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Interesting Recipe Booklet sent free. For 3c we will send samples, enough for 2 quarts of ice cream or 12 dishes of Junket. Full package sent for 12c.

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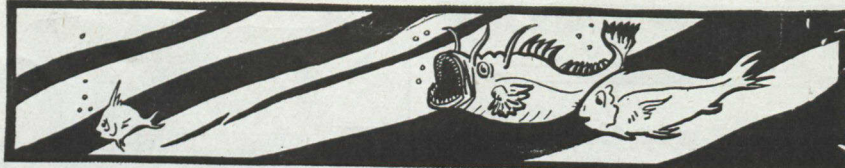
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The Hostess House

A Movement in the United States which
Canada is Following

By MABEL CREWS RINGLAND

ASK any United States soldier, or better still, his mother, sister, sweetheart or wife, and see if they don't pronounce it the most wonderful place in the whole camp.

A Canadian Tommy might not be able to enlighten you on the subject just yet, but let us hope that before long he will be singing the praises of the Young Women's Christian Association and the Hostess Houses which the National Service Department is planning to establish in Canadian camps, just as lustily as his American cousin in khaki is now doing over the border. In view of this possibility, a glimpse into one of these hospitality centres may prove interesting.

Practically every camp in the United States has its Hostess House, built and run by the Y.W.C.A., at the request of the military authorities, who realize that a place where the men in uniform can meet their women friends in a wholesome environment is an absolute necessity.

But how is this place used? Suppose you are the mother of a soldier, or sister or sweetheart wishing to spend a few hours in camp. The first place you look for is the Y.W.C.A. Hostess House, where you may rest comfortably, read or write until your boy is free, and then enjoy his company in the most attractive and homelike surroundings. There are open fireplaces, comfortable chairs, writing tables, cloak rooms, rest rooms, and even a dainty nursery where children and babies are cared for. When meal-time comes, you do not have to go back to town, which in some cases is quite a trip, or subsist on a meagre lunch, for a cafeteria dispenses good things to eat which soldier and civilian alike enjoy.

If, however, you do not know in what part of the huge cantonment to locate your particular soldier, many tiresome hours of search may be avoided by a visit to the Hostess House, which is either just outside the camp, or inside near the main entrance. Every possible assistance will be given you by the experienced secretaries and volunteer workers in charge, whose business is to be hostesses to all women visiting the camp. An emergency secretary is responsible for any emergencies that may occur, such as illness, accident and the like.

Boon to Soldiers' Wives

THEN suppose you are a soldier's wife, seeking some suitable place to live, so that you may be near your husband during his training, or possibly some employment that will help to fill the lonely hours as well as the family exchequer, your case will receive careful attention.

What this Hostess House and the hours spent there together when the men are not free to leave the camp, mean to these wives and husbands, no one but they themselves can realize. One never knows when a meeting may be the last, for changes come quickly and without warning in the army.

There is always a piano at hand, and while you sit there, some former grand opera star or some virtuoso now in khaki may touch the keys and fill the room with melody. Within the same hour a timid youth may pick out very hesitatingly some simple air learned long ago, or strum ever so softly, "Home

Sweet Home," which may not, for obvious reasons, be played or sung in camp, according to army regulations. To this accompaniment, or possibly a piece of lively rag-time, a shy couple over in one corner may be plighting their faith, or a father and child trying to say good-bye. It is all one big drama of love and life, which goes to prove what a Major-General said at the formal opening of one of the Hostess Houses: "No matter how a soldier may be changed by his military life and

training, he is still a man, with the same crying need for the wholesome companionship and influence of women."

This is exactly what the Hostess House aims to provide, and a visit to one, especially on Sunday, would convince even the most sanguine that it is succeeding. At odd times during the week the boys drop in, alone very often, "just to look at the white curtains and all the womanly touches that remind a fellow of home," as one lad in khaki put it. Another lonely-looking chap asked me politely one day if I would please just talk to him. "I haven't heard a woman's voice for over two weeks now, and I'm homesick for it," he said. The soldier boys are made just as welcome when they come in alone as when they have guests, so it is little wonder that the Hostess House

has won for itself a place in every boy's heart, and the title "A bit of home within the camp." Can there be any doubt as to the need of such an institution in Canadian Camps?

International League of Hostesses

HERE is the invitation the women of England have issued to the boys on leave. They have worded it very quaintly.

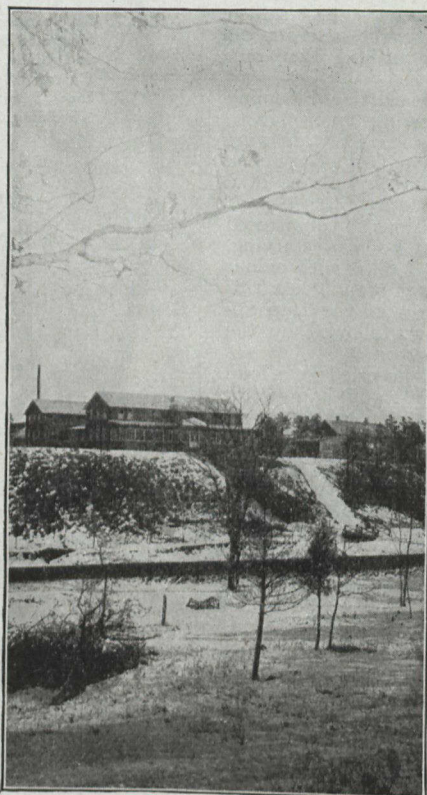
"Just listen a minute to me. I want to tell you something. Think you're back at school or home with mother."

"I hear you've got leave, fourteen days of it, and not before it was due or wanted. You'll be coming over to England, most likely to London, and a little change looks pretty good to you. There's a few of us here that want it to look as good after it's over as it does now. This is simply a letter of introduction to put the matter straight."

"We are just a few women-folk with more or less empty homes, but we've all got a spare room, and we want you to come and use it. We want to act with method, so we have lined up behind the Y.M.C.A., because it has the enterprise and the organization to help us. They call us the International League of Hostesses. It's a big name, but we are quite ordinary-sized people. We are just all sorts of English women."

"We don't want to coddle you, or to interfere with your amusement plans. We want you to use your leave just as you have been planning to use it, though if you need any sort of help we will endeavor to be on the job."

"You can't possibly know what it is to be disqualified by Anno Domini and such reasons for almost all forms of war activity except a little bronchitis in the winter. But though our nerves may be out of repair for nursing, and our feet for canteen work, our hearts still function, boys, and our hands are very ready to welcome you. So don't forget to let us know before you start that you accept our invitation to spend a few days of your leave in our homes, for by so doing you will give us great pleasure."



A typical Hostess House across the border