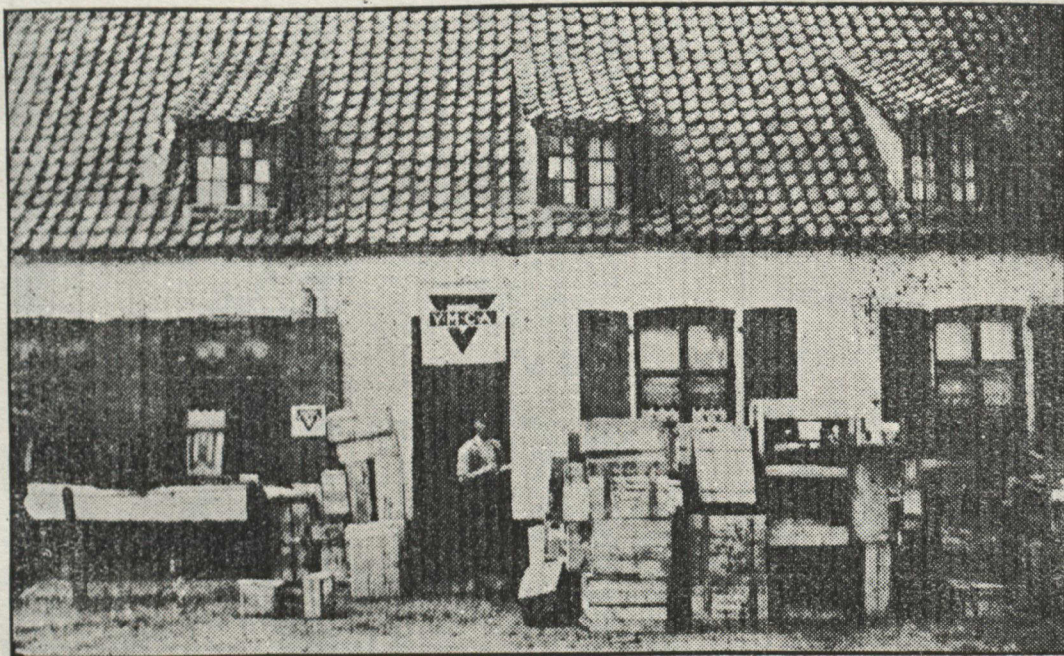


The Y.M.C.A. and the War

In those now far-distant pre-war days when the Y. M. C. A. was not too well known by the General Public, there was an impression abroad amongst virile full-blooded men that the Organization possibly had a place in the community to cater to the needs of those male citizens who delighted in the thrills to be derived from a game of tiddlewinks, or a tea party, served by the Ladies Aid Society of some Church, and devoured, free of charge, by the patrons of the institution; but, for a real man, delighting in those muscular con-

parties on being thrown together have found that they have much in common, and that each can lean a little more closely towards the other to their mutual advantage. There is on the one hand no lawful activity participated in by mankind which need be outside the pale of the Y. M. C. A., nor on the other hand, any law abiding citizen who should be debarred from the Association's privileges.

If there has been any organization since the Creation into which strong men of all ranks and conditions of life have been drawn, that



Original Canadian Y.M.C.A. Headquarters near Bailleul, France.
 Captain H. A. Pearson, Area Military Secretary for Alberta and British Columbia
 was in charge.

tests which call for the last ounce of strength and endurance and then go as far again on nerve; Well! Guess again!

"Guess again" is right. In the pre-war days the Y. M. C. A. in its estimate of the average man who swore and indulged in many of the minor, and some of the major evils to which the full-blooded male of the species is prone to give way, was doubtless as far wrong as was his estimate of the Y. M. C. A.

But the war has changed all this, and both

Organization has surely been the Army: Yet the Young Men's Christian Association has fitted into the army life as no other similar organization could have done. Starting with the men in the home camps, accompanying them on troop trains, conducting them across the ocean, with them in the base camps and training centres in England, it followed the army from the base in France or Salonika, Dardanelles, Mesopotamia or Egypt or the far East right up to the firing-line. Nor has it