



## "C. D. D."

By FRED. C. SALTER.



A short time ago I heard some one talking about the C.D.D. at Buxton, and I asked what the letters stood for.

"The Canadian Discharge Depot" was the reply.

Immediately the cruel meaning of the word "discharge" flashed through my mind. I recalled the way in which the authorities of the European nations, including those of the Motherland, had treated their ex-soldiers in the past; how the fear of unemployment and the spectre of famine haunted the lives and the homes of these men, eating into their minds and destroying the very spirit of bravery which had made them willing to offer even their lives in defence of Freedom.

I reflected that the Workhouse had been the reward from the Nation in the past for thousands of our heroes, while glorified titles and pensions had been given to a few.

Such thoughts led me on to consider my own countrymen. Would Canada fail to do her part for those men who had fought for her? What would be Canada's first step toward helping to bring these men again into the field of construction away from the fields of destruction, I wondered.

So I took a train for Buxton. Conflicting reports had reached me concerning Canada's policy on behalf of her soldiers. I wanted to see and to know for myself.

The Buxton C.D.D. receives only the soldiers having dependents. Buxton is one of the great health resorts and is known as the "Switzerland of England." It is a pretty town lying in a valley. It has curving streets with buildings of gray stone taken from the hills of Derbyshire which surround the town. The district is rich in minerals, for the old Roman mines still yield ore. The fields on the hillsides and the moors look like checkerboards. They are divided by stone fences, the stones having been picked up hundreds of years ago so that the ground might be made fit for grazing. These fields are a perpetual green, although, on the first day of my visit there were little drifts of snow behind the fences on the north side. It was early in March, and Spring was just showing herself here and there in the southern exposures where little flowers were trying to open their petals to the sun, and the early spring birds were singing.

This was the scene on a Sunday morning. In the distance I heard the music of a band. A column of soldiers were marching to the Hippodrome Theatre for morning service—the only building large enough to hold them. The Canadian soldiers nearly filled it, leaving little room for civilians.

### Simple and Plain.

"All people that on earth do dwell," sang the soldiers, accompanied by the band. Then there were prayer and the lessons for the day, and the Chaplain, Captain Bruce Hunter, of Toronto, took for his text, "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

It was a simple sermon of plain words, to be understood by plain men, showing the fervour of a deep thinker, an honest leader, and every man in the audience heard and understood. The preacher fitted his text to every day ideals to guide men's lives, to prepare them for the new Canada. He spoke of the moral force that was greater than physical; he told them that true words cut deeper than the sword. Let their thoughts

be true; let them return home determined to be "on active service" in the field of industry as they had been in the field of war.

I could see that the soldiers were deeply affected. Their stillness and attention proved that. I studied their faces and noted the interest those faces showed. Never had I attended a Military Church Service where the audience seemed so to grasp the purpose of their leader. In their change of life, he asked the men to evidence their good intent by rendering help to their fellows in distress through sickness or family troubles and to show this in a collection to be taken up. Buttons and matches he had plenty but in pounds and pennies he was short. His appeal brought \$50. Then in heartiness the men sang "Rock of ages, cleft for me."

Then they stood at attention while the Band played the air of the British National Anthem, and afterwards the whole audience broke out in the song, led by the band, "O Canada, my native Land."

### Who's Who.

If the spirit of that song as sung that morning speaks of the spirit of the men of Canada for the future, all is well. That spirit must be a power for good.

Then to the C.D.D. I followed the troops. I wanted to learn the procedure of discharge. At the Headquarters I met the Father, or Organizer, of the human spirit of the Depot, Colonel Paul R. Hanson, whose example and leadership is felt throughout the whole organization. Captain Hunter is but one expression of it. His personality influences all the officers, men and new-comers. Let me describe the system of work as I followed it for several days.

Those soldiers having dependents arrive from the various camps in England. They are billeted in large comfortable buildings and huts; are well fed and supplied with comforts. As soon as possible after arrival they appear in groups before the Commanding Officer, Colonel Hanson. He gives them fatherly advice as to the object of the Discharge Depot and what is required of the men. Although a military atmosphere necessarily pervades the Organization, yet running through it is the first break towards the civilian side of construction life and greater liberty. He tells these men they are crossing the border line from military to civilian life, from the occupation of destruction to that of construction; that Canada has but one purpose, which is to do her part for the returned soldier, who must also remember his part toward Canada is that of a "sovereign" citizen with power to act. He lays down simple rules for their guidance while arrangements are being made for their embarkation.

The Colonel's outstanding instruction is "Play the game fairly." He shows the men that rules are for their own protection. He illustrates this point by saying:—

"A saloon that sold 4d. beer for 8d. on Armistice Day robbed the men, and such saloons are put out of bounds and will remain out of bounds for the men's protection." Then Captain Hunter, the "Father Confessor" of the men, asks them to come to him in any trouble, let it be military, social or personal. He arranges picture shows, sports, interesting talks from the members of the staff on social and industrial subjects about Canada; suggestions that may quiet restless

minds and help the men to return to civilian life with some object and purpose ahead.

This social work is carried on in all the departments until the day allotted for the men's return home. Let me tell you a few instances about the "Father Confessor's" work:

A soldier comes in. He has a British relation, very ill. His case is made clear, and without further delay, money is given to him or the assistance required, with permission to go, and privilege ticket to his destination, subject to certain military rules.

A soldier's young wife is being kept from joining her husband by some Canadian relation—perhaps a mother-in-law. The case is thoroughly investigated, the girl's position made clear, and it has been my privilege to see tears of distress vanish and the sunshine of hopefulness return under the just ruling of the Colonel and Chaplain. Again, a little quarrel in domestic life of a newly married couple, the foolishness of it all shown, and the parties start off happy toward Canada.

### DISPERSAL AREAS, FIRST DIVISION.

The undernoted dispersal stations and areas have been arranged for the demobilisation of the 1st Canadian Division which will leave England shortly.

UNIT.	DISPERSAL AREA.	DISPERSAL STATION.
<b>1st Can. Inf. Bde.</b>		
1st Battalion .....	"K"	London
2nd Battalion .....	"N"	Kingston
3rd Battalion .....	"I"	Toronto
4th Battalion .....	"I"	Toronto
<b>2nd Can. Inf. Bde.</b>		
5th Battalion .....	"O"	Regina
7th Battalion .....	"T"	Vancouver
8th Battalion .....	"M"	Winnipeg
10th Battalion .....	"R"	Calgary
<b>3rd Can. Inf. Bde.</b>		
13th Battalion .....	"F"	Montreal
14th Battalion .....	"F"	Montreal
15th Battalion .....	"I"	Toronto
16th Battalion .....	"M"	Winnipeg
<b>1st Bde. C.F.A.</b>		
1st Battery .....	"G"	Ottawa
2nd Battery .....	"G"	Ottawa
3rd Battery .....	"H"	Kingston
4th Battery .....	"H"	Kingston
<b>2nd Bde. C.F.A.</b>		
5th Battery .....	"F"	Montreal
6th Battery .....	"B"	Halifax
7th Battery .....	"F"	Montreal
48th Battery .....	"T"	Vancouver
No. 1-2-3- Sec., 1st Div.		
Amm. Col. ....	"I"	Toronto
1st Engineer Battalion	"M"	Winnipeg
2nd Engineer Battalion	"M"	Winnipeg
3rd Engineer Battalion	"M"	Winnipeg
1st Div. Signal Co. ....	"I"	Toronto
1st Machine Gun Batt.	"I"	Toronto
No. 1 Field Ambulance	"H"	Kingston
No. 2 Field Ambulance	"K"	London
No. 3 Field Ambulance	"M"	Winnipeg
1st Divisional Train	"I"	Toronto
1st Can. Div. M.T. Co.	"I"	Toronto

### FROM TRENCH TO TYPE SETTING.

Ontario has a very comprehensive system of re-training soldiers who are suffering from disabilities which prevent them following their old trades. The whole educational system of the province, and many leading manufacturers, are co-operating with the Government in this work, and there are no fewer than 65 courses of practical trade instruction available for disabled men. The trades taught include linotype and monotype operating, carpentry, motor driving, watch repairing, telegraphy, typewriting and shorthand, poultry farming and bee keeping