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Y. M. C. A. At The Front

Capt. T. F. Best Graphically Describes Conditions in the Canadian Army.--Men Good and Brave

One of the most interesting and instructive lectures ever heard in Newcastle was that of Capt. T. F. Best of the Canadian Military Y. M. C. A., in St. James' Hall, last Thursday night. Capt. Best is a veteran of the South African war, and as soon as the present war broke out offered his services which were at once accepted. He recently returned from the front on a short furlough, which he employed speaking in the Maritime Provinces on Y. M. C. A. work with the army. He spoke in Chatham on the 5th, here on the 7th, on the 8th at Bathurst, and finished his five weeks' maritime tour at Campbellton on Sunday.

In St. James' Hall, Mayor Morrissey presided, and there was a good attendance. Mayor Morrissey made a brief but very pleasant address, complimenting the vigorous and successful work of the Red Cross and Women's Institute for the soldiers. Newcastle had done remarkably well. He also emphasized the supreme importance of having the war vigorously prosecuted. The soldiers at the front were defending our homes, and it was only because of the 400,000 Canadians in arms that we were enabled at home to go on about the same as usual. He bespoke an attentive hearing for the speaker of the evening.

Capt. T. F. Best said, in part: He was glad to get back to Canada from the front to bear witness to the heroic manner in which our boys there are defending the honor of their womanhood from the most barbaric invasion of history. The "Huns" hate the British most bitterly, and if they ever get into the British Islands or any of the colonies the atrocities they will commit will make those they have inflicted on Belgium, Serbia and France appear a mere bagatelle.

He hoped to soon see a live Y. M. C. A. in every town. It was the biggest thing making for righteousness. Young ladies' guilds, etc., are a great help in giving teas, receptions, etc., to the young men. The lives of boys, that mean so much for the morale, character and business ability of the town, are moulded for good in the Y. M. C. A. There should be Y. M. C. A.'s everywhere for the boys when they come home from the front, or some similar club, where they can find respectable and useful entertainment and opportunities for culture. The people of Newcastle had been cleaning up their town, closing the bars and getting after the dens in a most commendable way—cleaning the evil places where men get nothing but harm. But, when the bars, etc., have been closed up, what then? Are there anything in the way of clean clubs and clean entertainment to hold the young men? Have the citizens ever considered that phase of the question?

Four days before the beginning of this war the leaders of the Canadian Y. M. C. A. assembled at Couchiching, Ontario, to decide on the course to be pursued if war did break out. They laid their plans, and had everything ready the minute war was declared. The speaker and 77 other workers went to Valcartier Camp. At times there were 18 religious services a day at Valcartier; 94 base ball games a week, 2 free picture shows a week, much literature given out, etc., all of which had the best of influence.

When the camp closed as many Y. M. C. A. workers as were allowed went over with the troops, others followed as soon as possible, and the same work went in in England, and later in Belgium and France. At first the funds were small. The first year \$33,000 was spent; the second year \$412,000; and the third year's estimate is \$720,000. All places were helping liberally. Halifax was asked this year for \$20,000, and gave \$26,000; St. John for \$15,000 and gave \$22,000. Sydney thought that \$3,000 to \$5,000 would be its limit—it raised \$7,000. Charlottetown estimated \$2,000 to \$4,000—it raised \$5,500.

The Patriotic Fund must be supported, and the Red Cross, and Soldiers Comforts; but the Y. M. C. A. had also a claim. The Y. M. C. A. were found near the front trenches and in several places right in the front trenches dealing out hot coffee and refreshments right in the battle, spending \$700 a day. All soldiers have shell shock, and a cup of coffee refreshes and encourages them. The line is never quiet—always rifle, shell or machine gun fire. A trench mortar shell strikes the line—several men are wounded—their comrades take them back towards the dressing station. On the way they get hot coffee from the Y. M. C. A. and stagger onwards. Then they see a sign pointing to the Red Cross quarters, and finally reach a steel-tipped dug-out, where doctors and orderlies attend to them. They stay there till night, then the Red Cross ambulance takes them to the clearing station, where wonderful things are done, and they have female nurses.

The Y. M. C. A., Red Cross and Soldier's Comforts societies work together and complement each other. The Daughters of the Empire and kindred orders also are doing a grand work.

keep store, selling all sorts of things the soldiers need at rocketbottom prices. The soldiers, whose rations are always plentiful and good but yet necessarily lack variety, get change of food. There are gymnasia there. England has been cleaned out of sporting goods for the Y. M. C. A. camps, and New York is being drawn on to supply the demand. Fifty-three Y. M. C. A. huts give first class entertainments, all the performers being men. Every Wednesday and Sunday nights religious services are held. On Sundays the huts are used by all religious denominations—first, in the early morning, the Roman Catholics have Mass; then the Anglican Ministers take charge; then other Protestants in order. There is no sectarianism at the front—all the chaplains work in harmony. When he came home, said Capt. Best, and found political parties squabbling over differences that amounted to nothing more than the difference between Tweedle-dum and Tweedle-dee, he was depressed and disgusted. It is high time we were bigger in our ideas and got together to win the war. (Great applause.) In this and many other ways the boys at the front are showing the way for those at home.

At these camps the Y. M. C. A. have reading and writing rooms. A million letters a week are sent from France by Canadian soldiers. These letters, thousands of which he had censored, were seldom pessimistic. Let civilians send always cheerful replies! Soldiers' letters often contain some items that should not be published in the press, as copies of such letters sent back in papers to the front sometimes cause embarrassment. He had seen many letters telling of the soldiers' conversion to Y. M. C. A. meetings. How glad such letters make the parents! Good evangelists go from camp to camp holding meetings and tens of thousands of men have taken the stand for a better life. Lectures are frequently given on Purity of Life and on Medical questions. A Christian soldier is a braver and better man than a non-Christian. The Y. M. C. A. athletics strengthen him physically and the social life makes him think of home.

A Look at the Front. Capt. Best then took his hearers on a tour of the trenches. At Poperinghe, seven miles back from the front, is the Y. M. C. A. head office, where the speaker was in charge. The poor old town is all smashed up. Further along the Rue de Lille is Ypres, of which magnificent city there is left only the part of a wall here and there. The grand old Cloth Hall, the grand old Cathedral are gone; just some pillars left. The belfry tower of Ypres, with the crucifix over the door looking out over nothing but wreckage, has not been harmed, although the town is constantly shelled. In the centre of Ypres, in a cellar twenty feet deep, well walled in and covered up, is the Y. M. C. A. depot, where troops call and are rested and refreshed and may write letters home, etc.

From the bridge outside of Ypres, one sees hills all around, from which he can be seen by the Germans. And along the British front are 15 to 20 stationary ballrooms from which men are watching. This is just outside the range of rifle and machine gun fire, and small groups there are seldom molested by the enemy's guns. Soon one is in rifle range and then he must walk in the cover of the canal bank. By going carefully he gets safely up to the bluffs, which are tunnelled out, a Canadian or British battalion in each opening 25 to 30 feet underground and comparatively safe. There are about 400 yards from the German trenches, and the Y. M. C. A. is there.

If one is curious, he can go from there by communication trenches clear into the front line trenches, where no one is safe for a moment. By using a periscope, like a mirror, you can look over a parapet and see the Hun parapet, exactly like our own, earth work up part of the way and then sand bags. If one goes here only to have it to say he was in the front trenches he'd better get out as quick as he can.

Sometimes these trenches are dry



Extract from a letter of a Canadian soldier in France. To Mrs. R. D. BAMBURCK: The Rectory, Yarmouth, N.S. Dear Mother:— I am keeping well, have good food and well protected from the weather, but have some difficulty keeping uninvited guests from visiting me. Have you any patriotic druggists that would give something for a gift overseas—if so do you know something that is good for everything? I do—Old MINARD'S Liniment. Your affectionate son, Rob. Manufactured by the Minard's Liniment Co., Ltd. Yarmouth, N.S.

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Englewood, Ill.—"While going through the Change of Life I suffered with headaches, nervousness, flashes of heat, and I suffered so much I did not know what I was doing at times. I spent \$1900 on doctors and not one did me any good. One day I called at my house and said she had been as sick as I was at one time, and Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound made her well, so I took it and now I am just as well as I ever was. I would not understand why women don't do more, but often the most scientific treatment is surpassed by the medicinal properties of the good old fashioned roots and herbs contained in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

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and clean. But in winter and in other wet weather, they may be partly filled with water, and the soldiers in them all wear rubber boots, which, when they go out, they leave for the next men.

The War Going Sexter. At the first of the war Canadians had only one man for every 15 yards of trench, while the enemy had from 3 to 10, and ten times as many machine guns, and much more and much heavier artillery. Those at home will never know what they owe to those few Canadians who held the line the first two years of the war. They were handicapped everywhere, being outclassed in the air, in artillery and ammunition, in machine guns, and in numbers. When the five stationary balloons signalled where to find the enemy and the Canadian guns found their target, the Canadian trenches were swept with such a hail of projectiles that the artillery, short of ammunition anyway, had to stop firing. All that could be done was to dig in and "stick it." But they held the line, for they knew what it would mean to the women and the whole country if the Huns were allowed to break through.

Last July joy came to the Canadians when aeroplanes and heavy artillery and lots of ammunition and more men began to pour in. Today we have the ascendancy in the air, and our artillery is as good or better than the enemy's. Now, at a given signal, our artillery sends 300 shells a minute to open the way, and after such a bombardment, our attacking party often gets over "No Man's Land" without a casualty. In the first scrap at St. Loos our men had heavy artillery and the result was grand!

Acres of little wooden crosses behind the western lines tell of thousands who used to live. Morris in the Army. Somebody, said Capt. Best, has been spreading scandalous stories about the men in Canada. It is a lie. He asked anyone to prove that such stories are true. In every large gathering some men go wrong, but there are thousands of men in the army now leading clean lives who didn't do it before. The men in France are the very pick of Canadian manhood. (Great applause.) If they are not good living men, how can they fight so well?

The spirit of sacrifice manifested at the front must be considered. Any man who puts the khaki on makes a sacrifice. He leaves a good home, generally for less wages. Any man who sacrifices becomes a better man. The men at the front get to love each other, and give up anything for a weaker or a sick comrade. "Greater love hath no man than that he lay down his life for his friend." Do not worry about the boys at the front who have laid down their lives. The worry should be rather for those at home who do not think enough about the misery of Belgium and France, the scarcity and darkness of England to volunteer to help save those who are in danger of losing all in their struggle for our defence. It is quite possible to profess Christ and still have selfishness in the heart. The very essence of Christianity is sacrifice. Selfishness is the very opposite of Christianity. He would take his chances with the men who lie under the little wooden crosses.

Send Lots of Letters to the Boys. Send lots of cheerful letters to the boys, urged Capt. Best, to encourage them.

What Are You Doing? "You are anxious that the war be won," continued the speaker; "What are you doing to win it?" The most contemptible thing on earth is the man who is making money out of the war. (Great applause.) When the boys at the front have given up everything for the sake of their country, those who are making money at home should devote their profits to the saving of the country. The boys along the front line resent losing their jobs to able bodied men who stay home and go out with Tommy's wife and keep company with Tommy's girl. Thousands of women do not keep faith with their men who have gone to the front. The attack of the Huns cannot take the heart out of our men, but the un-

thing will happen. An English Tommy suddenly allowed home on leave found another man lying with his wife. He shot himself. When the boys at the front heard of it their verdict was that he had shot the wrong man. Be true to the soldiers. Let the best horses be thrown open to them when they come back. Give them a few months' holiday. You cannot do too much to back up the boys at the front. (Great applause.) You have raised much for the Red Cross—a blessed work. You have done well for the Soldier's Comforts—don't slacken any, and remember the Y. M. C. A. work. They who have done so much can always do a little more. (Prolonged applause.)

A vote of thanks, moved by Hon. Donald Morrison, seconded by H. H. Stuart, both of whom spoke very appreciatively of Capt. Best's address and work, and heartily supported by the Mayor, passed by a hearty and unanimous standing vote. The meeting closed with the National Anthem.

SUBMARINE MENACE LESSENING. Paris, June 8.—Three ships of more than 1600 tons and two less than that size were sunk by mines or submarines during the week ending June 3. Three vessels were unsuccessfully attacked during the same period, while 1,005 ships entered French ports and 958 sailed.

DRUGGISTS MEET NEXT WEEK. The druggists of N. B. and N. S. will meet in Sackville on afternoon and evening of June 20th. Delegates from P. E. I. are also expected.

MANY TAKING TEACHERS EXAMINATIONS. Three hundred sixty student teachers are taking the final examinations this week—329 at Fredericton; 24 at St. John; and 7 at Chatham. The class sought is as follows: Grammar School Class 35 Superior Class 4 First Class 113 Second Class 208



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SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST LAND REGULATIONS. THE sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years old may homestead a quarter-section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. Applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-Agency for the District. Entry by proxy may be made at any Dominion Lands Agency (but not Sub-Agency), on certain conditions.

Duties—Six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres on certain conditions. A habitable house is required except where residence is performed in the vicinity. Live stock may be substituted for cultivation under certain conditions. In certain districts a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter-section alongside his homestead. Price \$3.00 per acre. Duties—Six months residence in each of three years after earning homestead patent; also 50 acres extra cultivation. Pre-emption patent may be obtained as soon as homestead patent, on certain conditions. A settler who has exhausted his homestead right may take a purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$3.80 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate 50 acres and erect a building worth \$500. W. W. CORY. Deputy of the Minister of the Interior N. B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for. XLX-15-40

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Dissolution of Co-Partnership. Notice is hereby given that the partnership subsisting under the style and firm name of James A. Rundle & Co., between James A. Rundle of Newcastle in the County of Northumberland and Province of New Brunswick and the undersigned James Robinson of Miramichi in the County and Province aforesaid under partnership agreement bearing date the fourth day of October 1916 made between said parties whereby the said partnership was to continue for a period of ten years from said last mentioned date, has been dissolved since the expiration of the term—whereby said agreement was entered into and which expired on the fourth day of October last past. Dated the seventh day of November, A. D. 1916. JAMES ROBINSON