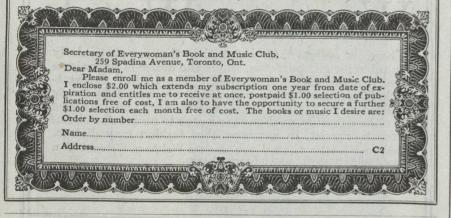
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The Khaki University A Canadian Institution Now Adopted by Our Allies

NE of the principal difficulties which will have to be faced at the close of the present war is that of bringing the men who are taking part in it once more into touch with the problems of civil and military life, and of paving the way for the resumption of those courses of intellectual improvement so rudely broken into by the exigencies of the prerudely sent struggle.

sent struggle. Indeed, some thoughtful and far-seeing men have decided that it is not wise to wait until the war's ending to grapple with this difficulty, and under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A., a Khaki University has been formed for the benefit of Canadian soldiers and it is planned that instruction along various lines be made available to those who desire to take advantage of it. those who desire to take advantage of it.

In order to get information as to the needs of the men, an officer was appointed to determine what would be their attitude to wards an educational programme, dir-ected especially to the object of fitting them for the new phases of life which must follow the demobilization period. Eight-teen hundred and sixty men were inter-viewed. Of these over thirteen hundred viewed. Of these, over thirteen hundred expressed a desire for, and willingness to participate in an educational programme. A large number of them wished for instruc-

A large number of them wished for instruc-tion in engineering; an almost equal number in agriculture; and many in subjects of the ordinary academic type, such as economics, history, theology, etc. Classes were therefore formed, the first being at Witley Camp in England, and a faculty of forty teachers has been organized, headed by Dr. Clarence McKinnon. There is now a call for fur-ther organization in every camp in Eng-land and France, and the students already number several thousands. When a definite programme came to be considered, it was found that the matter assumed a two-fold aspect: First, how to meet immediate needs, and secondly, how to deal with the period after demo-bilization.

bilization.

In a report made to Lieut.-Col. Birks, the following suggestions were made as to provision for the immediate needs of the soldiers:

That an organized scheme of popular lectures of an educational character should be prepared, containing lectures on such subjects as the Campaigns of the War, The Nations at War, the British Empire, Agriculture, Scientific subjects, etc. These lectures might be helped out, and made still more interesting, by means of slides showing views of the different of slides showing views of the different subjects. In cases where this has been al-ready tried, the success attending such lectures has been phenomenal.

That the formation of a series of small study groups should be promoted. Al-ready small study groups have been formed in many of the Y.M.C.A. huts and much good work has been done. A large body of material has been pro-duced regarding the problems connected with science and particularly of with social science and particularly of reconstruction. Among the subjects taken up by such groups are: biographical studies, literary subjects, political studies, reconstruction work, education and science.

That reading groups be formed in billets and tents. While the conditions favoring reading in the huts and tents are bad, they can be made more helpful by one man reading aloud to a small group. This man reading aloud to a small group. This may be made a means of spreading a knowledge of healthy literature.

The development of a definite Library System. Up to the present the library facilities offered in the huts have con-sisted very largely of old books sent in by friends, but too often these are of little riends, but too often these are of little value. Not more than twenty per cent. of such books are of any use and the facili-ties for obtaining others are lacking. It is now, however, suggested that a definite reading library be placed in the study rooms provided in the huts. This library will contain as far as reasible a distinct rooms provided in the huts. This library will contain, as far as possible, a distinct set of books covering the topics prescribed for lectures, works on current history and topics of the day, an enclyclopaedia, the Home University Library and other books of similar character, with, of course, a sprinkling of novels, poetry and such lighter reading. There will also be placed in the reading rooms a number of current marazines, so that the men may current magazines, so that the men may have an opportunity of learning what is going on in the world around them.

With regard to the second phase of this work—the necessity for providing for the demobilization period and afterwards:

it is felt that from the point or view of the soldier this will be a crisis in our history, and the necessity for preparing to meet the demands then made upon us is great. A definite education is a supergreat. A definite educational programme, suited to the practical needs of the men, has therefore been prepared and already the work has been a prepared and already has therefore been prepared and already the work has begun. An agricultural course, which offers the equivalent of a full year's work in any of our Canadian agricultural schools, has been started and the following subjects are now being taught: Animal Husbandry, Field Hus-bandry, Dairying, Farm Mechanics, Operation of Tractors and Motors, and, where possible, elementary chemistry and bandry, Dairying, Farm Mechanics, Operation of Tractors and Motors, and, where possible, elementary chemistry and physics. Courses are also offered in Engineering, Medical Instruction, Law, etc. while for the many boys of high school age, who would have attended college had not the war broken out, a Matricula-tion Course is provided, and efforts are being made to get the Universities of Canada to agree to the acceptance of such w, orkso that very little time will be lost by the student. A business college course is also in preparation where there will be opportunities for the study of arithmetic, business correspondence, stenography and typewriting, telegraphy, etc., etc. There are large numbers of men desirous of taking up such training and these classes are filling fass. An extension course and courses in physical training and theo-logical education are also offered. It is encouraging to note the large num-bers of men when the interment.

courses in physical training and theo-logical education are also offered. It is encouraging to note the large num-bers of men who are attending the various classes and groups formed. The excite-ment associated with the beginnings of army service has passed away and the social and civil instincts are again assert-ing themselves. There are a large num-ber of men who, during peace time, were members of the teaching profession, but who are now fighting in the ranks of our army. Many of these have willingly given their services and the military authorities have placed them at the dis-posal of the Khaki University. The scheme has received the endorsation of all the Canadian Universities and the un-qualified approval of Sir Robert Borden, and it is estimated that the cost will not exceed the amount now paid by Canada small price to pay in order that our not hopelessly handicapped by the fact that they have given to the service of humanity the best years of their young manhood, but equipped and ready for a the war must inevitably bring forth—with the knowledge and scientific training before them. Three years ago our boys marched

before them. Three years ago our boys marched forth to the fight wild with the spirit of adventure, and charged with enthusiasm. Through those three years, they have shown themselves possessed of courage, tenacity, resource and invention. The Canadian army is a school of character and manners. The life is wholesome and healthy and the spirit of a soldier is one that demands efficiency. Will these lads life, unequipped with the educational and technical knowledge that will enable them to take their place on an equality with to take their place on an equality with those who stayed behind?

Against such a necessity the Khaki Against such a necessity the Khaki University is a provision. It merits all the support that can be given to it, and no greater service can be rendered to Canada during the days of reconstruction than that the educational programme proposed should be carried out in a gener-ous spirit. As Dr. Torey says in his report on the subject:

on the subject: "A feeling of gratification would be created among the men in the army by the knowledge that the people at home were thinking and planning for their future in a practical way. This feeling would be reflected very strongly in the relations of the returned men to the public at home during the re-settlement period, a period which will very certainly be a trying one for Canada. It would help settle in a definite groove a number of men who to-day are in doubt as to their future, by giving them a start along the line of their future life before they return home.

"In a word, the University in Khaki might be made the starting point of a great forward movement, not only in agriculture and industry, but also in the spiritual, educational and political life of Canada."