

Million Letters In the Mails Today Bearing Magic Words "With the Colors"

Keystone of the Splendid Work the Y. M. C. A. Does Among Our Men In Uniform Is Keeping Them In Touch With the Folks at Home.

STAMPED WITH STARS AND STRIPES AND RED TRIANGLE

Multifarious Ways in Which the Association Appeals to Your Boy, Your Neighbor's Boy, or Some Boy You Know and Love—Creates a Helpful Environment in Cantonment, on Way Overseas, in Front Line Trench and Beyond—First to Aid as He Comes Tottling Back—Give Your Share of the \$36,000,000 Required to Accomplish This "Last Evidence That Somebody Cares."

It was evening on the broad Hempstead Plain, Long Island, where the Rainbow division was spending its last night before embarking for France. It had been raining hard in the afternoon—a cold, steady autumn downpour—and there was nothing to suggest the rainbow in the outward aspect of the camp.

At least is on its way to you. Each one of our 16 cantonments, where the new national army is being trained, is using more than a million sheets of this paper every month. In the draft army alone that means 16,000,000 sheets of love every month reaching out from the great encampment where the men are being trained into the hearts at home.



Music, Games, Good Reading and Correspondence Facilities in Y. M. C. A. Building.

In each of these a soldier was strumming on a piano; others were reading books and magazines; hundreds were writing letters home. Behind the raised counter at one end three or four young men were busy passing out notepaper and envelopes, selling stamps and weighing parcels, which the men were sending home.

part of the world to another than statistics can express. Statistics are pretty poor anyway when it comes to reckoning in terms of love and human tenderness. Let's put it this way: That the Y. M. C. A. is the biggest express company the world has ever seen, and the parcels it is handling are the loves and devotions of human beings.

World's Best Loved Trademark.

This war has made us think hard and fast. Your boy or your neighbor's boy or some boy you know and love has been called to do his share in the big job of policing the world for democracy and human liberty. Is it any comfort to you to know that wherever his duty may call him your boy will have a friend that will serve him in body, mind and soul?

How close those benches were packed with men, bending over the long tables absorbed in their writing! What an appeal to the sympathies those great groups of soldiers make! Fine, clean-cut, upstanding fellows, some of them mere boys, one thinks immediately of the sacrifice they have made for the rest of us and how precious they are to some one back home.

These were the tents of the Y. M. C. A. On that last night in America the association was serving the soldiers in the best of all ways—giving them an opportunity to write home. On previous nights they had enjoyed boxing bouts, movies, concerts, dramatics and a score of healthy entertainments as well as religious meetings. But on this last night home ties were strongest. And perhaps that is the keynote of the splendid work the Y. M. C. A. is doing among our men in uniform—keeping them in touch with home.

Magic Words, "With the Colors." In these times there are some letters that mean more to us than any we have ever read before. They are written on sheets of paper stamped with the Stars and Stripes and the red triangles of the Y. M. C. A., and they bear the magic words, "With the Colors." There are many more than a million such letters in the mails now while you read this. Perhaps one at

forego coveted possessions or even necessities. The work must go on, because there is no one thing that contributes so much to the esprit and efficiency of the troops. The Y. M. C. A. is working night and day to help the government win this war. And every penny that is given to aid the work is a direct assistance to the health, happiness and strength of your boy and mine.

Snapshots of Kaleidoscopic Work. In all the big cities in France where our men pass through in large numbers, the Y. M. C. A. is operating hostels, where they can get beds and meals at a minimum cost. In London the American Y. M. C. A. has erected a large building for our soldiers and a clubhouse for American officers.

There are Y. M. C. A. dugouts right behind the front line trenches, where the soldiers can get hot drinks, crackers and other comforts at all hours. Over 2,000 men who had been rejected on account of physical disability have been able to get into the British army by reason of the physical work of the British Y. M. C. A.

A fleet of motor cars leaves the big Y. M. C. A. headquarters in London at midnight every night to pick up soldiers who are wandering about the streets without any wholesome lodging in which to spend the night. These cars are operated by Englishwomen of position and refinement, who report that they never meet any discourtesy at the hands of the soldiers. The importance of this service can be estimated by the fact that at least 50,000 soldiers are on leave in London every week. Over half of these sleep in Y. M. C. A. beds every night.

Entertainment on Vast Scale. The Y. M. C. A. has erected a big auditorium, seating 3,000, in each of the big draft camps, and huge chalet-like tents, seating 2,500 in the other encampments. The association is running a 22 week entertainment circuit among the camps and is paying 16 companies of entertainers, who are traveling to 30 camps performing before the men.

In each of the draft camps the Y. M. C. A. has ten secretaries engaged in educational work. The association is seeing to it that every man who cannot speak English is taught to do so. In many of the camps the association has a singing director, who is teaching the men to sing the popular and martial airs that do so much to keep up their spirits.

Of 64 Y. M. C. A. men at Camp Dix only three are being paid full salaries. In all the camps the majority of the Y. M. C. A. men have left lucrative positions to do this work simply because its appeal is irresistible to any red blooded man. Harry Lander, the famous Scotch singer and comedian, now on his farewell concert tour in the United States, is giving all his spare time to the service of the association and is singing to the soldiers at all the camps he can reach.

In one of the draft camps the Y. M. C. A. is supervising athletics on 120 playing fields, providing full athletic equipment. The winners of the inter-regimental games will play the champions of the other camps.

One of the greatest services rendered by the association is the making



A Red Triangle Dugout in the Trenches.

of money orders by which the men can send their pay home to their families. In some of the big camps the Y. M. C. A. is providing banking facilities for the men as well.

Do Your Bit With a Tenner. This month (November) the Y. M. C. A. must raise \$35,000,000 to carry on its work among our soldiers and their allies until next July. Of this \$35,000,000 about \$24,000,000 will be spent on the work with our own troops or about \$10 for every man in Uncle Sam's uniform. If everybody who has received letters from soldiers and sailors were to contribute \$10 the task would be easy. Are your boy's health and happiness and clean soul worth \$10 to you?

Your town mayor, your pastor, your school superintendent will know who is the treasurer of the campaign committee in your county or town. Otherwise send a check or money order to Cleveland H. Dodge, treasurer, 124 East Twenty-eighth street, New York city.

Only sacrificial giving by millions of givers will make possible the continuance of this vast work for American soldiers and for those of our allies.

The Argus Trade-at-Home Department. Patronize Ontario Stores

The man who is willing to advertise his goods, has good goods to sell or he would not tell you about them. It will pay you to investigate the goods sold by these firms who use these columns. They will serve you with good goods, at the right prices.

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PHONE—49-J—PHONE PRINTING—at the right price at The Argus Office. PHONE—49-J—PHONE

FARMER SMITH'S BITTER LESSON

Christmas Mail Order Shipment Proves Nightmare.

"BARGAINS" ARE A DELUSION

After Unpacking Goods, Quickly Goes to Home Town Store, Sees What He Buys and Makes Vow Never Again to Patronize Catalogue House—No More Wander Book Stuff.

[Copyrighted, 1917, by Thomas J. Sullivan.] Experience is the name men give their follies and their sorrows. It is the successive disenchantment of the things of life.

It is reason enriched by the spoils of the heart. At least that is Smith's interpretation of experience.

Disagreeable Brand of Wetness. One December it happened that the weather man seemed to conspire with the mail order man. He turned out a disagreeable brand of wetness that filled the farmers with a distaste for the "open road" that David Grayson so optimistically praises in all seasons.

But all farmers are not optimistic, like David. Farmer Smith liked the comfort of his sheltered home. So he naturally was attracted by an invitation from the mail order house to sit down in an easy chair before the fire and select his Christmas supplies from the pages of a wonder book left at his front gate by the R. F. D. man.

Wonder Book Solves Problem. The idea seemed mighty attractive and comfortable. He thought he might as well experiment once anyway. So he and his wife had a nice time sifting out the yellow order slip according to their needs and revenue.

Then they sent it on its way to the firm which promised them thrilling bargains in all lines of merchandise from pianos to palaces.

The Smiths had made one trip to town. The day had been characterized by haste, hunger and worry. They hadn't had time to buy what they wanted.

So the catalogue seemed to solve the problem for them. It seemed as if it were going to save them lots of time, energy, money and brain fog.

Shipment Arrives. It was a beautiful pre-Christmas dream made up in four measures of comfort, confidence, curiosity and hope. The awakening came afterward, likewise the disillusionment.

Their shipment arrived two days before Christmas. This was very reassuring. But it necessitated a special drive of nine miles to the nearest express office.

The C. G. D. express charges were unexpectedly high. The first intimation of a mistake came with the realization that the express charges exceeded the difference in price between home store and catalogue house articles.

Traffic had been congested and the passage rough. Damage was visible. Smith hoped it wasn't serious, but he took his stuff home with unpleasant forebodings, and that night when the family was asleep he and his wife opened the package in the kitchen.

Caused Smith to Swear. There was a lot of excelsior to unpack, but when the work was done and the contents stood revealed there was a verbal fireworks display on the part of Smith, who forgot for the moment that he was a deacon in the church, and Mrs. Smith's tears were bitter.

The parlor lamp was a scream. Its embellishments were vivid enough to light a colored Baptist church without the aid of acetylene. The handcraft Battenberg looked as if it had been made on a sweatshop machine intended for overalls. The guaranteed pure wool overcoat assured them at a glance how thoroughly they had been fleeced.

Passing up the balance of the "alleged bargains," the baby's stocking was the piece de resistance of their Christmas feast. It was a tartan affair, decorated with green and red "red" tassels and filled with junk that entered the discard of a one cent

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