

Introduction to Y.M.C.A. Statement

The National Council of the Y.M.C.A. herewith presents a complete statement of its finances for the year 1917, covering its entire service Overseas and in Canada.

The Executive Committee of the Council arranged last November to have a complete statement for the year 1917 ready for publication before the recent Red Triangle Fund Campaign, but owing to conditions arising out of Military operations in France, this has been unavoidably delayed. It is presented now at the earliest date that existing conditions have permitted.

The portion of the following statement which concerns England and France has already been submitted to the Overseas Military authorities. Audited statements of the funds handled have been submitted to the Militia Department at Ottawa and for the past two years regular accounting has been made as well to the authorities in England and in France. In addition to the regular audit in France, the canteen business is checked every month by the Military Field cashiers, to determine the amount which is paid to Military units as indicated in the Expenditures. Printed copies of the audited statements are posted up in the huts for the information of the soldiers.

The General Operation Account shows on the one hand the entire receipts of the National Council; first, from the gross sales of its Military canteens in Canada, England and France, and second, from subscriptions received during the year. On the other hand, there is shown the entire expenditures for the year, including, first, the cost of the goods sold in the canteens and, second, the expenditures connected with the entire service which is carried on under the direction of the National Council.

The Balance represents the excess of receipts over expenditures. Of this the sum of \$118,351.43 was the balance at the National Headquarters at Toronto, and the remainder was Overseas. This balance at the end of the calendar year represents the amount available to carry on operations until the time of the campaign in 1918. While the financial statement is drawn up on the basis of the calendar year, the receipts from the campaign of one year have to serve until the campaign of the next year. The above balance at the National Headquarters was by April 30th, just before the new campaign, not only used up but changed to a deficit of \$237,930.13. This deficit was, however, offset by the balance overseas, which has to be maintained there as a working balance to carry on operations.

The item of \$240,524.86 is a special amount which had to be expended for the purchase of canteen and other supplies in Canada for shipment to France. Beginning with June, 1917, on account of the scarcity of supplies in Great Britain, much of the purchasing formerly done there had to be transferred to Canada. The long period of time required for the shipment of these supplies to France involves the continuous employment of a large sum. The amount expended for this purpose, as at December 31st, has had to be treated as an expenditure and placed in a Reserve Account against the merchandise in hand. It is, however, a possible asset and will, when realized upon, be devoted to other forms of service to the soldiers, when it is no longer required to maintain the canteen service in France.

It was possible to provide for this expenditure only because the amount asked by the National Council in 1917 was oversubscribed by more than the amount required just at the time the Canadian Purchasing had to be undertaken. But for this it would have been necessary either to borrow this large amount or greatly curtail the service in France.

It is to be remembered that the goods at the front in France, where the greater part of the stock is carried, are subject to enormous risks. The English Y.M.C.A. in the German offensive of March and April suffered losses in huts and canteen supplies of nearly One Million Dollars. In the more recent offensive the American Y.M.C.A. has suffered losses nearly as large, and the National Executive have deemed it a matter of prudence to be prepared to meet a similar loss if it should fall on the Canadian Y.M.C.A.

The National Council has from the first declared the policy of devoting to the service of the soldiers whatever balance remains in the Military Fund at the close of the war. This policy has been made known to and accepted by the Overseas Military authorities. The need for the Y.M.C.A. service will continue all through the period of demobilization and the plan of the National Council is to use whatever balance then exists to keep up the efficiency of the service to the soldiers during that important period.

The National Council of the Y.M.C.A., under which the Military Work is conducted, is a representative body of the various Y.M.C.A.'s throughout Canada, but it has no authority over or financial responsibility for any local branch. The funds which it handles have no connection with those of any local branch of the regular Y.M.C.A. It wishes to make clear, therefore, that the funds which are acquired in or subscribed for the Y.M.C.A. Military Work have not been and will not be used in connection with the regular work of any of these branches, but will, according to the policy already announced, be kept in the Military Work and devoted exclusively to the service of soldiers.

The service represented in the expenditures of the accompanying statement covered at the opening of the present year, 96 centres of operation in France and 76 in England, including all regular camps and units, base camps, convalescent camps, hospitals, railway troops, cavalry, London and Paris, and forestry units from the north of Scotland to the South of France.

There were on the Overseas staff 133 Secretaries carrying honorary commissions, 50 of whom were at the expense of the Y.M.C.A. for pay and allowances and the remainder at the expense of the Government. There are also a considerable number of other ranks, non-commissioned officers and men, detailed to the Y.M.C.A. staff by the Military authorities. A number of these, who are given non-commissioned rank because of special responsibility, are at the expense of the Y.M.C.A. for the extra pay over that of their regular rank. Civilian help is also employed where required and where circumstances permit.

In Canada the soldiers are served in 38 centres, including camps, barracks, Red Triangle Clubs, hospitals, naval stations and on troop trains. This has required approximately 100 Secretaries, who work on a civilian basis and are entirely at Y.M.C.A. expense. There is also required a considerable staff of employed helpers, exclusive of the committees of ladies who render their service free.

The scope and variety of the entire service, in so far as expenditures can reveal them, are indicated in the accompanying statement.

Signed on behalf of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.

G. H. WOOD, Chairman.

F. L. RATCLIFF, Chairman of Finance Com.

CHAS. W. BISHOP, General Secretary.