Pictures from Home

Maintain the Morale

As seen by the

RED CROSS

W. Frank Persons, director general of the Bureau of Civilian Relief, is just home from France and has a word to say about those letters from home.

"It is very important," he says, "to keep the home a Living Reality to those boys over there. Write your letters regularly and frequently, giving complete news.

"This serial story of home life should be illustrated with plenty of snapshots and pictures. News and frequent pictures of children are peculiarly important."

—From an interview published in the Lake Division News of the American Red Cross.

As seen by the

Y. M. C. A.

"There are two things the soldiers *always* carry with them; photographs of the 'home folks' and letters from the 'home folks.' The pictures, often with a small Testament, are always in that breast pocket over the heart."

—Charles W. Whittlehair, an active Y. M. C. A. worker in France, in the American Magazine.

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$118. We served refreshments in our rest room after a political meeting and netted $35. This we gave to the Red Cross to make our institute a life member. This year, the slogan is 'Save the Babies,' and we feel a step has been taken in the right direction when we provided a place for the comfort and convenience of the prairie mother and babe. The Red Cross and W.C.T.U. were invited to hold their monthly meetings. We are very proud of the rest room. The matron in charge has heat, light and rent free for her service, and we only wish, in every town, a place might be provided for the farm women."

Grain Growers' Building

The real thing of course is to have men and women interested in the same thing. Shaunavon men and women united and purchased a permanent building. But the women were at the bottom of the whole movement. Mrs. Lucktar, who is secretary of the Women's Section of the Grain Growers' Association, tells the story, "During the summer of 1916, very shortly after the formation of our Women's Section, in Shaunavon, the idea of taking some steps towards establishing a rest room for women was brought up in one of our meetings and a committee appointed, consisting of our president, secretary and one other member, to find out what suitable and available premises were obtainable in town and what the probable cost of securing such premises would be.

"Before entering into any financial obligations in connection with the scheme, the ladies sought the co-operation and support of the officers of the Local organization of the G.G.A., and they most heartily endorsed the idea and promised their support. At their suggestion, the Town Council was approached to see if they would consider a grant towards the support of such an institution. The Council admitted the great need there was for such provision in the town and also admitted their responsibility in regard to it. After many discussions and a considerable lapse of time, the Council voted a grant of $200 a year to the project, with the stipulation that the premises and the management must meet with their approval.

"Meanwhile, our general organization took a bold step and purchased property, vacated by the Canadian Bank of Commerce, in one of the busiest streets of the town and here with comparatively little expense, our rest room has been established, in what is known as the Grain Growers' Building. At the front is the business office of the association, with its own entrance. Behind that is the rest room, with its separate entrance, wash room, toilet, writing and reading room and even lunching facilities, well lighted and heated and nicely furnished.

"Two other rooms are occupied by the caretaker, who has her rooms rent free, in return for the service she renders in keeping the rooms.

"Although there still remains improvements and additions to be made, as for example, the opening of a Lending Library, we are proud of our achievement and glad to know that our effort is appreciated and is demonstrating one of our aims 'to be of service to our community.'"

An Up-to-the-Minute Room

Perhaps the most up-to-date and efficient rest room is that of Brandon. Brandon has the advantage of drawing from a large surrounding territory for its patronage, and of being in itself a large town. That Brandon needed a rest room there is no doubt. The rest room was opened on April 13, and sometime in July, it had had 3,800 visitors. During the first five weeks that the room was in operation the number of visitors reached 1,200. The largest attendance on any one day was 146, that is exclusive of the opening day when many hundreds attended. The idea originated with some of the Women Grain Growers. The sentiment among the farm women for a rest room grew like wild fire. The result was that the various farm women's clubs appointed representatives who were to serve on what has later been named the Brandon Rest Room Board. Their first meeting was held on February 15,

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'Twas Napoleon who said "The strength of an army lies in its feet."

The little corporal knew his army was of small use if it couldn't march; that unless the soldiers' feet were well shod in strong and comfortable boots, their effective strength was greatly reduced.

BE GOOD TO YOUR FEET

The same thing applies to the big army of folks living in Western Canada. Boots and shoes are mighty important, for this big army must keep on the march each day of the year, winter and summer, over fields, round stables, in the houses, to parties, to work, to play, to school, one foot following the other, and on each foot must be a boot, shoe or slipper.

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