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BROADENED BY WAR.

The Experiences of the Young Canadian Tommies.

And it is not only the so-called "vocational" education that interests and holds the men of the army. It was reported a couple of months ago not only that the attendance upon the lectures, which deal with philosophical and historical topics, was increasing, but that the quality of lecture demanded by the men was much higher than that which was quite satisfactory in the early days of the war. The soldiers are constantly more earnest in their information about the war, about the country in which they are fighting, about the history and ideals of the Allies, and about the future of our own country. As they become more accustomed to army life and the conditions of the war, they demand a more searching kind of treatment and become more critical. It is quite useless to put before them a lecturer who is merely entertaining or, in the less fortunate sense of the word, merely inspirational.

Bill, in short, is going to bring back from "over there" not only trained hands, but a trained mind. He would be a mighty stupid Bill, indeed, if he didn't come back with a more active imagination and a broader vision than when he first appeared before the draft board, even if there had been no special attention paid to his technical and general education while in the army. The opportunity for mental expansion, which the war has brought to some thousands of young Canadians, cannot fail to have a lasting and beneficial effect on their whole future careers. Bill probably would have lived and died in his home town, knowing little and caring less about the people and countries beyond the range of his immediate daily concerns. But the Government put Bill on a train and sent him a thousand miles to a cantonment, and Bill began to get new ideas even before he donned a uniform. In camp he mixed with other young fellows from every part of the country; more new ideas and lots of them. After a while he took another long railroad trip, with a few thousand others like him, to the Atlantic seaboard; then he got on a ship and traveled three thousand miles across the ocean, landing in a country that he had known only as a blotch on the map, inhabited by people very much like his own folks at home and yet very different in their ways of living and doing things. At last he reached a billet somewhere in rural France. By this time Bill, in his point of view and ideas of the world and his relation to it, was quite a different person from the Bill who left his home in Nova Scotia or Ontario or Manitoba or British Columbia seven or eight months earlier.

Investigated Our Minerals.

Although the United States Department of the Interior has been working almost since the beginning of the war for an appropriation and authorization to assist in and stimulate the reduction of necessary minerals and metals, which by being produced at home would save precious ship tonnage for immediate war uses and make America independent of outside supplies, it was not until the last days of September that Congress finally passed and the President approved a bill for those purposes, carrying with it an appropriation of \$60,000,000 for capital and \$500,000 for administrative expenses. Congress did, however, early appropriate \$150,000 for the Bureau of Mines to use in making a survey of developmental possibilities and for co-operative work with private producers. With this small fund the bureau created an investigating corps of about fifty scientists, engineers, and helpers, supplemented by occasional co-operators. Directly or indirectly the mineral possibilities of the country were minutely examined from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Canada to Mexico. Investigations even included Canada and Cuba, and Alaska was not overlooked. As a result of this work and the natural response to high prices the spirit of adventure has been aroused prospectors have swarmed to the mountains and plains, and there has been an amazing increase in the production of some of the rare minerals essential in the manufacture of war materials, such as tungsten, molybdenum, mercury, magnesium and mesquite.—American Review of Reviews.

Prisoners in Germany.

The conclusion of an armistice between the Entente Allies and the Central Powers means the liberation of Canadians held as prisoners-of-war. In the neighborhood of 2,800 Canadian soldiers have been taken by the enemy since the outbreak of war. Of these a few have escaped, some have been repatriated by exchange, or have been interned in Switzerland, and some have died in captivity. The great majority of the 2,800, however, were in German prison camps; few, if any, are held by Austria.

School Lesson an Eye-opener.

In a Fort William school recently the little folk were required to write compositions on the old familiar, "How I Spent My Holiday," and one not naively but conscientiously wrote that she had not done much as she had a "sore throat and rash." The school nurse thereupon discovered that the youthful essayist was in a fine state of peeling after scarlet fever.

EAGERS

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