



THE RED TRIANGLE



THE "Y" AND BOBBY BURNS.

BY MAPLELEAF.

"In Ayr, wag-wits nae mair can have a handle
To mouth 'a citizen,' a term o' scandal;
Nae mair the Council waddles down the street
In all the pomp of ignorant conceit!
Men who grew wise priggin 'awre hops an' raisins;
Or gathered liberal views in bonds and seisins."

I don't make a habit of quoting Bobby Burns. But I was in Ayr the other day. And the man who doesn't think Burns around Ayr "is fit for treason, stratagems and wiles." And the officer in charge of the Y.M.C.A. work among the Canadian Forestry Corps camps happens to carry a pocket edition of Burns about with him. Otherwise I did not even know the meaning of braes until he and a Scotch W.A.A.C. spent an hour of a railroad ride explaining by illustration.

Ayr is interesting enough—very interesting, I suppose, to a Scot with the thrill of the only real word-music in the world in his soul. But with my unappreciative ear the eye had to substitute. And there was much to see out there at the camp at Kilkerran where Canadian muscles and science are starting native trees on their way to ships and houses.

The process is worth more mention than I can give it here. At the moment I am more concerned with the special provision intended to supply in the life of the average Canadian the heart-rending deficiency of not being affected by the local contention that the real Bible is the one Burns wrote. If you can't quote "Afton Water," or "Scots Wha Hae," or "Here's a Health to Ane I lo'e dear," it calls for more than the air about Ayr to satisfy you.

As usual, the most conspicuous sign about the camp was the red triangle before the Y.M.C.A. Indeed, the only other one spelt "N.A.C.B." which stands for Navy and Army Canteen Board, a store that offers some relief in the form of sundry groceries and tobaccos, plus beer. Of course the Y avoids the beer end of catering, but it has in stock at low prices—so far as it can obtain supplies—everything the Canadian forester wants.

I was interested to hear what the O.C. thought of the Y work in his company. And he was in a position to know. For many months after they moved from another district where they had taken out the wood they wanted, the Y hut was delayed in construction. If nothing else did it, that three or four months convinced the O.C. that life in the camps was scarcely worth living without the Y. He was quite as anxious as the Y to supply what was lacking, and though the size of the building is scarcely in proportion with the camp it does its best of the only sitting room within reach.

It might be thought that in these forestry camps the officers might not appreciate the value of this form of entertainment for their men, having other resources for themselves; but the Y workers have found their best

friends among the staffs. There is a pleasant fraternity between the Canadian officer and his men that takes the expression in the forestry camps of special Y buildings with all the facilities and conveniences available to such an organization and the powers of the O.C.'s. For instance, I have in mind the Y building at a camp far up in the north of Scotland. The camp itself is three or four miles from the nearest village, situated on the top of a hill that provides a wonderful view even for Scotland. And the biggest thing in camp is the Y hut, eighty-five feet long and thirty-five wide, with a hip roof. A Canadian farmer would consider it a barn worth a two hundred acre farm. The camp thinks it no more than the due of two hundred men.

The Kilkerran Y hut, not being quite so large, is adding to itself an outside hut that will house the full-size billiard table now reposing in pieces in a corner of the stage. It happens to be a camp rather in need of evening resting places—something to make the men forget the mud that seems to favour the Ayr district. "Boots," at the hotel back in Glasgow, can testify to that from my shoes. But a miring task of mud back in the woods is not so awful in anticipation or realization when there is a comfortable Y hut to round off the day.

Y.M.C.A. Officers awarded M.C.

The distinction and honor of being the first Y.M.C.A. officers to be awarded the Military Cross in the war goes to three officers in the 2nd Canadian Division: Capt. James Clark, Capt. Frank Armitage, and Capt. James McKay. The first two won the Cross for going into action with the troops to do "Y" work in the Battle of Amiens, and the last-named won his for similar gallantry at Cambrai, where he was badly wounded and still is in hospital in England.

Capt. T. Hutchinson has been awarded the M.B.E., and Capt. W. Hurd, the O.B.E. Both are Canadian Y.M.C.A. officers in France.

Not Correct.

There has been a rumour going around the Corps that the Canadian Y.M.C.A. may drop its canteens before the troops get back to the Concentration Camps, from where they will be demobilised. This rumour, however, I am glad to say I hear from Headquarters in London, is without any foundation.

Major Best returning to Canada.

Major E. Best, who has been for a long time senior officer of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. in France, has left the Corps to return to Canada to help in preparing the plans the "Y" has made at home directed to benefit the troops after their arrival back in Canada.

Orchestral Concerts on Sunday.

In addition to playing every night in the revue given by the "See Toos," the 2nd Canadian Division Concert Party, the Division Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M., is giving a classical concert in the Stadt Theatre, Bonn, every Sunday evening. At the concert last Sunday, Capt. Edmund Burke, A.D.C. to the G.O.C., 2nd Division, the famous baritone, sang the toreador's song from "Carmen."

SOLDIERS' CIVIL RE-ESTABLISHMENT.

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not be so hard to do, and you will not find it difficult to continue your work for the country, to serve her interests in peace as you did in war.

The Wounded and Sick.

Measures for the care, treatment, re-education, and employment of sick and disabled soldiers have been thoroughly developed for some time past. The full information explaining the Government's organisation for looking after these soldiers, who have suffered disabilities through wounds or illness during service, is given in another pamphlet which is being distributed throughout the Hospitals in England and France.

Pensions.

The Board of Pension Commissioners for Canada have exclusive jurisdiction and authority to consider and make all grants and payments of military pensions, and of gratuities, allowances and assistance to persons wounded, injured or incapacitated in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, or to their dependent relatives, and have exclusive jurisdiction and authority to deal with all matters pertaining to such pensions, gratuities, allowances and assistances.

A Branch Office has been established at 103 Oxford Street, London, W. 1; and there are District Offices in the principal cities in Canada. Those concerned, after their discharge, should apply to the nearest office for any information regarding pensions.

London Office.

For further information (except in respect to pensions as mentioned above) application should be directed to The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, 6 Hanover Square, London, W. 1.

Canadian Y.M.C.A. Canteens.

If ever the Y.M.C.A. canteens have been necessary and appreciated by the Canadian troops, it has been since the Armistice came into effect, when they began to march over what then seemed a long, long trail to the Rhine. And now that two of our divisions and thousands of Corps troops are part of the army of occupation in Germany, the demand on the "Y" and other canteens is equally as great as it was during the days of trench fighting, if not greater. The Rhine is a long way from our base, and consequently the transport of supplies is a big problem, which only what is known as the "Y" branch of the army that has charge of the machinery for supplies, can handle with success. The Canadian Y.M.C.A., coming under "Y," is able to maintain a fairly generous and varied stock of things the men want.

When the war was more or less stationary in France and Belgium, the troops were able to buy a limited quantity of what they required from the stores in towns and villages not far from the trenches. But this is not so in Germany, or in those two places in Belgium where the units of two divisions are located, for the reason that the inhabitants of the districts in the two countries where we are, have barely enough of the actual necessities of life for themselves. Moreover, such goods as chocolate, biscuits, tobacco, cigarettes, soap, tinned fruits, etc., are unprocurable in Germany, except soap, and it is a prohibitive price—three to five shillings for a small cake of fatless stuff.

Had it not been for the Y.M.C.A. and the Canadian Corps Wholesale Canteen, there is no doubt that the Christmas and New Year dinner menus would have been minus those delectables that made them as they should be.