

not in any one camp alone but the average of all camps in England."

This statement applies for the month of April, 1917.

Major General S. B. Steele, C.B., M.V.O., general officer commanding troops, Shorncliffe, on the 3rd May, 1917, reports as follows to the general officer commanding Canadian overseas military forces, London:

"With an average occupation strength of 20,000 troops, both Imperial and Canadian, the cases of drunkenness work out an average of three per thousand per week. This average has during the past year or more neither increased nor decreased, although at times there have been from 40,000 to 50,000 troops in the Shorncliffe area."

These figures, it will be noted, apply to a period of more than a year.

Col. C. A. Smart, officer commanding Canadians, Shorncliffe, reports on the 1st May, 1917, for the Shorncliffe area as follows:

"Average daily strength, including all hospitals, for the month of April"	
April	31,296
Average daily occupation strength for the month of April	
Total number of cases of drunkenness for the month of April	74
Percentage of cases against total strength0023
Percentage of cases against occupation strength0038"

You will note from the above that the actual percentage of cases for one month is less than one-half of one per cent on the actual occupation strength, and I am sure that you will agree that this is a particularly gratifying state of affairs.

General Steele also informs me that Colonel Burns-Bogg, the town commandant, Folkestone, has expressed to him his admiration for the splendid behaviour of the Canadian troops in this area and he considers that it is not excelled in any other part of Great Britain.

(c) It should be noted that cases of drunkenness, few as they are, are to be charged, not against the camp canteens but against licensed places outside the camp lines and under civil control. These, of course, are placed out of bounds by the military authorities whenever they appear to be the occasion of disorder among the troops. The camp canteens supply only beer and being under strict military control with very severe limitation of the hours of sale are, in my judgment, a safeguard instead of a menace in areas where licensed houses not under military control exist to which the troops may go from camp. I may add that this is the practically unanimous opinion at the front.

(d) The rum ration at the front.

Reference is made in the pamphlet to this topic. It is true that with the best of control unfortunate incidents will occasionally occur due to pilfering from the battalion issue of rum before it reaches the men in the trenches. This is, from my experience at the front, a very rare occurrence. The restrictions surrounding the issue are such that ill effects are practically controlled, and, speaking as A.D.M.S. of a division at the front, it is my conviction that during the six months at least of bad weather it is necessary for the efficiency of the men that rum be available for special issue on occasions considered by com-

[Sir Robert Borden.]

manding officers to justify it. These requests from commanding officers go to brigade headquarters and are by them submitted for approval or otherwise to the A.D.M.S. of the division, upon which approval the supply officer is authorized by divisional headquarters to make the issue. It is not issued to all ranks but to those bodies of men who are in special need. For instance a Divisional Ammunition Column or a supply train are not issued with rum on the same conditions as apply in the case of an infantry or particularly a pioneer battalion who have been all night at work in the rain and mud. In no case is the issue a matter of routine. It should also be stated that the regulations as they now exist are the result of two years' experience and are much more stringent as well as better observed than was the case in the earlier months of the war.

(e) Figures from Britain showing the number of arrests for drunkenness, also number of troops concerned, have been cabled for.

(f) It may be noted as additional general evidence of the good conduct of the Canadian troops in England that on May 29, 1917, Major General G. B. Hughes, General Officer Commanding 5th Division, wrote as follows to Major General Sir Richard Turner, V.C., K.C. M. G., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding Canadian Forces in Britain:

My dear General:—

I am anxious to inform you that this division held a sporting meeting in Godalming on the 24th of May, at which there were present between eight and ten thousand men of the Division, as well as a large number of the people of Godalming.

There was not a single case of drunkenness or disorder of any kind reported either by the military police or the civil police of Godalming, or any of the other villages on that occasion.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) G. B. Hughes."

(g) Insanity.

The pamphlet in question contains on page 45 the following statement:

"A doctor from a Canadian Hospital said a large percentage of their troops had had to be sent back to Canada rendered permanently insane through the action of alcohol. Facts in 'Daily' News, Oct. 31, 1916."

This statement gives one a fair idea of the credibility of the pamphlet as a whole. I can of my own knowledge give it an absolute denial. Only a small number of Canadian troops have been returned insane. The vast majority have recovered or will do so, and alcohol has played a part in only a small number of cases. The Military Hospitals Commission reports on July 31 as follows:—

An analysis of fifty cases at the Ontario Military Hospital at Cobourg dated February 1, 1917, shows that in only two cases does alcohol appear as the apparently dominant factor although there are in all thirteen in which alcoholism figures as an important factor either in precipitating or modifying the condition, in addition to other more predominant abnormal, primary conditions. The total number of cases so far returned to Canada, as shown by the records of the M.H.C. is only 222. It will be borne in mind that the total number of recruits enlisted is 406,209 to March 31, 1917.