, which he secured through the Programme Department of the Y.M.C.A., delighted the audience. In addition he arranged for a cinema show, which occupied the attention of the foresters and their guests while supper was being served to relays of 150.

Major Calder, as Chairman and chief host, warmly thanked the people of the district for their exceedingly kind treatment of the men of his Company. Few of the men had failed to find a home from home in that countryside.

Responding, and referring to the stay of the Canadians in the heart of the Grant clan's domains, Major Ian Grant, M.C., son of the laird, was kind enough to say that the Forestry Corps had become part and parcel of the countryside. "Go into every house," said Major Grant, "and you will find a Canadian seated at the fireside. If the people of the glen have been able to return even in a small degree the generous hospitality which the Scottish race has found in Canada, they feel that they have but done the right thing."

Captain Harrison, Chaplain, Sergeant-Major Jackson, Pte. Kettle, and others, also spoke.

The Y.M.C.A. hut at Lethybridge has afforded the usual recreation, canteen and

entertaining facilities. Bi-weekly concerts have been held alternating with cinema shows. Athletic goods were supplied to the soldier-lumbermen. The Y.M.C.A. representative has contributed in so many ways to the welfare of the men that the "Strathspey Herald," in reporting the celebration, was led to say: "Life has not been so dull and unprofitable as those unacquainted with the camp might have imagined. When the day's work was done the Y.M.C.A. recreation room was always invitingly open."

Y.M.C.A. UNDER FIRE.

The fallacy that may have prevailed in some minds early in the war that Y.M.C.A. work with the soldiers was a soft job, a funk hole, and all the other kind of things associated with war work only pleasantly connected with war, has pretty well disappeared by this time from even the most critical mind. It never was long entertained by the Canadian soldiers, who experienced the dangers and woes of the front line.

Many a time the Y dugout was right up to the verge of No Man's Land—absolutely the only facility ever offered the Canadian soldier within reach of the guns. Many a Y dugout has been blown in exactly under the same conditions as menaced the fighting units. More than a few dugouts were accessible only by night, and the supplies had to be carried up in the darkness under the protection of the trenches.

The record of casualties among Y.M.C.A. workers for 1918 alone is eighteen, of whom two were killed, two died, seven were wounded and seven gassed. In six of the ten war months of the year the Y appeared on the casualty lists, some of them at times when no heavy fighting was in progress, but the proximity of the Y service to the front lines exposed them to the continual menace of the shelling and gas.

The killed were Pte. R. P. Heaslip, one of the regular Y personnel, on June 6th; and Gunner H. S. Bridgett, on the last day of September, while attached to the Y. Two privates were gassed on the 20th of February, and four privates and one officer on the 7th of September.

Some loss of goods was occasioned by shelling, but the benefit of the canteens and free drink places so close to the front more than counter-balanced the danger and damage. That the casualties were not much higher was due to extreme good fortune, for the officers and men were always at work close up during the big fights of the year, exposed to shell, bullet, and bombing. Carefully concealed as were the Y centres, it was sometimes impossible to keep them from the eye of German posts and balloons—with the result that the congregation of troops always about a Y dugout or hut drew fire when discovered.

It is the memory of those "close up" services that has done more than anything else to cement the friendship existing between the non-combatant Y.M.C.A. and the fighting soldier.

"Sponger says he is always happy when he is smoking a good cigar." "The trouble is he expects his friends to contribute too much to his happiness."

ROYALTY VISITS BEAVER HUT.

On Friday afternoon the beautiful Queen of Rumania paid a visit to the Beaver Hut where a complete inspection was made of the building and its various operations. The Hut was, as usual, packed with Canadians, so that it was somewhat difficult for Her Majesty to find a passage, though the boys crowded back against the walls in order to leave the way clear. She was received upon arrival by Captain McKellar, head of the Hut, Captain Rean, in charge of the London Area, Lady Perley, Miss FitzRandolph and other lady workers at the Hut. Visits were paid to the dining room where the boys were lined up according to the cafeteria system, many already dining at the tables. In the kitchens and dining room Her Majesty remarked on the quantity of food and its cleanly preparation, commenting on the difference in Rumania during the war. In the billiard room several minutes were spent conversing with a group of English women who were planning special relief work in Rumania and in admiring the artistic appearance of the room with its four large tables and interested players. The dormitory containing 160 beds attracted her for quite a time. Its immaculate cleanliness, the bright colour of the chintz coverings and the large grate induced Her Majesty to express her conviction that the boys must be delighted to sleep there. The facilities offered by the Little Theatre appealed to Her Majesty immediately.

As she left the building three lusty Canadian cheers with a tiger were given, Her Majesty bowing her thanks radiantly through the car window.

SINGING DID IT.

An interesting anecdote of music in the field was recently told in a lecture by Capt. Boillot, of the French Army. On one occasion the men of his company had to make up a lost ten minutes. He got them singing one of the nonsensical, cumulative songs of which they—like our own Tommies—are so fond, and knowing that if they relapsed into silence the increased pace necessary to cover the extra kilometre would not be maintained, promised some relaxation for the next day if only they would keep on singing all the way. Tired as they were, the sturdy poilus trudged along to the sound of their own voices, and at last reached their destination exactly to time.

CATEGORIZATION.

Athletic, young, and free from ill,

He held himself with pride,

And was not satisfied until

He passed out classified—

A. 1.

He met a maid, a dainty miss,

And started straight to woo,

On bended knee he claimed a kiss,

And said, "Though we be two,

B. 1."

They're wedded, happily, they say,

And so my story's through,

But if you meet them any day,

I'll guarantee that you

C. 3.

TROOPS TO DISEMBARK AT QUEBEC.

As soon as navigation on the St. Lawrence is opened, Quebec, it is said, will be made the national disembarking port for troops to be returned in the summer months.

Only troops destined for the East will be sent to Halifax and St. John. The greater portion will be sent to Quebec, where it is possible to handle 50,000 each week.