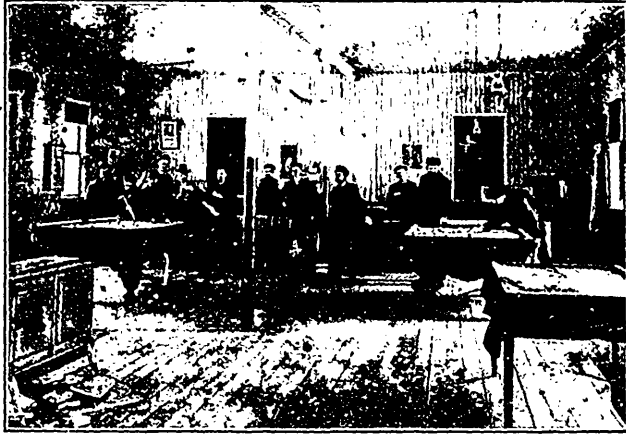


CAMP EDUCATION EXTENSION.

BY ALFRED FITZPATRICK,

General Secretary, Canadian Reading Camp Association, Ontario.



INTERIOR LOVELAND AND STONE'S CLUB-HOUSE, CUTLER, ONT.



THE problem of improving the condition of the semi-nomadic laborers who live in more or less temporary lumbering, mining and railway construction camps is mainly educational. The majority of these men are comparatively illiterate, while thirty-five per cent. are unable to recognize their own name in any language.

The causes of this illiteracy are, first, the foreign element, and secondly, the fact that this class of laborers is recruited chiefly from the newer settlements. The public school is usually late in reaching these communities, and when it does the average young man is often unable to avail himself of it. The combined efforts of the family are usually needed to make ends meet in a new country.

Education should not and need not be confined within the school walls. The average boy leaves the public school from the third reader. There is no reason why his education should end there; nor is there any reason why those who are wholly illiterate should not receive an education in the woods and mines in even the farthest confines of the earth. Literature will stand transportation as well as pork and beans, an instructor is as available and portable a person as a cook, and a reading shanty or tent is as easily run up as a cook-camp or bunk-house.

The practicability of manual laborers in the older settlements and towns acquiring an education or improving what they have in spare moments has often been demonstrated. Hugh Miller, in the quarries of Scotland, and Alexander McKenzie, on the Martello towers near Kingston,