

KEEP THE HOME - FIRES BURNING

A Word For Our Boys From Those Who Have Seen

Have you a boy at the Front? If so, what are you doing to keep the "Home-Fires" burning for him, and to bring him back as clean and strong as when you saw him go? If you have no boy there what are you doing for somebody else's boy who is there in his place—serving YOUR country, as well as his own?

The messages and the appeals on this page are to YOU, in either case. What will you do about it?

The least you CAN do is to read every word on this page. Then the least you WILL do is what is asked of EVERY PERSON in Wilmington.

\$35,000,000 NEEDED.

Millions of soldiers each month thank God for the friendly Y. M. C. A. centers as a relief from the hard, cold life of the camps and trenches. But it takes millions of dollars to continue and to extend this vital home touch—to keep these home ties from breaking.

At the meeting of the National War Work Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States, held at the Bankers Club, in New York City, September 21, 1917, and largely attended by members from every section of the country, the program for this War Week to July 1, 1918, was faced with solemn earnestness.

Reports based on accurate and painstaking investigations indicated that at least \$35,000,000 would be required to meet the needs with any adequateness. It was with a sense of deep conviction and obligation as well as confidence that the National War Work Council voted unanimously to set aside the period November 11th to 19th inclusive to undertake the raising of this large sum of money—the largest ever called for at one time for any similar purpose.

It is proposed to distribute these funds as follows:

For work with U. S. Army and Navy Men in this country	\$11,120,000
For Work with U. S. Army and Navy Men Overseas	11,994,000
For Y. M. C. A. Work in Russian Army	3,305,000
For Y. M. C. A. Work in the French Army	2,640,000
For Y. M. C. A. Work in the Italian Army	1,000,000
For Y. M. C. A. Work in the Prisoner of War Camps	1,000,000
Total	\$31,068,000

In addition to above budgets to provide for inevitable expansion 3,932,000

Grand Total \$35,000,000

The estimated cost of the other phases of the war to the United States government is over \$50,000,000 a day. Shall not the American people contribute at least \$35,000,000 for nine months of the constructive work of the Y. M. C. A. among American troops, among the 14,000,000 and more troops of our Allies and for the 6,000,000 prisoners of war? Millions for defense through war; millions also for the defense of our warriors!

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT WILSON.

TO JOHN R. MOTT:

"May I not, in view of the approaching meeting of the War Work Council, express to you the very high value I have attached to the work which has been accomplished by the Young Men's Christian Association in behalf of our own Army and Navy as well as in behalf of the prisoners-of-war and the men in the training camps of Europe, and may I not express also my interest in the large plans of the War Work Council for the work which is still ahead of the Association?"

NEWTON D. BAKER, Secretary of War.

"For many years the Y. M. C. A. has been established as a prominent feature of army life in times of peace. The war, however, has developed for it a large degree of prominence far larger and a field of usefulness far wider than even its friends could have hoped. Its capacity for mobilization on a large scale and the readiness with which it has fitted itself to the needs of the troops in training camps and trenches in this great world-war make it an indispensable factor in any future military plans. It provides for the social side—the home side—of the life of the soldier and its influence in rationalizing the strange environment into which this crisis has plunged our young men has been and will be most efficient."

PERSHING SAYS: IT'S IMPORTANT

A Paris Cable from General Pershing to John R. Mott "The work now being done by the Young Men's Christian Association for the comfort and entertainment of our soldiers in France is very important. As an organization its moral influence is highly beneficial. It performs a real service that makes for contentment. The Young Men's Christian Association has won its place by unselfish personal devotion to the soldiers' welfare and deserves staunch support by our people at home."

EMPEY, AUTHOR OF "OVER THE TOP" SPEAKS FOR THE ASSOCIATION WORK OVERSEAS

(From an interview in the New York Times)

"Then," he went on, with a change of tone, and with admiration in his voice that showed how he felt before he had got to the end of his sentence, "there is the Y. M. C. A. You people in America ought to do everything you can to help the Y. M. C. A. It is the real home of the American soldier in France. It can't give him his loved ones, but it gives him the comforts and interests and pleasures of home. It brings home to him there in the mud of the trenches. And those Association men aren't drawing any wonderful salaries, either; they are volunteers, and they are in the midst of the mud and the firing, as the soldiers are, to make the soldiers comfortable and help him maintain the religion and the manliness that he had when he went into the war. The Y. M. C. A. doesn't make any distinction in any way—Protestant, Catholic, Jew, atheist, every one is welcome.

"Show me the soldier who makes a disparaging remark about the Y. M. C. A. or its work, and I'll show you a soldier who is a detriment to the army, who is constantly in trouble, and who has lost the respect of officers and mates. It's up to you people here at home to help the Y. M. C. A. I'll like to tell every mother in America," he added, "but, no matter what her boy is when he goes into the war, he'll be a manlier man when he comes out of it. He will be more self-reliant, more courageous; a great quality of justice and fair play will have been instilled into him. And the army is a great leveler; the highbrow, the roughneck, the wise and the otherwise are all on the same plane, fighting for the same cause, and all fighting for you. The real hero's son and the millionaire's son, marching side by side, sharing the same life, and in just the same danger together; a German bullet is no respecter of social position."

Ex-President Taft says: "We should feel proud of the Y. M. C. A. work so ably directed. Are we going to be backward in giving our men the nearest thing they can get to a Christian home on the firing line?"

Major-General John F. O'Ryan says: "Money can be turned over to the Y. M. C. A. with every confidence that it will be expended scientifically and along lines most acceptable to the soldiers."

Major-General J. Franklin Bell says: "I regard the Y. M. C. A. as being as necessary as the Red Cross."

Dr. Henry van Dyke says: "It is because America is convinced that the cause of the Allies represents ideals that she has soberly and firmly entered the war at their side. Call her a dreamer if you will. At least her dreams belong to the spirit of Christianity. And the humane and democratic work of the Y. M. C. A. has helped and will help, to make those dreams a reality."

Gypsy Smith says: "The criticism of those who say that while the Y. M. C. A. is doing a great social work it is doing very little spiritual, is not fair. The workers are constantly engaged in spiritual work as everything they

greatest organization of its kind in the world. What a comfort it is to the men, for they are supplied with plenty to read and games of all kinds. It also secures some of the best talent the country affords which makes times pass very delightfully, considering everything. So you can't sing my praises at home too loudly in behalf of the good old Y. M. C. A."

From an Irish Catholic woman: "I received my first letter from my son today, written on Y. M. C. A. stationery, and oh! I wish I might tell you the gratitude he expressed because he found the 'Y' in France. He has always been a good boy, no bad habits, and when he enlisted it broke my heart, for he is all I have in this world. But since he has told me about your splendid work in the army camp there, it has made me feel different about his going. He told me in his letter this morning, to be sure to see you and express his gratitude to you."

The day I left, my mother took me alone into the kitchen and put both her hands on my shoulders, saying, "Son, let me get your eye. It breaks my heart to see you go. I'm not afraid of bullets or rigid military discipline. I'm proud

tomorrow, and I wish I were going with them! The reason they knew me again was that when I was last over there I was serving behind the bar in the Y. M. hut, in a filthy old sweater, disguised as a Y. M. C. A. officer.

What I wish to point out is the wonderful value of these huts. I do not mean only the material advantages. My job was behind the counter of the bookstall, which was next to the quiet room, and over that hung up the Scout Rules of the Boy Scouts. If there was one, there were hundreds of men who came to me about those rules. Couldn't they sign on to them, they asked. The idea of signing on to something was what always appealed to them.

Another thing I learned from various private talks in the quiet room. These men had hitherto always felt themselves to be one of a herd. They had never realized that they were individuals, that they had individual bodies and souls. They had been to school as one of the herd, to Sunday-school as one of the herd, to Army drill as a herd, and, if I may say so, to church parade as a herd. They only realized they were "up against it." They were going forward to be killed, not as a herd, but individually. Then it was that a man wanted to know something of himself, and how he was going to face this venture. He wanted a little quiet talk, and goodness knows I am no fitted to talk to men in that way. Yet I now get letters from those men thanking me for those few minutes.

There is one thing I do hope, that we shall continue to get the splendid support which Mr. Yapp has secured by his "Money Cadging" efforts! Yet even if we don't, if we had to stop supplies of fags, and buns, etc., there is still the quiet room. And that is doing more good than all the lot put together. If we only support it, we are putting the right spirit into the men for meeting their God.

MY PRAYER.

White Captain of my soul, lead on;
I follow Thee come dark or dawn;
Only vouchsafe three things I crave:
Where terror stalks, Help me Be Brave!
Where righteous ones can scarce endure
The siren call, Help me Be Pure!
Where vows grow dim, and men dare do
What once scorned, Help me Be True!
ROBERT FREEMAN.

A BISHOP OF MEN.

The Lord Bishop Chelmsford is one of the many bishops of England who has found his greatest audience of men in the Association camps. He said the other day, "During the last two or three years I have begun to wonder whether I was a Bishop or a traveling secretary of the Y. M. C. A. From end to end of Essex (his diocese) we have the Y. M. huts. This war has united men and women in England. It has drawn out the heart feeling of English folk in a way that nothing else in the world has ever done and in many ways the Association has been the embodiment of this influence. It has become a tremendous asset to our common Christianity by removing this conception in the minds of great masses of our people as to what Christianity really is. It has removed prejudice in the minds of men against parsons and against churches in these days when anybody must turn his gifts to anything. I know no greater compliment that could come to me than came to a certain bishop. One day two boys were looking at him as he walked down the street. One said, 'That is the Bishop.' The other said, 'Go on, that ain't the Bishop, that's a Gordon Highlander going to a funeral.'"

"With all your concerts and all your entertainments, Christianity has never been ousted from its position. It has been the center of all the work everywhere. The Association has been as a standing witness to the fact that Christianity has something to say, something to do in the midst of this war. It has helped to keep men's vision right, and in keeping the vision right has helped to keep the men straight."

"I think that everybody throughout England is indebted to the Association. Go wherever you will into the village cottages, or into the homes of working men of our East London—what do you find? The mother or the wife, or they nearly always do, brings out the last letter received from Tommy or Jack, and what do you find at the top of that letter? The Red Triangle! Not only that. What do you find in the contents of the letter? Oh, if I could only tell you what I have seen and read. When the dreaded telegram has come to the young wife, or to the mother, the last letter is again handed to me to read. What has been he one thing that has gladdened her heart? 'I know I wasn't quite straight. I didn't live as I ought to have done. But out here last Sunday night I went to the service of the Y. M. hut here. We sang the hymn 'Jesus, Lover.' When I was a lad, mother, you used to sing it. I heard the story of the Cross and Christ. I know I have not been straight, but there that night I looked to Jesus, and found in Him a resting-place."

"Messages like that are the one thing that comfort the mother, that send a thrill through the wife or daughter. In many a hut not only in France but in Egypt, India, Mesopotamia, in our own land, many a lad has found Christ, and it has helped him to live straight. That is the work of the Y. M. C. A. Give it your prayer, give it your sympathy."

LORD ABERDEEN SECONDS THE WAR FUND APPEAL

Let me send a word of cordial and confident good wishes regarding the rally-cries request which is about to go forth on behalf of the Young Men's Christian Association and its great work among the men of the allied armies.

And I would like to join with the host of friends who, from personal knowledge and observation, can offer testimony as to the far-reaching and beneficent work of that splendid organization especially in the present world-wide crisis and emergency.

One of our two sons is now at the front with the Gordon Highlanders, and has, therefore, opportunities of seeing and appreciating the work of the Young Men's Christian Association in the very precincts of the arena of war. And his brother, Lord Haddon, who is prevented from sharing that special privilege, has been entrusted with a leading part in the work of the Association, in which he is, together with his wife, assiduously and constantly engaged, for multitude of soldier lads in London, when they are coming from or returning to the battlefields.

The Colonel, commanding the troops at Transport, Australia, has said that this card posted everywhere on the troop ships and it is used in the addresses and talks of the transport secretaries:

"Say fellows, let's be the kind of men our mothers think we are!"

has practically eliminated rough language and indecent talk among the soldiers on board ship. One posted that the soldiers could not stand, however, and asked to have taken down was

"If you use bad language at home, use it here. We want you to feel at home."

The slogan was so keen and the rebuke so sharp that it was removed but not forgotten. The soldiers said, "If you will keep up your other motto 'talk clean, live clean, fight clean, play the game,' we will undertake for ourselves and our associates to drop bad language of all kinds," and they did it.

Wilmington's Share
of the
\$35,000,000
is **\$15,000**
New Hanover **\$1,500**

One Dollar at Least From
Every Man, Woman and Child
Will Do It.

**\$1.00
Buys
Only**

- 4 gal Gasoline
- 1 lb Best Candy
- 10lbs Sugar
- 20 Movie Tickets
- 2 Theatre Tickets
- 20 Soft Drinks
- 10 Good Cigars

Can You Do Less to Save
Somebody's Boy?

are doing is a means to that end. Indeed, the Association has accomplished a far bigger spiritual work than we dreamed."

Major Gerald W. Birks (Canada): "The Y. M. C. A. is an absolutely essential part of the Allied army. Its work is to supply a touch of home; it is a home away from home. It asks for money, not for itself, but to do the work for your boys which you would do for them if they were here."

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

"Say, mister!" and Secretary Chesley turned in his walk through the hut to the good looking Sammy sitting at one of our Boche prisoner made tables.

"I guess maybe you'd be interested in this letter I'm writing to my mother."

When he had read it, Mr. Chesley writes, he secured a copy. Here is just as he wrote it.

"I am attending a French class that is gotten up by the Y. M. C. A. Mother, you can't realize how much good the Y. M. C. A. is doing over here. I really think it is the

to have my boy give his life for our country, but I fear most the awful moral conditions. Can you come back, if God permits you to return, as clean as you are now? When you do return, we'll come into this kitchen to stand as we are now. You will not need to tell me if you are clean. I'll see it in your eye. Can you keep clean, my boy? Can you do it for your mother?"

SIR ROBERT BADEN-POWELL ON MEN "UP AGAINST IT."

The Founder of the Boy Scouts "Disguised as a Y. M. C. A. Secretary," Gives a Chapter of His Experience in His Breezy Way, at the Opening of an Association Hut.

I arrived here late with an aching hand, and a grimy one at that! The reason was this: I came by the tube and in it were three great hulking Highlanders, with mud and tin helmets and all the rest of it, and they tacked themselves on to me. Talking to them, I missed the station and went on a bit, but they are off again to the Front to-