

to us in the days of peace. Among other lessons are the preservation of our forests and the value of a national and scientific system of afforestation, in which at present we are so lamentably deficient.

Time did not permit my paying a visit to the Jura, where some very interesting and important forestry operations are being carried out by certain Canadian forestry battalions. These forests, which lie on the borders of France and Switzerland, contain magnificent timber which up to the present has not been systematically cut by the French Government, owing to the apparently insuperable difficulties in obtaining the necessary water for the engines. This difficulty, great as it seemed, was successfully overcome by the Canadian experts who were sent to look over the ground, and to-day a large force of men is at work and the mills are cutting large quantities of lumber.

In these few notes on the railway and forestry work done

by Canadian battalions it can be seen how the special experience and knowledge gained by Canadians in their great new land have been turned to good advantage on the Western Front.

(Concluded.)

THE THANKS OF THE ARMY

"I wish also to place on record here the fact that the successful solution of the problem of railway transport would have been impossible had it not been for the patriotism of the railway companies at home and in Canada. They did not hesitate to give up the locomotives and rolling stock required to meet our needs, and even to tear up track in order to provide us with the necessary rails. The thanks of the Army are due also to those who have accepted so cheerfully the inconvenience caused by the consequent diminution of the railway facilities available for civil traffic."—Sir Douglas Haig's despatch, May 31, 1917.

WITH CANADIANS IN CAPTIVITY.—VII. By "Greenjacket."

A Dominion Officer's Experiences of German Prison Life.

ONCE an officer started travelling about to different camps he quickly acquired the habit of accumulating a certain reserve supply—sufficient, possibly, to last him over a period of two months without parcels.

Too much cannot be said for the kindness and care with which the Canadian Red Cross Society have sent parcels to officers and men. Though one usually had a certain amount of food on hand, one was occasionally caught napping, and the timely arrival of a Red Cross parcel containing milk, sugar and tinned meats would give one several excellent and unexpected meals and tide one over until the regular supply arrived. At other times, when one had more than enough for oneself, these extra parcels were very useful in easing the lot of some poor devil, who, may be, had been temporarily forgotten by his own relations, newly captured, or being told that he was to be exchanged immediately, had given away all his own supply.

Our Allies, too, sometimes through lack of means, sometimes through a faulty postal service, generally lived from hand to

instead of a piece of toffee or a top changing hands it was now a tin of butter or a tin of milk, while the really daring gamblers would wager recklessly their steak and kidney pies against another's lamb and green peas.

Cheering Up Needed.

From time to time every prisoner suffers from the most awful fits of depression. He wanders aimlessly round and round the cage asking himself a thousand times why he was fool enough to be taken alive. He tells himself that he is entirely forgotten by his friends, his relations and his regiment; that his career is ruined through no fault of his own, often through sticking to his post; and that his captivity will never end. In these circumstances there is but one thing that will cheer him up, and that is letters from home, some unexpected parcel containing a cheap game or a ridiculous toy, some food, may be, or a few sixpenny novels. Anything that takes his mind from his miserable lot will do, and the kind act, if unacknowledged at the time, will not be forgotten when those same prisoners are at last released.

(Concluded.)

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COUNTER-ATTACK ON CANADIANS.

Mr. H. Perry Robinson, who represents the *Times* and the *Daily News* at British Headquarters in France, writing on Wednesday, June 13, said:—"In the Arras battle area about Lens, the heavy shelling of which I spoke of yesterday, culminated last night in a German counter attack along the Souchez River. The troops attacked were Canadians, but the infantry had little to do, as the attack was crushed by our guns and machine-guns."

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A "Mascot Day" is being organised for July 17, to raise a fund to assist private hospitals for wounded officers. Mrs. Arnoldi is the organiser of the London Private Hospital Fund. This Canadian lady organised a private hospital for officers at her house in Roland Gardens very early in the war, and between 600 and 700 patients have been treated. During his last visit to London Sir Sam Hughes visited Mrs. Arnoldi's hospital, and was so impressed with the work she had done that he expressed his intention of making her a Captain, C.A.M.C.; but he left the Government before his intention could be carried out. The idea of a "Mascot Day" instead of the usual Flag Day, of which the public is getting rather tired, is connected with the presentation of a 5,000-year-old pre-Inca idol owned by Capt. Besley, the well-known explorer, and given by him to the fund. Replicas of this mascot will be sold at a guinea. Lady Perley is among the list of patronesses of the Private Hospitals Fund.

We hear several complaints that the usefulness and facilities of various Y.M.C.A. huts, which have proved such a boon to Canadians, are being unnecessarily impaired by the London County Council. At the Little Theatre there is a Y.M.C.A. establishment which is very popular with Canadians, and, in fact, with all who use it, and we hear that some unwise officials are impairing its usefulness on what are held to be foolish grounds. The problem of providing cheap and convenient sleeping accommodation to soldiers on leave in London is quite sufficiently difficult without obstruction from municipal busy-bodies. If the military authorities are satisfied with the accommodation provided by the Y.M.C.A. or other responsible and recognised institutions, the London County Council officials should not be allowed to insist on regulations which were framed for a civilian resident population. For instance, a soldier occupying a sleeping bunk for one, or, at most, two nights, does not ask for or require the full statutory allowance of space which would be necessary for the well-being of a permanent resident.



THE KITCHEN AT HALLE.

This was considered large enough for 400 officers.

mouth, and in every camp one could find a hundred or more who really suffered from lack of nourishment and the means to get it. Anything eatable is appreciated by prisoners, because everything is required. In addition, every parcel should contain a cake of soap.*

Reading and Games.

However, the days in a prison camp are not altogether spent in wondering what one is going to have to eat, and too much importance cannot be laid on the fact that the more the prisoner has to occupy his mind the better chance he has of coming out of prison at the end of two or three years more or less sane. Paper-backed novels are cheap, and can be sent without difficulty through any big book shop. Novels pall after a while, and literature of a semi-instructive nature is a better stand-by. Most men never tire of biography, lives of great men, accounts of old battles, sieges and wars and other naval and military events. This reading will stand one in good stead afterwards.

Games, usually of the most childish description, are very much sought after, and one got many an afternoon's entertainment out of Ludo, Race Game, Tiddly Winks and Spillikins. Games that one had not played for 20 years or more were renewed with a zest worthy of a better cause. The betting was usually in kind, as in one's school-boy days, but

* The Prisoners of War Department of the Canadian Red Cross Society, however, says there is reason to believe that the soap sent in their parcels is abstracted by the Germans.