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**NATIONAL CONVENTION OF CANADIAN Y.M.C.A.**

(Continued from page one.)

to have the returned soldiers associate themselves with the Y.M.C.A. in facing the problem of Canada's future. In the meantime the war had to be the main thought, and he hoped that everybody would keep thinking about the war until it was over. He appealed for unity of thought on the problem of winning the war, and declared: "We ought to be ashamed of some of the things that some of our public men are saying in Canada today."

One thing stood out prominently in the experience of Dr. Tory at the front and that was the love of Canadians for Canada and the desire to get home. In another address upon "The Educational Work Overseas," Dr. Tory remarked that the glamour and excitement of the early days of the war had passed away. The soldiers now wanted to think again on the lines of their work before they enlisted. The men in France were not so cheerful as the men in England. Those in England were anxious to get to France, and those in France felt that part of their work at least had been well done.

The most important announcement made at the Y.M.C.A. Convention was that **EDUCATIONAL WORK HAD BEEN STARTED AMONG THE MEN OVERSEAS** and that it would be extended until any soldier will be able to receive instruction in any subject. This work has been begun by the Y.M.C.A. because the men wanted it and asked for it. Dr. Tory was able to outline courses that are now being carried out. The instructors being college men and Professors from our Canadian Universities, who are serving with the troops, or other practical men who have ability and knowledge to teach mechanics or agriculture.

A herdsman from one of our Experimental Farms is giving instruction up the line in France now on "The Care and Management of Dairy Cattle." A census taken of 1,800 men in one Battalion in France showed that 80 per cent. of them wanted educational work during the periods they were back from the front line and 40 per cent. of them wished instruction in agriculture. Dr. Tory presented the plan to the British Government and it has received their hearty support. In making his announcement regarding education during demobilization, he stated that he had had an interview with the Prime Minister of Canada on the subject, and the co-operation of the Government had been promised. The Canadian Universities not only offered their men who are now overseas but stated that any one wanted from their staffs would be sent. The plan was to organize a board representative of the great universities of Canada, and to carry out a plan of instruction that would culminate in establishing a centre of learning in England during the period of demobilization for those soldiers who cared to avail themselves of it. From this common centre of thought there would radiate branches to every camp.

He expected the period of demobilization would be not less than a year and not more than 18 months and they would be prepared to give instruction to about 30,000 men. The possibilities of the plan are greater than we can grasp, so great even the Y.M.C.A. that has created wonders during this war, will have to pass it on to the Universities of Canada so that our boys who are planning even now to fit themselves for greater service for Canada in the future may be able to take their Freshman and Sophomore years at College while still serving in His Majesty's Forces or continue their studies from the point they dropped them in Canada, to go overseas to fight for Country.

It is going to be impossible to do more tonight than just touch on some of the important features of the Convention. The great banquet hall of the Chateau Laurier was filled to overflowing. Many prominent men of the Capital being present to hear the chief speaker, Mr. John R. Mott of New York, the founder of the student movement of the Y.M.C.A., and one of the United States commission headed by Senator Root, who went recently to Russia. In thrilling detail he told of his experiences during four visits to Russia and the impressions and convictions he had gained. "I believe firmly in Russia today," was his pronouncement. "I believe in Russia as firmly as I ever did." His words brought great relief to his expectant hearers, for there was no doubt many awaited what he had to say with the greatest concern. He left no doubt in the minds of the great audience that his firm expectation was that Russia would arise mightier and greater than ever. Meanwhile

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Russia, however was worn out. She had fought splendidly. Her magnificent beginning of the war, her tremendous invasion of Russian territory, had been of incalculable help to the Allies, but at the same time it had been costly. Russia had suffered sorely and needed recuperation.

No less interesting than the expression of his faith in Russia was his reason for the present war attitude in that country. "Masterly German intrigue and propaganda at the revolution," he said.

During the revolution itself, Dr. Mott showed something of the greatness of that event, the greatest of its kind the world has yet seen. There was the overthrow of a mighty dynasty, of course, but that was far from being the great thing accomplished. There was the rise of democracy in its truest sense, not only to power in politics, but to power in the social sense, and in religion. Only a short while ago the great Greek church had been governed as Rasputin governed; today the chief ecclesiastics of that organization were voted to office.

The most spectacular of all was the admission to equality of the Jewish race in Russia. In that country, he said, there were more Jews than in all the rest of the world put together.

And then democracy, carrying out its proposals, reached a logical conclusion had given the women the same all rights. "Women there have everything that men have," said Dr. Mott. The change had a personal side to him. At one time his entry into Russian territory had been bitterly opposed by the Greek church. Now he was welcomed by that Church, and the Y.M.C.A. with which he was so closely identified was also welcomed. There were actually now in Russia, a few secretaries working amongst the troops. Cables awaited him on his return asking that 300 Y.M.C.A. secretaries be sent to Russia at once, and 36 had already sailed. These should play a large part in the development of Russia.

In this entry of the Y.M.C.A., Dr. Mott emphasized an event of far-reaching importance, exemplifying the progress of thought and tolerance in Russia. On his first visit to Russia twenty years before he and those he visited were objects of the deepest suspicion, and their meetings had to be held in secret, but today interviews with him as a Y.M.C.A. representative were open and honor was freely accorded the association. Several important matters which Dr. Mott touched upon he asked that his words be not reported in the press, but he took even greater care when he dealt with the question of prisoners of war in enemy countries. He refused to comment in any way upon the treatment accorded prisoners, but he strongly commended the fine work, educational and religious, being done amongst them all by the Y. M. C. A. He mentioned that the Germans had allowed one American Secretary to remain at each camp, but the assistants and other workers were few.

He pointed out as an extraordinary circumstance the youth of the leaders of the new Russia. All of the five great leaders were under 40 years of age, he said, and Kerensky himself was only 32. It had been a notable thing to him years before that the young men of the country, the students, were so determined to gain education, to work and to be living on but one bowl of soup a day, this zeal had never flagged, and to that element in the population Russia owed much of the success of the revolution.

Dr. Mott told also of the work of the Y.M.C.A. in the other Allied countries and the welcome that now replaced the old antagonism. He said it looked as if the war would go on until the Y. M. C. A. had an opportunity to carry the Gospel to every nation. As an illustration of the extent to which the Y.M.C.A. is appreciated by the military authorities of the different allied countries, he told us that besides the 300 secretaries that Russia is asking for, France has cabled for 400 American secretaries for her army, and since that, Italy has cabled that they also want Y.M.C.A. secretaries among their men immediately. Dr. Mott said that these countries receive all they ask for and are starting a campaign in the United States on December 17th to raise \$35,000,000.00 for their overseas work. He congratulated the Canadian National Council on their magnificent work for the army, and the Canadian people for the way they had responded to the call. If the United States should do as well as Canada had done, they would receive \$50,000,000.00 and the latest reports from our neighboring republic indicate that they have equalled Canada's contribution.

Mr. J. M. Ross of Montreal, Captain Forgie and Dr. Ohn Brown, who has recently received the rank of major, all spoke on the overseas Y. M. C. A. work today in France and England. They have all just come from the front, and by the way, the incidence, just two months previously, in France, Mr. Ross in his remarks mentioned that while at one time it was the belief that money, men and munitions would end the war, he now believed that "morale" would end it. By "morale" he meant that righteousness and truth which is mighty and must prevail. They told many interesting incidents in connection with their trip to the front line trenches, and of the Y.M.C.A. work amongst the troops everywhere. The effect of the organization on the morale of the men was significant.

Another outstanding speaker among the Y.M.C.A. workers was Mr. J. J. Virgo, of London, England, who came as a representative of the British Y. M. C. A. He has traveled since the war commenced, to every front and throughout the nations that are at war, including the dominions that make up our empire, and said that everywhere he found unbounded praise for the Canadian soldiers. "As one thinks of this war," said Mr. Virgo, "there is one thing that makes one happy, and that is that the Y.M.C.A. saw its opportunity for service, and seized that opportunity." Two of the greatest forces in the war, he said, were the Red Triangle and the Red Cross. The Red Triangle, representing the Y.M.C.A., stood for friendship, service and sacrifice. In conclusion Mr. Virgo said: "there is nothing too good for the men who are prepared to go through Hell to

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save our civilization." While speaking he was handed the following cablegram from England: "The Prime Minister authorizes me to express his great appreciation of the work which has been done during the war by the Y.M.C.A. Lloyd-George sends his best wishes for the success of the Y.M.C.A. work in America." Some of the other speakers in connection with the foreign work of the Y.M.C.A. were Mr. J. Howard Crocker, who gave us a splendid account of the work in China, B. H. McClair, who told of the work in India, and of the importance of the Mesopotamia campaign to the Empire, and Robert P. Wilder, of the International Association, who told us of the work in Burmah and the South Sea Islands.

And now returning to matters nearer home, and to men that you have met and heard, Mr. Taylor Statton spoke on "The New Significance of the Canadian Boy." The discussion that followed of the Boys' Work and the co-operative movement growing out of it, led up to the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted: "Resolved that the Convention commend and endorse the National Council for its policy of co-operation with the Churches and Sunday School Associations on behalf of the teenage boys, through national, provincial and local advisory committees for co-operation in Boys' Work. We also approve the policy of further developing the Canadian Standard Programme of aegious education for teenage boys, based on the four-fold life."

The work among the returned soldiers which is being done at the discharge depots at Halifax and Quebec, was presented by Captain J. A. Nealy, and Captain T. W. Jones. Many of you remember the most interesting address that Captain Jones gave us recently in Charlottetown. Since that time, the work has continued to grow, and it is impossible to speak too highly of the service that is being

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