SOCIAL WORK AT CAMP DODGE

[In this monograph the author undertakes to describe social work as it has developed in military training camps in the United States, using Camp Dodge as a concrete expression of such work. The study was made during the spring and summer of 1918, and covers the period during which the Eighty-eighth Division of the National Army was in training at Camp Dodge. Since the departure of that division for overseas service a number of changes have been made in the camp itself and in the organization of the social work. Besides numerous visits to Camp Dodge the author has made use of all available sources of information. It is possible that some errors of description or statement may have found lodgment in these pages, due partly to the difficulty of presenting statically a rapidly developing organization.— EDITOR.]

I

INTRODUCTION

The location of a training camp for men from the States of Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota provoked considerable rivalry among the competing cities — the contest finally narrowing down to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and what has come to be known as Camp Dodge, near Des Moines, Iowa. So close was the contest that it was finally settled by an appeal to Secretary of War Baker, who favored the Des Moines location after the army board appointed for the purpose had decided for the Minnesota point. Undoubtedly the fact that Camp Dodge was located near a saloonless city and at the center of a prohibition State influenced the decision of Secretary Baker.

This final settlement of the location at Camp Dodge was made on June 27, 1917. A general cantonment fund of $50,000 was promptly raised in Des Moines to aid in meeting all the requirements of the Federal government. To a combination of Des Moines contractors and builders was awarded the contract for the construction of the cantonment

—"the only case reported in which the gigantic building contract was entrusted to local builders." The building of the camp was completed in the main between July 5th and September 30, 1917.

"In the early summer of 1917", in the words of Johnson Brigham, "visitors at the Hyperion Clubhouse on the height overlooking Camp Dodge, twelve miles north of Des Moines, looking down from the porch upon the valley to the west and north, saw only a few buildings left over from the state encampment of 1916. Extending on beyond for miles lay the beautiful valley of the Des Moines River with its dotted furrows of corn, its drill-lines of grain and the emerald-green of grass with its brown-black setting of earth. In the November following, from the same viewpoint the scene had changed as if by magic, the transformation rivaling the miracles of *The Thousand and One Nights.* There, to the west and northwest, had sprung up a city with nearly two thousand buildings, all evidently designed by the same mind and hand,— rows on rows of barracks, here and there a mess-house with its kitchen; eight green-painted buildings and one large auditorium marking the well-directed efforts of the Young Men's Christian Association to ameliorate the moral and mental condition of thousands of young men, many if not most of them for the first time separated from the comforts and delights of home. Brothering up to the central auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. was the recreation center of the Knights of Columbus. To the west was the building erected by the Lutherans. Across the street was the huge auditorium erected by the government for recreation purposes. To the west of this was the central library building, erected by the American Library Association in response to the urgent needs of the war department. Jews and Gentiles, Catholics and Protestants, all came together in this most substantial of dream cities, and, with

not a trace of the old lines of cleavage, each factor recognizing the greatness of the problem, coöperating with all the rest in brave endeavor to solve it. There, too, was the staff hospital covering forty acres. There were stables for thousands of horses and mules, and hundreds of other buildings not easily identified at a distance.

"For three miles or more this city of men extended north and south with its 1,872 buildings, with its miles of smoothly paved streets over which, of a Sunday, two almost continuous lines of automobiles could be seen creeping along in opposite directions. The main avenue, on every Sunday afternoon, was lined with soldiers off duty and their relatives and friends and curious visitors strolling from one point of interest to another. The open windows of the barracks were alive with khaki-clad 'boys' sunning themselves and exchanging comments on the moving picture before them. In the open spaces were groups of athletic youths practicing football kicks and passes for future games. Sounds of vocal and instrumental music came from the Y. M. C. A. buildings, and exhilirating shouts of laughter rose from groups of men assembled on the cross-roads and in the miniature parks.

"The visitor went away from the scene impressed not only with the bigness and substantial nature of the cantonment, but also with the patriotic response of the American people to the draft upon their youths and young men, and the splendid material for future armies resulting from the government's experiment in 'selective conscription'."

Late in August, 1917, General Edward H. Plummer was appointed commanding officer of the Eighty-eighth Division of the National Army and placed in charge of the Thirteenth Divisional Cantonment at Camp Dodge. Entering immediately upon his duties, General Plummer expressed himself as well pleased with the progress made in

the construction and equipping of the camp. "One of his first questions was: 'What has been done for the entertainment of the men?' This was followed by other inquiries showing a keen interest in his charge, as for example: 'Are the shower-baths ready for them?' . . . . He early gave the public this gratifying assurance: 'No mother need fear that her son will be accorded anything but the best of treatment.'

"General Plummer strongly commended the work of the War Recreation Board at the camp and in the city. In a note to Secretary R. B. Patin, late in December, he said:

" 'It is only a flash of reasoning to realize that what is being done for our recruits by the War Recreation Board is an inestimable blessing to individuals and a method of almost equal value from a patriotic standpoint, practically saving to the colors, to the civilized world, thousands of men in this time of need'."[1]

These remarks of General Plummer and his references to the welfare of the men call attention to a phase of the training of the new American armies which is unique in the emphasis placed upon the human welfare environment of the soldiers. In what President Robert A. Woods of the National Conference of Social Work so finely described as *The Regimentation of the Free,* "the truth has been rediscovered and far more broadly applied, which was first fully brought to light by Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War, that 'the cause of humanity is identified with the strength of armies'."[2]

As the result of his long and effective service with the Sanitary Commission during the Civil War, Frederick Law Olmsted gave as his opinion that the two things that did

1 Brigham's *Iowa: Its History and Its Foremost Citizens* (Home and School Edition), Vol. II, pp. 753–761.

2 Woods's *The Regimentation of the Free* in *The Survey,* Vol. XL, p. 395.

most to keep the soldiers well were music and letters from home.[3] A generation of social work has supplemented Civil War experience and has given a chance for experimentation and for the testing of many methods of dealing with social relations. During the World War constructive social workers have been given an opportunity on a vast scale to show the value of their efforts.

II

THE TRAINING CAMP COMMISSIONS

Social workers are largely responsible for the Commissions on Training Camp Activities, appointed by Secretaries Baker and Daniels, for the supervision of social and recreational work in the army and navy. The men in the national service have left their families, homes and friends, their clubs, churches and college gatherings, their dances, libraries, athletic fields, theatres and movies — all the normal social relationships to which they have been accustomed — and have entered a strange new life in which everything is subordinated to the need of creating an efficient fighting force. The task of these commissions, therefore, is to reëstablish the old social ties as far as possible, and to furnish a substitute for the recreational and social opportunities of home communities. They must socialize in the broadest sense the environment of military camps and training stations.[4]

The Commission on Training Camp Activities of the War Department held its first meeting on April 26, 1917, and the Navy Commission on July 26th of the same year. Raymond B. Fosdick was made chairman of both commissions which are sometimes referred to as the "Fosdick Commissions".

[3] Lee's *The Training Camp Commissions* in *The Survey*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 3.

[4] *Commission on Training Camp Activities*, published at Washington, D. C., pp. 3, 4.

Mr. Fosdick was sent to the Mexican border by Secretary Baker in the summer of 1916 to investigate conditions during the mobilization of the National Guard in connection with the threatening state of affairs resulting from revolutionary disturbances in Mexico. His report emphasized the need of social and recreational work for men in the army. Other well-known members of these commissions are Joseph Lee, President of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, John R. Mott of the Young Men's Christian Association, Charles P. Neill, formerly Commissioner of Labor of the United States, and the famous football players, Walter Camp and Malcolm L. McBride.[5]

The work of these commissions is divided mainly into three parts. One part is to exclude vice and drink from the vicinity of each camp and training station. This work has been in charge of Mr. Fosdick.

But the negative side is not the biggest nor the most important aspect of this social work at the camps. It is not enough that the government should "barely avoid the wholesale propagation . . . . of physical disease and moral deterioration with penalties to be collected from the wives and children of such of them as may survive. America asks something more than that. The establishment of these training camps represents a great educational enterprise. These are our national universities for war purposes, schools to which the flower of American youth is being sent. It is our business to see that these men are turned out stronger in every sense — more fit morally, mentally and physically, than they have ever been in their lives. Unless that is accomplished it will have to be said of America, as of every other nation that has encountered the problem of the training camp, that we also have failed in its solution."

[5] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 3–7.

The third great branch of the work of these commissions "consists of the mobilization of the social resources in the neighboring communities so as to be of the greatest possible benefit to the officers and men." This is the least visible, but in many respects the most interesting and most difficult part of the work. The educational and recreational activities have a certain definiteness, but to make the communities adjacent to the camps suitable places for the men in their leisure time is a great undertaking. It means social construction and reconstruction in comparison with which the actual material establishment of the cantonments is a relatively simple and definite proposition.[6]

A business man, who considers himself practical-minded, asked what place has a theatre in a training camp? What is the use of teaching men to sing and why bother with men's morals? The answer to the questions is to be found in the fact that already some of the directors of large industries "that are turning out munitions of war have asked the Commissions to take over their social problems in the same manner as they are handling those of the army and navy. They see in the work a value to be measured in dollars and cents."

Behind all the social work is the "one big purpose *to win the war*. It will be won by man-power and manhood, and the activities of the Commissions are directed towards their cultivation. . . . To make the men fit for fighting, and after, to bring them back from war as fine and as clean as they went, is just plain efficiency."[7]

The three great tasks of the Fosdick commissions cover two great fields of activity — one inside the camps and the other outside. Except where necessary they have not cre-

[6] Lee's *The Training Camp Commissions* in *The Survey*, Vol. XXXIX, pp. 4, 5.

[7] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 15–17.

ated any new machinery, but have made use of agencies already in existence. A large share of the club life and entertainment inside the camps has been directed by the Young Men's Christian Association and the Knights of Columbus. The American Library Association has provided an adequate supply of books and reading facilities. The organization of the adjacent communities has been delegated to the Playground and Recreation Association of America, the Travelers' Aid Society, and the Young Women's Christian Association. Every organization already at work and able to give assistance has been brought in to help in its special field. The social worker has been given a chance on a large scale to show the value of his work.

III

SOCIAL WORK INSIDE THE ARMY CAMP

The idea of club life in army and navy camps seems somewhat strange if not revolutionary; but this is one of the significant things for which the new government policy has provided. On Wednesday and Saturday afternoons the routine of military training is sometimes broken, and Sundays are of course regular holidays. Unless assigned to some special duty the fighting man is free after 5:30 P. M. until taps. It is a fact that leisure is the bugbear of the man away from home: successful traveling men say that their work would be one hundred per cent congenial if it were not for Sundays. This problem of occupation and activity during leisure time for the soldier and sailor is met in the cantonments and training stations by the Young Men's Christian Association and by the Knights of Columbus.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The Young Men's Christian Association was given recognition as one of the agencies for furnishing recreational

facilities because its experience on the Mexican border in 1916, in the military and prison camps of Europe during the present World War, and in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904 to 1905 has fitted it to deal with such problems. In each of the National Army cantonments there are from nine to fourteen buildings, and usually at least six in National Guard camps. In each of the National Army cantonments these buildings include an auditorium seating three thousand.

"Over one hundred and fifty tents, 40 x 80 feet, and four hundred special outfits or equipments for Association purposes also have been provided. Each outfit includes, among other things, a piano, motion picture machine, phonograph, office supplies, postcards, pens, ink, pencils, stationery, reading matter, etc.— all free."

According to the latest information there are 178 army and navy stations at which the Young Men's Christian Association operates in nearly 600 buildings. At the smallest of these places there is only one secretary, while at the largest there are fourteen buildings each with a crew of secretaries. It must be remembered that the population of the cantonments is that of fair-sized cities — in some cases 50,000, and in many from 25,000 to 35,000. Adequate service requires that the buildings shall be distributed so as to be easy of access; they must be efficiently managed and the secretaries must be fitted to deal with the many different types, racial and personal, of the men who meet on the common ground for recreation, entertainment, and social enjoyment. The spirit that pervades these buildings and the smoothness with which they are administered is remarkable and can only result from a sympathetic understanding of men.

A typical bungalow usually contains a big fireplace, where on cold days a big log fire crackles cheerfully. The rocking-

chairs in the chimney corners are almost always occupied by men with books and magazines, and there is a pleasant aroma of tobacco burning in many pipes. Near the center of the room a victrola is pouring forth, perhaps some popular music, or it may be a grand opera selection. At the desks near the windows there are men writing letters. "It is estimated that more than a million letters a day are written by the soldiers and sailors on the stationery that is furnished free by the Y. M. C. A. . . . They get their stamps from one of the secretaries behind the desk, and mail their letters with him. From the same desk they buy money-orders, over three quarters of a million dollars a month in the aggregate."

Part of the equipment of many of the buildings is a small auditorium where "amateur vaudeville entertainments, Bible classes, movie shows, basketball games, song services and sparring matches" are conducted. Besides these smaller halls there are, in the larger camps, auditoriums with a seating capacity of from 2000 to 3000 people. It is the central place for the big Young Men's Christian Association events and is in addition to the "Liberty Theatres" built by the commissions. Here are held the entertainments, lectures, and other events that draw men from all parts of the camp. During January, 1918, the total attendance at these events in all the camps was 3,253,838. With but few exceptions no admission is charged.[8] Indeed, the camp auditorium is the largest single consumer of moving-picture films in the country, operating over 500 machines in the cantonments of the United States, running from one to six nights a week, and using from 4,000,000 to 5,000,000 feet of film during that time.

[8] *Commission on Training Camp Activities,* pp. 7–9; Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit,* pp. 24–32.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Similar activities are carried on by the Knights of Columbus, which, like the Young Men's Christian Association, served the soldiers along social lines on the Mexican border in 1916. One organization represents roughly sixty per cent of the army, while the other represents about thirty-five per cent. These agencies, however, hold no meetings to which all the troops in the camps are not invited regardless of religious or other preferences. The Knights of Columbus now have about 150 buildings in operation in American camps and a fifth more under way or authorized. There are about 500 secretaries in service and about 65 volunteer chaplains. The cost of the welfare work of this organization thus far amounts to about $7,000,000.[9]

THE JEWISH WELFARE BOARD

The Jewish Welfare Board has erected fewer buildings in the camps, but it provides social, educational, and religious programs. It looks after about 75,000 men of Jewish faith and has sent 150 workers to the different camps. There is the closest coöperation with the Young Men's Christian Association and the Knights of Columbus. More than one hundred local branches have been organized in different places to interest Jewish people in the work and to obtain the necessary funds.

Personal service forms a large part of the work of these three organizations. They are effectively bridging the gulf between the soldiers and their environment. These camp clubs are not closed most of the time, as are the churches at home. No one needs to dress up to enter them. The soldier writes his letters, plays his games, and sees a movie in the same place in which he listens to a sermon, and sings the

[9] *The Sioux City Journal*, July 6, 1918; *Association Men*, Vol. XLIII, p. 196.

hymns he learned in his childhood. At home the church never fitted into daily life in any such way. No one ever thought of dropping in "to smoke and chat, to write a letter to his sweetheart, to laugh at Charlie Chaplin, to see a couple of local champions spar for the honors of the ring." These organizations supplement the work of the chaplains; they show that "organized friendship" is worth while because it makes better fighters.[10]

BOOKS FOR THE SOLDIERS

During the Civil War no systematic provision was made for books for the use of the army and navy. A few books were sent to the hospitals in and around Washington and in a few northern cities, but in the main the men depended almost entirely on *Harper's* and *Frank Leslie's Weekly*. The Connecticut regiments were fortunate exceptions, since libraries were a part of the regimental equipment from that State. These libraries were placed in strong portable cases with a written catalogue and proper regimental labels. They were in charge of Professor Francis Wayland and were on a great variety of subjects and of good quality.

The demands of the newer methods of warfare are much more exacting. Books upon technical subjects must be within the reach of the soldier: they are necessary for training as well as to occupy leisure moments. As Mr. Fosdick tells us, this war is "a modern science which the men must learn by studious application to the problems of drill and trench. They acquire the habit of study, of application, in the training camp of to-day." Normal life can not be provided for soldiers and sailors in training without arrangements for the adequate distribution of good reading matter. Upon the entrance of the United States into the war, the American Library Association appointed a War

[10] *The Sioux City Journal*, July 5, 1918; Odell's *The New Spirit of the New Army*, p. 23.

Service Committee which made its first report in June, 1917. When these plans became known the Commission on Training Camp Activities invited the Association to assume responsibility for providing library facilities in the camps.

The Secretary of War appointed ten men and women of national reputation as a library war council. It was decided to raise by private subscription a million dollars with which to carry on the work. The financial campaign resulted in raising the amount asked for and half as much again. A campaign for books, conducted at the same time, brought in over 200,000 volumes for immediate use.

It was planned to purchase books of a serious character, since it was thought that fiction and books of the lighter sort would be largely supplied by gift through the book campaign — which was to be a continuous one for the duration of the war. The Carnegie corporation gave the money for thirty-two camp libraries, and an anonymous donor built the building at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station. Each library cost $10,000.

In October, 1917, Dr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, became general director of the library war service with headquarters in the Congressional Library at Washington. Here every effort is made to supply the needs of the various camps, to get the greatest result at a minimum of expense, and to avoid unnecessary complications in classification and cataloging. There is ordinarily no catalogue of fiction; and non-fiction, which represents the expenditure of considerable money, is only roughly classified. The charging system is so simple that the men themselves can charge the books they take out. The emphasis is upon circulation and use of books rather than upon exact classification and security from loss.

The library buildings are plain wooden structures built after a plan designed by E. L. Tilton, a well-known library

architect who contributed his services. Although the plan called for a building 120 by 40 feet, the length of the structure was in some cases reduced to 93 feet. The library buildings are located near the center of the camps and near the transportation lines. The interior consists of one large room with two bedrooms at one end. There are open shelves for about 10,000 volumes, and tables and chairs are provided for about 200 readers. The first library building to be opened was at Camp Lewis, Washington, on November 28th; by the end of December, 1917, all but one of the structures were completed. Many obstacles were met in erecting these buildings: wages and prices for materials had greatly increased, freight was seriously congested, and contractors and laborers were leaving the camps after the completion of their work. Much of the equipment in these libraries will be of service after the war in the establishment of new public libraries.

Besides the central library in each camp there are branches at the Young Men's Christian Association and Knights of Columbus huts, in the post exchanges, and at the base hospital. At these places soldiers get books at any hour of the day or evening, and the "honor system" is used under which books can be charged by leaving a memorandum on the book-card. In addition to the branches, which number from eight to twenty in each camp, and where from 500 to 1500 books are placed, library deposit stations containing from 50 to 100 books are established in the barracks and mess rooms. Sometimes there will be a hundred or more of these stations in a camp.

Some of the librarians are volunteers, while others are paid a small salary in addition to subsistence. A paid assistant is also provided with subsistence. The total cost, including janitor service and the expenses of local volunteers, amounts to about $250 a month for each camp library

— about $100,000 a year for this part of the work. Each camp library is supplied with a low-priced automobile with delivery box attached for the distribution of books within the camp.

The question is frequently asked, "What do the men read?" Of course fiction holds the first place because one of the major purposes of the libraries is to tide over unoccupied time and to furnish pleasant and wholesome relaxation. But next to fiction come books of pure and applied science. Men are facing unaccustomed tasks and they do a great amount of reading and study to fit themselves for their new duties. Books on machinery, gasoline engines, aëroplanes, electricity, and chemistry are in constant demand. The men realize that they are soon to meet serious problems upon the solution of which their own future and that of their country depends. Army life furnishes a tremendous incentive to study, which accounts for the great enthusiasm for reading that is displayed in the use of the library facilities.

There are in the camps many foreign-speaking men who must learn to understand, read, and give orders in English; and there are others, entirely illiterate, who must be taught to read and write. Still others have never had the privilege of access to books and must be taught how to use them. At the other extreme are 45,000 students from 576 colleges. In Camp Devens in Massachusetts there were 695 college men from 27 New England institutions, who found themselves messmates of former mill operatives from the textile cities of New England. These men have exerted a strong influence upon each other. The presence of so many college men means a call for kinds of books not needed by men who have had less opportunity for education. There is a leveling up rather than the generally accepted theory of a leveling downward in the army camp. The far-reaching

importance of camp libraries can hardly be exaggerated.

Mr. Burton E. Stevenson, the novelist who is librarian at Camp Sherman, Ohio, had "some very plausible theories about the kinds of books the men would want; but he soon discarded them. We have had requests here for every sort of book, from some books by Gene Stratton Porter to Boswell's 'Life of Johnson' and Bergson's 'Creative Evolution'. We have had requests for Ibsen's plays; for books on sewage disposal; and so many requests for 'A Message to Garcia' that I had a supply mimeographed. In one building there were so many requests for books on religion and ethics that we set up a small reference collection. Broadly speaking, of course, most of the men read fiction; exciting, red-blooded fiction-detective stories, adventure stories, and so on. But there is also a steady demand for Conrad, and Wells, and Hardy, and Meredith. Poetry is also in demand, and good books of travel go well. . . . We don't care for unattractive, cheap editions, with yellow, muddy paper and flimsy binding. We want attractive books — nice, clean copies of good editions — and the more of these we get the better service we can give the men."

Finally, the purpose of the camp library work, like that of all the affiliated organizations, is "to help win the war, and to help in the great work of reconstruction after the war. . . . The camp libraries contribute their share to both these ends. They help to keep the man more fit physically, mentally and spiritually, and prepare such as shall be spared for greater usefulness after the war. Good reading has helped to keep many a soldier up to his highest level; it has aided in the recovery of many a wounded man. It has helped to keep him cheerful, and to send him back to the firing line with renewed determination to win or die bravely in the attempt."[11]

[11] Koch's *War Service of the American Library Association*, pp. 5–26; Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 84–99.

SINGING IN THE CAMPS

Singing in the army has a distinct military value. Emphasis is not laid upon it in military textbooks; but a good deal is said about morale and esprit de corps, upon both of which singing has a great influence. A hundred years ago when American shipping was found on every sea, the sailors sang their chanties as they pulled on the ropes or tugged at the windlass. The chanties were recognized as an aid to man power. Often the words were "sentimental or dramatic . . . . as ungodly as the men who sang them — but they smacked of the salt sea, they promoted good feeling among the crew, and they were an energizing influence." It is natural for men to sing when they come together; for singing is a means of self-expression and it is also relaxation and stimulation. If singing in the army and navy needs any other justification than its inspirational significance, it is only necessary to mention its physical effects.

In the opinion of Major-General Leonard Wood, "it is just as essential that the soldiers should know how to sing as that they should carry rifles and learn how to shoot them. Singing is one of the things they all should learn. It sounds odd to the ordinary person when you tell him every soldier should be a singer, because the layman cannot reconcile singing with killing. But when you know these boys as I know them, you will realize how much it means to them to sing. There isn't anything in the world, even letters from home, that will raise a soldier's spirits like a good, catchy marching-tune."

Another officer is quoted as saying: "It is monotony that kills the men off. A man gets tired of drill, tired of doing the same thing in barracks, even tired of getting shot at. We need company leaders to teach the men new songs; we need instructors to show the men how to get up their own

minstrel shows and dramatic entertainments. Everything that can be devised by way of wholesome amusement toward breaking up the monotony is a direct help in making better soldiers and keeping the standards high."

Singing has long been understood to be an aid to efficiency, but it remained for the Commissions on Training Camp Activities to develop it in the army and navy for that purpose. There was appointed a National Committee on Army and Navy Camp Music to supervise the work. Under its auspices a conference of song leaders was held to compile a collection of songs that would contain what the greatest number wanted to sing. The result was the little volume of *Songs of the Soldiers and Sailors* — the first song-book ever published by a government. For such a book the need was apparent, since without a collection of songs, soldiers and sailors from different parts of the country would not know the same songs when they came together. The book is on sale at the post exchanges in all the camps — at the price of five cents for soldiers and ten cents for civilians.

Song leaders or coaches have been appointed by the commissions in the various camps and cantonments. These men are civilians who are given the standing of commissioned officers. They get results chiefly through personality and by inspiring enthusiasm. One day a song leader on a trip through a camp noticed a squad of tired men pulling stumps. In his small car he carried a folding organ and some white oil charts on which were the words of the most popular songs. After a hurried consultation with the officer in charge, the song leader started the men singing. In a few minutes he had the men singing; and twenty minutes later he left them yanking out stumps with renewed vigor. Different divisions of the army and navy men have regular times for singing under the direction of the leaders. Mass singing is valuable in filling in periods of waiting.

The men sing on the march, in their barracks, and between acts at the Liberty Theatres.

Less attention is paid to the matter of what the men sing than to the more important consideration that they sing. The greater part of the songs are not classical: sometimes they incline towards the "rough-house", and yet when you hear them sing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic", you feel no misgivings as to the sentiments of the singing fighters. These soldier songs have a swing and rhythm which appeal to everybody. I have seen a camp song leader get such a staid gathering as the National Conference of Social Work so interested in singing that they were unwilling to stop and take up the regular program.

The songs range from the national anthem to "Send Me a Curl." Among them are such favorites as "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny", "Silver Threads Among the Gold", "Dixie", and a few of the best-known hymns. We have a singing army and a singing army is a winning army.[12]

ATHLETICS

Another thing that is being done inside the camps is the development of athletics. This work for the army is under the direction of Dr. Joseph E. Raycroft, professor of hygiene in Princeton University; similarly, Walter Camp, the famous Yale football authority, is in charge of athletics in the navy. The government through the two commissions has been encouraging and directing athletics in more than thirty-five army camps and half as many naval stations.

The organization and conduct of the work in each camp or station is delegated to men of experience, many of whom have been star athletes in their college days. These men were at first civilian aids on the staffs of the commanding officers, but later many of them were commissioned as

[12] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 64–83; *Commission on Training Camp Activities*, pp. 15, 16.

officers in the army. There is close coöperation between them and the athletic representatives of the Young Men's Christian Association and the Knights of Columbus who are working in the camps. Ultimately it is intended "that every company shall have an officer in charge of games and athletics — presumably a lieutenant — and a standardized box in its supply tent containing volley-ball, basket-ball and baseball outfits, a set of quoits", and some other similar equipment.

Of course the primary purpose of all the athletics is to train the men to be better fighters, although incidentally there is recreational value in these activities. To state it differently it may be said that the aim of athletics in the army and navy is to make men fit to fight and to *keep* them fit.

Special emphasis is laid upon boxing because of its intimate connection with bayonet fighting. A committee, headed by James J. Corbett, has been appointed by the War Department commission to advise on this matter. Boxing instructors have been appointed in nearly every large camp, and they have trained groups of men to assist them. In many camps from two hundred to four hundred of these assistant instructors have been developed and are giving lessons. Frequent contests are held; and to standardize the instruction and to give the men a better idea of the work, moving pictures have been made to demonstrate the fundamental principles of boxing and the elements of bayonet practice. Nearly every blow and position in boxing has its counterpart in bayoneting. Sometimes boxing lessons are given to a thousand men at one time by these moving pictures which are explained by a man on a high stand.

Besides the better known sports — such as football, baseball, and basket-ball — a great variety of games are engaged in. These vary according to the location of the camp

and according to the season of the year. Provision is also made for competitive athletics to foster the teamwork and to generate enthusiasm. One Western cantonment has sixteen baseball diamonds laid out in one big field; another camp has twenty-six football gridirons with a seating capacity of 18,000. "Multiply the enthusiasm of a single game by twenty-six, and consider its effect on the morale of participants and the enthusiasm of spectators". As an indication of the public interest aroused, it is only necessary to add that one football game between teams representing two Western camps brought in gate receipts of $40,000.

There is one phase of camp athletics which deserves special attention because it has not been developed by the colleges — the laughter-producing games. One of these games — swat tag — is especially popular with the men. Twenty or thirty men form a circle facing the center, with their hands behind their backs, palms up. The man who is "it" holds a cotton-stuffed canvas bag about eighteen inches long by two inches thick. As he walks around the circle he places the bag in the hands of one of the players who immediately strikes at his neighbor on the right. The idea is for the man on the right to race around the circle and back to his place before he is struck. It develops extreme physical alertness and puts every man on his toes to avoid being "it".

Another game has the same boyish fun combined with real military value. A man stands in the center of a circle and swings a twelve-foot rope with a weight on the end as rapidly as possible. Each man has to jump as the rope approaches him, and if he does not jump high enough, his legs get entangled and he is thrown to the ground. The game seems simple, and it is simple; but the men get hysterical with laughter from the results of playing.

Other games, such as leap-frog and prisoners'-base, now forgotten by their younger brothers, are played with real joy by the men in camp. Men whose boyhood ended all too soon have an opportunity to play as they never played before.

There are over a million men now systematically engaged in athletics in the camps in the United States. Never before have so many men played football, baseball, basketball, and soccer, boxed, and taken part in track and field athletics. Never before has the physical welfare of men received so much attention. College athletics have chiefly developed the exceptional man: army and navy athletics develop the mass.

When the work began the opinion prevailed that a soldier could be made by putting a man in uniform and teaching him the manual of arms. Experience has proved that athletics increases a man's fighting efficiency and incidentally gives him the wholesome recreation which helps to keep him fit. The soldiers who play and laugh make better fighters. This is one of the discoveries of American military training.[13]

LIBERTY THEATRES

Uncle Sam, like a wise guardian, believes in making home attractive for his fighting men. Through the War Department commission he has provided each of the sixteen National Army camps with a theatre, having a seating capacity of three thousand and a stage upon which plays classed as "Broadway productions" can be shown. These Liberty Theatres are modern in every respect, and many of the foremost theatrical stars are booked for them. Inside of these buildings it is hard for a man to realize that he is in

[13] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 40–63; *Commission on Training Camp Activities*, pp. 12, 13; Lee's *The Training Camp Commissions* in *The Survey*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 5.

camp, which is the effect aimed at by the commission in developing the plan.

A committee of theatrical managers, with Mr. Marc Klaw of Klaw and Erlanger as chairman, is helping in the selection of talent and in the booking and management throughout the camps. As in all its undertakings the commission has called in experts to assist in the development of its projects.

An admission charge of not more than twenty-five cents is made, from the proceeds of which expenses will be paid; and any balance left over will be used to finance non-revenue-producing activities within the camps. The plan is to make the admission just sufficient to cover running expenses. The so-called "Smileage Books" are used by the men to pay their admission. These are books of coupons, issued in dollar and five dollar sizes, each one containing from four to twenty admissions. These books form a welcome and pleasant gift from civilians to their soldier relatives and friends.

One function of the Liberty Theatre is to furnish the necessary relaxation which in some form must be found by the men. It is safe, inexpensive, and wholesome. The other function is to help the boys make their own good times by exploiting all the talent found among the men themselves. The commission aims to secure a man for each theatre who has had experience in coaching amateur dramatics — preferably in colleges for men. This dramatic coach will search out and develop talent among the men themselves. In this way the commission is trying to make the men self-amusing, so that when they get to France and do not have the facilities for outside theatricals, they will be able to entertain themselves. The Liberty Theatre, therefore, has a direct and positive place in the training of the men who are to make the world safe for democracy.

In addition to its use for theatricals by outside and home talent, the more important athletic exhibitions, lectures, and movie shows will be staged in the theatres. Big sings with the song coach leading and with three thousand performers form another phase of its use. These theatres are equipped with projection machines, and the best and latest "feature" films are shown. The films are carefully censored; but the censorship does not interfere with adventure, wholesome sentiment, and good humor. As in the case of plays and music, choice is not confined to the "high-brow", classical, or educational: the effort is made to give the men exactly what they need for relaxation, and what they would get under normal home conditions, barring, of course, anything demoralizing and degrading.

It must be remembered that all the events at the Liberty Theatre are in addition to the entertainment furnished by the Young Men's Christian Association and the Knights of Columbus. Nor must we overlook the fact that many thousand men are to be provided for, and that even the rather elaborate arrangements described are by no means sufficient to accommodate all the men in the larger camps. Dependence must still be placed upon activities outside the camps. At the same time it should be said that never before, and nowhere else, have such large and systematic plans for the amusement of any communities been made.

In general, no concessions to private amusement enterprises are granted within the camps. In a few cases where access is not to be had to amusements in neighboring cities, concessions have been given for motion pictures and vaudeville in privately erected theatres within the camps. A percentage of the profits go to the post exchange, and the entertainments are under the close supervision of the military officers.

Camp Funston at Fort Riley, Kansas, is one of the few

exceptions. It has the largest number of troops of any of the camps, and it is located at a considerable distance from any town large enough to provide amusement for numbers of men on leave. To meet this situation, concessions were granted to private amusements in a special zone. Here are four blocks of enterprises such as soldiers patronize when they go to town. Being under careful supervision, they are superior to those usually found in the neighboring communities. "There are three theatres, including a motion-picture house seating 1500, a stock-company theater with a capacity of 2000, and the Liberty Theatre. The billiard and pool hall has 150 tables, and it is not uncommon for all of them to be in use at once. There are restaurants, soda-fountains, cigar-stores, and even a bank; and there are a dozen other kinds of shops, among them a meat market where the soldiers can buy a slice of ham for a sandwich or a whole steer for a barbecue".

The success of these efforts to furnish suitable entertainment in the camps is shown in the case of one of the Southern cantonments, where, according to the commanding general, seventy per cent of the men could have had leave from camp during a definite period, and only thirty per cent made use of the privilege.[14]

POST EXCHANGES

Post exchanges are the series of stores, approximately one to each regiment, where the soldier may purchase any of the small articles, like tobacco, handkerchiefs, soap, and candy, that contribute to his comfort and content, and which are not provided by the government. There are from eleven to sixteen exchanges in each camp and there is a division exchange officer selected by the commission, who, under the direction of the commanding officer, has general

[14] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 103–110; *Commission on Training Camp Activities*, pp. 17–19.

supervision of all exchanges. Any profits made in the exchanges are expended in a way decided upon by the votes of the men in the regiments.

The exchanges are not a new institution in military life. Their beginnings go back to the Civil War when civilians, known as "sutlers", followed the armies and sold the men whatever they could be induced to buy. Profit rather than any interest in or advantage to the soldier was the object. Few of them failed to make good profits and rarely did they stay long at one place.

Following the Civil War came the opening of the West and the establishment of the "post trader" at army posts. The post traders were civilians; and here again profit was the principal motive. The sale of liquor was permitted and it gradually became the chief article sold. Early in the seventies the occupation of post traders was abolished and the "canteen" was established under government direction. Here began the sharing of the soldier in the profits. Beer and light wines were sold and the profits went into the company mess. The canteen continued under these conditions till 1901, when the sale of liquor was prohibited, and the name changed to "post exchange", with the scope much wider than the old canteen and with care for the personal needs of the men. In this form they have continued to exist in the Regular Army posts and National Guard camps.

The establishment of the sixteen new National Army cantonments put up to the War Commission an exceedingly difficult problem. Under existing regulations each unit made arrangements for its own exchange, securing funds for fixtures and stock by gift from the proceeds of a baseball game or by subscriptions among the men. Such methods were not suited to the new situation which required that supplies and equipment for a number of stores in each camp should be purchased immediately.

Clarence A. Perry of the Russell Sage Foundation, whose specialty is social centers and who had had experience at Plattsburg, worked out a plan with the aid of expert military advice, which was adopted by the commission. Its chief features included "the purchasing for all the post exchanges in the country . . . . by the commission itself instead of by each regiment post exchange in some haphazard way; in providing money so that the purchases can be made at once instead of waiting until the men get their first month's pay; and in having a post exchange officer in each camp and for each army division."

The first stocks for the National Army post exchanges were purchased on from sixty to ninety days' time from merchants who believed in the soundness of the project from a business point of view. Centralization of control and management that had not previously existed were made necessary by the new plan. The commission enlisted the services of business men of tested ability who were given commissions with the rank of captain. These men include "captains of industry" who have left large business enterprises to help the government give the soldiers a place to shop. They have established chains of stores that compare favorably with those maintained by any private corporation. Beginning with no capital the post exchanges in a remarkably short time were doing a prosperous business and paying dividends on a large scale.

The post exchanges at the National Army cantonments are housed in long, low buildings, about forty by one hundred feet, stocked with all sorts of articles that appeal to the young American man who likes to drop into an accustomed place, smoke a cigarette, discuss the baseball score, or hear the latest local news. Each exchange is in charge of a company officer, usually a lieutenant, assisted by a steward and four or five privates. Candy is on the whole the most

popular of the articles sold, although there are variations in demand to be noticed in the different camps. At Camp Meade, Maryland, a huge cake costing fifteen cents, which is a meal in itself, is most in demand. Again, it is estimated that each exchange at Camp Devens, Massachusetts, sells one thousand pints of milk daily. In the more elaborately stocked exchanges, besides the usual amount of eatables and notions, there are pennants and cushions, a clothing department, a book-and-magazine section, a novelty gift counter, and a jewelry counter. Engagement rings can be purchased through the exchanges and both officers and men avail themselves of the opportunity.

Moderate prices prevail in all the exchanges as a matter of course. Articles never cost more than in city stores and often less. Officers' boots, for which merchants were asking $26.00 in a neighboring town, were sold for $16.80 in one of the exchanges — the cost plus five per cent profit. Officers do not share in the profits, but they are, of course, benefited by the lower prices and their purchases help to swell the total amount of business. And yet, in spite of and possibly because of the moderate prices, the exchanges make money. Many exchanges do a business of nearly a thousand dollars a day; and when one remembers that there are from eleven to sixteen in each cantonment, it is easy to calculate that the trade of a year mounts up into millions of dollars. Three months after beginning business the exchanges of one cantonment had large and complete stocks fully paid for, a surplus of $200,000, and were paying dividends.

The profits of the post exchanges go into the company and regimental funds, and are expended by the councils composed of commissioned representatives from these organizations on what seems to be most necessary for the units. Formerly with a twelve cent a day ration allowance for enlisted men, the money was spent to add to the mess.

Now with a forty cent allowance, the larger part of the money goes for extra living comforts, athletic equipment, musical instruments for the band, and sometimes for a tobacco fund to be used for smokes in France where cigarettes are more difficult to get. Spending money for company dinners and dances is another way of disposing of exchange profits.

These exchanges, constituting as they do "the largest chain of department stores in the country", are another noteworthy development of the social vision of the commissions. They are a distinct contribution to the possibilities of coöperation in the United States. Their success suggests some interesting observations about our communities outside of the camps. If coöperation produces profits at prices lower than competitive ones in the exchanges why can not the principle be applied in retail trade generally, and thus help to solve the problem of the increasing cost of living? Why can not business be socialized in the interest of the people, as it has been socialized in the National Army cantonments in the interest of the soldiers? Why must we wait for a war to compel us to try to solve the problems that we already had with us before the war came?[15]

EDUCATIONAL WORK

The need for educational work in the camps is easily realized when one considers that men of all sorts and conditions have been gathered by the selective draft. They come from the colleges, stores, factories, and farms. Some come from remote mountain districts. Some speak and write English; and some can only express themselves in one of many foreign dialects and languages.

[15] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 138–155; *Commission on Training Camp Activities*, p. 14; Lee's *The Training Camp Commissions* in *The Survey*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 5.

A soldier must understand the orders of his officers; he must find his way about the camp by means of signboards; and a knowledge of arithmetic is of great advantage to a man who would become a good marksman.

So small is the proportion of illiteracy at the camps that the greatest need for elementary education is among the foreign-born soldiers — especially among those who have lived in colonies of their own people and who have come to this country when they were beyond the legal school age. Lacking the actual need for English in making a living, they have failed to learn it. Another contingent of illiterates comes from the mountain districts of the South.

The War Department commission has appointed a committee on education of which Dr. William Orr is chairman. Other members of this committee are Dr. P. P. Claxton of the Bureau of Education, Dr. Harry Pratt Judson, President of the University of Chicago, and Dr. John H. Finley, President of the University of New York. Use is made of university extension courses, and particularly of the educational department of the Young Men's Christian Association. The committee is ready to avail itself of any educational machinery which can be adapted to its use.

Most important in the line of educational work is, of course, the teaching of English to foreigners, and for this purpose the books and methods already worked out for teaching English to foreigners outside of the camps are used. Instruction, which is of a very practical sort to meet the requirements of daily life, includes the names of camp features, food, clothing, and, most important of all, military commands. At the same time an effort is made to instruct the men in regard to the meaning of democracy, and to give them an idea of what they are fighting for.

But education in the camps goes a long way beyond the elementary stage. There are other courses which explain

the history and sources of the war. Technical courses are given with a view to preparing men for transfer from one branch of the service to another and for promotion. Such courses are mathematics, report-writing, bookkeeping, stenography, typewriting, telegraphy, telephony, engineering, navigation, warehousing, and scientific management. There are in addition college-grade courses that appeal to university men and enable them to continue their studies.

Finally, there is French which in this war is certainly an asset to the fighting man who gets to France. In some camps French is compulsory for selected groups of officers and men, and in all it is a popular study. Courses in the French language and in geography enable the soldier to acquire a vocabulary of from six hundred to seven hundred words and a knowledge of French geography and customs which will be of great help to him abroad as a soldier and will fit him to appreciate more fully his opportunity for observation.

Instructors are recruited from various sources. Many men in the ranks are capable of teaching French and other subjects. Men and women from neighboring towns volunteer their services; and a large proportion of the remaining instructors are officers or Young Men's Christian Association secretaries.

According to the latest information there are over 100,000 men enrolled in educational classes in the camps, the larger percentage being students of French. The number is growing, justifying the characterization of the army and navy as "the larger university". In all of the educational work the library plays a very important part, especially supplying books for supplementary reading. The coöperation of the library and the Young Men's Christian Association has resulted in the development of an unique system of education for the American soldier and sailor. Military

training is supplemented by necessary and practical training along so-called literary lines.[16]

HOSTESS HOUSES

To provide a pleasant and respectable place for women who visit the camps in search of relatives, friends, and sweethearts was the primary purpose of the hostess house. Coming in large numbers very few of such visitors have any idea of camp conditions. Without assistance or guidance many pitiable and distressing results are likely to occur. The urgency of the need was brought to the attention of the War Council of the Young Women's Christian Association last June, when the situation at the Reserve Officers' Training Camp at Plattsburg, New York, was laid before it. As an outcome the council agreed to coöperate with the commissions by opening hostess houses in the camps when requested to do so by the commanding officers. The council appropriated $1,000,000 for the purpose out of the $5,000,000 fund with which they began their wartime activities. The first hostess house was ready for work late in June, 1917, and was for the use of the training camp at Plattsburg.

Similar work had been carried on by the Young Women's Christian Association at the San Francisco Exposition in 1915 in behalf of the women visitors. In addition they had maintained a separate building for the comfort and pleasure of the women who took part in the Exposition — the jugglers, acrobats, snake-charmers, freaks, and fortune-tellers among others.

During the trouble upon the Mexican border in 1916, the Young Women's Christian Association sent women to three of the chief towns near which troops were quartered. There they established such branches of work as seemed most nec-

[16] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 156–168; *Commission on Training Camp Activities*, p. 20.

essary to meet the abnormal social conditions among the thousands of young girls and women who had flocked to the vicinity of the mobilization camps. The experience of the organization in safeguarding the interests of women during fifty years of peace had fitted it to deal with such emergencies.

When from thirty to sixty thousand young men are brought together in a training camp, there is nothing the majority of them are so anxious for as to see their families and friends. A comfortable place where they may visit with mothers, wives, and sweethearts gives a new meaning to life for them, and they go back to their man-made world with new courage and with renewed energy for their work.

The hostess house is always built in an accessible place near the main entrance to the cantonment or near to the most centrally located railroad station. The buildings are large bungalows, varying in size, according to the needs of the camp. They have been designed and built under the supervision of women, and every effort has been made to attain the greatest degree of attractiveness inside and out.

All the houses are much the same as to their main features. Everywhere the center of things is the big chimney in the middle of the big living room, with a double fireplace in which log fires burn when needed. There is a parcel check room, and a rest room for women with a well-equipped nursery adjoining it. A cafeteria serves excellent food at moderate prices, and this is the only part of the service for which any charge is made. The buildings are electric lighted and steam heated; and there are usually broad sun parlors extending across two sides.

Some of the staff meet the trains to make sure that no woman is left to wander about the camp alone in search for her soldier; and there is coöperation with the Travelers' Aid Society representatives who meet trains at the rail-

road stations in the neighboring towns and cities. Thus everything possible is done to render assistance to the visiting women, and to protect them from annoyance and trouble. The secretaries are "sympathetic and tireless in the mere routine of entertaining visitors. This alert personal interest, with never a suggestion of intrusion into the privacy of a family gathering, accounts . . . . as much as the inviting interior of these houses for their being christened 'the home spot of the camp'.

"Here is a new handling of the human equation in the training of fighters, a matter that has always been the concern of the great masters of warfare, but which has never before been worked out to this degree. It cannot fail to have a salutary effect on even the crudest personality that comes within its influence. It helps to clarify the ideas and the ideals of democracy, the principles for which these men of ours are fighting."

At first the idea of the hostess house was not regarded with much favor by army men. Some of the older officers in particular declared that to have women in the camps was the last thing they wanted. But as soon as one house was opened, all opposition disappeared; very soon the commission was receiving indignant letters from commanding officers who felt that they had been discriminated against because they had no hostess house at their camps. Thus the partnership of women in the war has been officially recognized.

Nearly a million dollars has been spent in building and equipping hostess houses. About seventy are either in operation, in process of construction, or already authorized.[17]

[17] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 111–137; *War Work Bulletin*, February 5, 15, May 31, 1918; *The Camp Dodger*, March 23, 1918.

IV

SOCIAL WORK OUTSIDE THE ARMY CAMP

The hostess house forms a link between the soldier and the world of which he was a part before he was summoned for military training: it fills its place admirably and contributes to the happiness and contentment of the soldier by giving him an opportunity to meet the home folks, and especially his women relatives and friends under pleasant and proper surroundings. But for most soldiers these visits can be only occasional. Most of their social life and their women friends must be found in the neighboring communities during their time off from military duty — hence the great importance of the mobilization of the social resources of the nearby towns and cities.

CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE

Formerly camp community service was left to take care of itself, but in the present war this work has been intrusted by the Commissions on Training Camp Activities to the Playground and Recreation Association of America. To all places located near camps or cantonments, this organization sent out members of its staff with instructions to help to mobilize the hospitality of the community to aid the men of the army and navy in a systematic and efficient manner. Commercial clubs, rotary clubs, fraternal organizations, Young Men's Christian Associations, churches, and organizations of a similar character were informed concerning what could be done to make their localities attractive and safe for our fighting men.

The War Camp Community Service, the name under which this city and town work is organized, has covered over two hundred communities and now has over one hundred and thirty secretaries in the field linking up the interests of the soldiers and neighboring districts. Thousands

of volunteer workers are making the service possible. Cities that last summer were discussing what the cantonments would do for them are now asking what they can do for the soldiers. A sense of social responsibility has been aroused in these communities under the patriotic impulse of the war.

To meet the reasonable demands of week-end leaves of absence of about a million and a half of normal American young men who are living the rest of the time under strict military regulations is the problem of community organization. First of all the men want to go to town, look up friends, and arrange for amusement. They want a change of food, and they long particularly for home cooking. But suppose that they are a long way from home and know no one in the city near the camp; and suppose also that they have only a five-dollar bill to spend. What do you imagine they would do? What would you do in their places? Wouldn't you feel blue and lonesome? And might you not be tempted to try to forget yourself in ways you would never think of if you were at home and among friends whom you knew cared for you?

The War Camp Community Service has evolved a system to meet these needs. Census cards are obtained through the aid of the commanding officers of the camps with information as to each man, giving his name, church, fraternity, college, profession or business, special interests, and favorite forms of recreation. This data makes it possible for local committees or individuals to put something personal into their hospitality. Persons with similar interests, with common college, church, or professional affiliations can be brought together. The social resources of a given community can be used intelligently and efficiently.

One of the first things done is to open clubs where a man's uniform is the only credential needed. Soldiers' and sail-

ors' clubs have been established everywhere in the vicinity of the camps, and many of the larger cities maintain a number of them. Maps, guides, and bulletins are published, giving information as to the community itself, its opportunities for sight-seeing and recreation, and making suggestions about what to do and where to go. A map and guide issued by the Chamber of Commerce of Kansas City has the following announcements:

> Your Community Club is located at 1305 Walnut. . . . The Club is for you, your relatives, and friends. Home cooked food. No charge for pool, shower baths, laundry and pressing facilities or shaving equipment. Plenty of games, music and stationery.
>
> The Club has been opened in order that you may have a home while in Kansas City. Use the place as your own home.
>
> You will enjoy the accommodation and privileges provided. Meet your friends and spend your leisure hours at the Club Rooms.
>
> There are many places of interest in Kansas City for you to see — many private homes open to you. Ask the manager of the Club how you can have the best time while here. He can give you many good suggestions.
>
> The Club is furnished and maintained by the people of Kansas City working with the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities.

Another suggestion for making the soldier's holiday pleasant and recreative is contained in the "take a soldier home to dinner" slogan. Within five blocks of a club in New York more than three hundred enlisted men were invited to private homes last Thanksgiving. On one Sunday in a single community five thousand men were taken home for dinner. A Chicago man entertains twenty-five men every Saturday afternoon. These invitations give the men not only the home cooking they miss so much, but also home thinking and home talking for which they long probably even more. It means a chance to enjoy the things they lack under conditions that help and uplift.

Still another method has been used in many communities. New York City entertained fifteen hundred soldiers and sailors every Saturday night last winter at New York's largest dancing palace, where they could meet young women under properly regulated conditions. Infinite tact and care are needed to handle such affairs, but it is pleasant to record that not once was there any serious abuse of these opportunities. The thought of those in charge has been that these men are "going over to fight for us, and our best is none too good" for them. It means real democracy in social relations.

The War Camp Community Service is based upon the knowledge that the hours allowed for recreation are apt to be misused. In the modern city, of the young people who go wrong the largest number are in search of amusement. There are forces at work to undermine the health and the morals of the men who are to fight the battles of democracy. The Commissions on Training Camp Activities have set up competitive forces with a view to giving the men healthful, interesting recreation while they are away from camp. "The way to overcome the temptations and vices of a great city" is "to offer adequate opportunity for wholesome recreation and enjoyment." If you want "to get a firebrand out of the hand of a child the way to do it" is "neither to club the child nor to grab the firebrand, but to offer in exchange for it a stick of candy!"[18]

In regard to the problem of the control of vice and drink in the neighborhood of camps and training stations, the United States government, upon entering the war, determined to adopt a policy of absolute repression, and this program has been carried out with such success that it "has actually reduced to so small an amount vice and drunken-

[18] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit*, pp. 169–190; *Commission on Training Camp Activities*, pp. 21–23; Baker's *Frontiers of Freedom*, p. 91.

ness in our army and navy, that it is a fair statement that civilian America will have to clarify its moral atmosphere if it is to take back its young men after the war to an equally wholesome environment."

Under authority given by the Selective Draft Act, approved May 18, 1917, the President was authorized "to make such regulations governing the prohibition of alcoholic liquors in or near military camps and to the officers and enlisted men of the army as he may from time to time deem necessary or advisable." Not only was the Secretary of War authorized, but he was "directed" to do everything "by him deemed necessary to suppress and prevent" prostitution "within such distances as he may deem needful of any military camp, station, fort, post, cantonment, training, or mobilization place."

Soon after the passage of this act, Secretary Baker sent a letter to the governors of all the States in which he declared his determination that the new training camps, "as well as the surrounding zones within an effective radius", should not be "places of temptation and peril. In short our policy is to be one of absolute repression, and I am confident that in taking this course the War Department has placed itself in line with the best thought and practice that modern police-experience has developed.

"The War Department intends to do its full part in these matters, but we expect the coöperation and support of the local communities. If the desired end cannot otherwise be achieved, *I propose to move the camps from those neighborhoods in which clean conditions cannot be secured.*"

The Commissions on Training Camp Activities were charged with the responsibility of carrying out the program of suppression. A division of law enforcement was established, consisting of a staff of civilians and army and navy officers, mostly lawyers, built up under the personal super-

vision of the chairman, Mr. Fosdick. Representatives of the division were stationed in the communities near the camps, and were instructed to keep the authorities at Washington informed of moral conditions, and also to bring the policy of the government to the attention of local officials. In the preliminary work of gathering information, assistance was given by representatives of the Department of Justice, the army and navy intelligence departments, and by private organizations already engaged in the repression of vice and drink.

Such a program obviously required the coöperation of local officials throughout the country. This coöperation was only obtained after some rather rigorous handling of certain local authorities who either did not believe the government really intended to follow a policy of absolute repression or who were ignorant of conditions in their home communities.

By September, 1917, there was not a "red light" district within five miles of any important military or naval training station in the United States: more than twenty-five such districts had been closed. Moreover, the cleaning up process has extended throughout the country, until by May, 1918, over seventy "red light" districts had been destroyed. Forty-five of these districts were not in the immediate neighborhood of camps, and consequently did not come under Federal control. Their abolition was the result of the response of State and municipal authorities to the policy of the commissions.

According to official estimates the venereal disease rate has been reduced fifty per cent since the beginning of the war, while our military strength has been increased many times over. Increasingly stringent regulation of the sale of liquor has rapidly diminished the danger from that source. One camp reported but four drunk in six weeks.

Of course, it is impossible for the government to prevent absolutely any liquor from getting to the soldier, but "the man in the service, if he wants a drink, will have to hunt for it."

The campaign against vice and drink is a continuous one. Representatives of the division of law enforcement are located near every camp, and investigations are constantly in progress. Local agents are supervised by district representatives. Any indication of neglect or reaction is promptly dealt with by trained workers.[19]

That the community must be protected against the soldiers as if they were a lot of wild animals was the old idea; but the new socialized view is that the soldiers must be protected against the community. The community must clean up to make itself a fit place for the soldiers to spend their leisure. Absurd stories about vice surrounding the camps have been circulated from time to time, but these reports have never had any real basis. Dr. Joseph Odell, in his study of *The New Spirit of the New Army,* states that he would rather intrust the moral character of his boy to Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia, than to any college or university he knew. "This does not cast any unusually dark shadow upon the educational institutions of the country, but they have never possessed the absolute power to control their environment that is now held by the War Department".[20]

A related problem grows out of the presence of many young women and girls in the communities in the vicinity of cantonments and the evil consequences that may result from the glamour that the uniform seems to have for them.

[19] Allen and Fosdick's *Keeping Our Fighters Fit,* pp. 191–205; *Commission on Training Camp Activities,* pp. 25–27; Johnson's *Eliminating Vice from Camp Cities* in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science,* Vol. LXXVIII, pp. 60–64.

[20] Odell's *The New Spirit of the New Army,* p. 65.

So important has this problem proved to be that a special committee has been appointed to plan protective work in every locality adjacent to the military camps. This committee on protective work for girls, of which Miss Maude Miner of New York was made chairman, coöperates with the War Camp Community Service and with the Travelers' Aid Society.

In places nearby the camps trained workers are stationed who undertake to protect young women and girls. Much personal service is given and every legitimate device is used to occupy the young people in healthful and wholesome ways. Provision is made for the meeting of young men and women under careful supervision, and only when positive and constructive methods have failed and when disaster has actually occurred, are other measures taken to meet the situation.[21]

The hostess house, the War Camp Community Service, and the Travelers' Aid Society coöperate with the protective work for girls and young women to counteract the lure of the uniform and to remove pitfalls from the pathways that lead to the old, old story of love and youth.

V

SOCIAL WORK AT CAMP DODGE

Camp Dodge was fortunate in its first commanding officer, General Edward H. Plummer, "a splendid representative of the 'new' army, a strict disciplinarian and at the same time a big-hearted friend of the soldier." He early took occasion to find out what had been done for the entertainment of the men, whether the shower baths were ready and whether the food supply was ample. He made it plain that he was vitally interested in the human welfare of the men under his control, and that he believed that happy and con-

[21] *Commission on Training Camp Activities*, p. 28.

tented men made the best soldiers. He also expressed his hearty approval of the work of the War Recreation Board. Such a sympathetic attitude assured to every branch of social work, inside and outside the camp, every reasonable opportunity and encouragement during General Plummer's term of service.

The buildings for recreational, educational, social, and religious purposes are grouped in a civic center on Depot Street, which is located in a central and accessible point in the cantonment near the inter-urban station, at which a majority of the people who visit the soldiers are likely to alight. Here are the library, hostess house, Young Men's Christian Association, Knights of Columbus, and Lutheran Brotherhood buildings, and the Liberty Theatre.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION AT CAMP DODGE

Only two of the Young Men's Christian Association buildings are in the civic center — the administration building and the auditorium which is used for the larger meetings and which has a seating capacity of from three thousand to thirty-five hundred. The other eight buildings are scattered through the camp and serve as Association headquarters for the different brigades. For a few weeks before the different buildings were completed, a "big top" tent was pitched just north of Division Headquarters.

Some idea of the extent of the work of the Association is obtained from statistics. At one of the buildings 70,000 sheets of writing paper and about 50,000 envelopes were given away in one week to soldiers, who also spent $186 in the same building in a single hour for stamps and picture post cards of Des Moines and Camp Dodge.

Each of the brigade buildings has a large room 50 by 120 feet in size, capable of seating about a thousand persons, besides a smaller room for social activities with facilities for writing, books and magazines, newspapers, a large fire-

place, a piano, a phonograph, and other equipment for recreation. There are also smaller rooms for committee meetings and for women visitors, and quarters for the staff of six men. Each building has a moving picture machine; and postal and money order agencies are provided. By July, 1918, it was expected that $40,000 would have been expended for this work.

At every building there is something going on every night in the week. Motion pictures, lectures, and musical entertainments are arranged. There are classes in French, civics, history, and mathematics. The Association aims to bring to the soldiers as many as possible of those influences which in civilian life made them stronger and better men.

The supervision of all the work in the cantonment is in the hands of a camp secretary and three camp directors specializing in religious, educational, and recreative activities respectively. These activities at Camp Dodge are similar to those conducted by the Young Men's Christian Association in other places and have developed out of their experience in serving the needs of fighting men in many different countries and under a great variety of circumstances.

During the month of March, 1918, it is estimated that 355,065 men used the different buildings. In the same time there were fifty-eight educational lectures in the eight brigade buildings; 1065 educational classes met, 9062 books circulated from the libraries, and 401 religious meetings were held. There were also 108 movie shows and 164 entertainments of other kinds. Letter writing by the soldiers, for which the Young Men's Christian Association furnishes materials free, is one of the most popular occupations. During the same month 441,450 letters were written and money order sales amounted to $27,128.57.[22]

[22] *The Camp Dodger*, September 21, October 5, 1917, April 20, 1918; *The Des Moines Register*, June 14, 1918.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AT CAMP DODGE

The Catholics at Camp Dodge, estimated at from ten to twelve thousand, are taken care of by the Knights of Columbus, which has erected three buildings for its work. The main or headquarters building is at Main and Depot streets, there is one at Seventh Street and Des Moines Avenue, and one on Thirty-fourth Street. These buildings were ready for use early in December; before their completion, use was made of the Young Men's Christian Association accommodations. The Knights of Columbus buildings are similar to those of the Red Triangle and the uses are similar. Each building has a staff of four secretaries.

About $40,000 has been spent on this work for Catholic soldiers. The accommodations have been found inadequate to handle the large crowds that have to be provided for. Plans are being made for the enlargement of the buildings in the near future.[23]

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD AT CAMP DODGE

Early in December a large and comfortable building on Depot Street, erected by the Lutheran Brotherhood at a cost of $15,000, was opened. The structure, which is 60 by 150 feet, contains a large social room and an auditorium seating a thousand persons. It is used in much the same way as the other buildings provided by religious organizations.

Plans are under way by the Lutheran Brotherhood to raise a national fund of $750,000 to carry on war work in military camps. According to the Brotherhood officials there are already over 200,000 Lutherans in the army and navy and more are constantly being added. Iowa's quota of the national fund is estimated at $50,000.[24]

[23] *The Camp Dodger*, October 5, December 21, 1917, March 23, 1918.

[24] *The Camp Dodger*, December 7, 14, 1917, February 23, 1918.

JEWISH WELFARE WORK AT CAMP DODGE

Jewish soldiers at Camp Dodge have a club established for them by their co-religionists of Des Moines at 715 Grand Avenue, where provisions are made for dancing, entertainments, pool, music, reading, and writing. In January, 1918, this Jewish welfare work was extended to the cantonment through the location there of a field secretary, who makes his headquarters at one of the brigade Young Men's Christian Association buildings. He may be reached every afternoon and evening during the first five days of the week. To Jewish soldiers he extends an invitation to call upon him for advice, information, and suggestions of any kind.[25]

HOSTESS HOUSE AT CAMP DODGE

Very early in the fall of 1917 preparations were made for the building of a hostess house at Camp Dodge. General Plummer encouraged the undertaking and coöperated with the Young Women's Christian Association in every way possible. Katharine C. Budd, the New York architect who built the hostess house at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, had charge of the construction. At a cost of $20,000 the building was completed about the middle of January.

Besides the larger public rooms on the first floor, there are upstairs four bedrooms for women who have men very ill at the base hospital and who must be near them; an emergency relief or hospital room is ready to deal with cases of sudden illness; and a mothers' and babies' room is equipped for the use of women with small children who have left home hurriedly without the necessary articles for the proper care of their children. In addition there are, of course, quarters for the resident staff which consists of six persons — the hostess director and the social, emergency, cafeteria, information, and business hostesses.

[25] *The Camp Dodger*, January 4, 1918.

The house-warming or formal opening took place on the afternoon of February 22, 1918, although the building had been in actual use for several weeks. The occasion was arranged in honor of General Plummer who had just returned from France. The hours were from three to five and all citizens and soldiers were invited. General and Mrs. Plummer and General and Mrs. Getty received the guests.

The popularity and serviceableness of the house is suggested by the statistics of its use, although much of its work can not be reduced to definite figures. One hundred and eight women were guests during the first four weeks, and in four months three hundred were entertained from one to many nights according to the seriousness of the illness of the patients whose lives they were watching. During the first three weeks 3500 persons were served in the cafeteria. Besides the three meals each day, including Sundays, there are also afternoon and evening lunches — the latter being especially popular with men who are in the civic center neighborhood after theatre and other entertainments.

Every day new men discover the house as a place to which they may come without the supposedly necessary excuse of having a relative or other woman visitor. Always they express regret that they did not know about it earlier. Not only, therefore, is the house a place for women visitors to the camp, but it is a place to which men may come for advice or just for a chance to see and talk to a woman — a real privilege to men who live in the exclusively masculine environment of the cantonment.

During the first six months of its operation nearly 1000 women were given lodgings and 83,000 persons were served in the cafeteria. One Sunday in June 1500 meals were served and 9000 guests entertained; on another Sunday 99 gallons of ice cream were consumed. The house has been

used for all sorts of purposes — including five weddings.[26]

Work upon a hostess house for colored women was begun in May at the south end of the cantonment where the colored troops are stationed. It will not be as large as the one on Depot Street, but it will have all the conveniences of the first house with some improvements that have grown out of experience in actual service. Three secretaries will be employed to begin with and additions will be made as needed. The urgent necessity for such a house has been shown by the frequent requests from colored women made to the Young Men's Christian Association building located in that part of the camp.[27]

THE LIBRARY AT CAMP DODGE

The Camp Dodge Library on Depot Street was opened about February 1, 1918, with more than 7000 volumes of fiction, history, and technical subjects ready for distribution. When all orders have been filled there will be approximately 15,000 books upon the shelves for the use of soldiers.

It is the aim of the library to keep supplied with all available books upon the war — especially upon its technical side. The library has upon its subscription list more than forty-five current magazines, many of them devoted to subjects of interest to soldiers. Newspapers from all the larger towns of the States from which men come are on file.

Books may be taken out for seven days and the building will be open from ten in the morning to nine in the evening every day in the week. In addition to the issue of books from the library itself, boxes of fifty volumes are placed in hospital wards and in company barracks. The Young

[26] *The Camp Dodger,* October 26, December 21, 1917, January 18, 25, February 15, July 19, 1918; *Inklings,* published by the Young Women's Christian Association of Des Moines, Vol. XIV, No. 5; *War Work Bulletin,* February 5, 1918.

[27] *The Camp Dodger,* March 9, May 17, 1918.

Men's Christian Association and Knights of Columbus buildings are also used as distributing agencies, or as branch libraries: 1000 volumes are kept at each of these places, and frequent renewals are made.

The library building, costing $8000, is similar to those built at the cantonments by the American Library Association. There are three men upon the library staff.[28]

EDUCATIONAL WORK AT CAMP DODGE

In the latter part of June, 1917, a conference was held between the National University Extension Association and Mr. William Orr of the National War Council of the Army Young Men's Christian Association to ascertain what assistance could be obtained by the latter organization in its educational work in the camps from the university extension divisions.

Immediately after this meeting President W. A. Jessup sent O. E. Klingaman, director of the Extension Division of the State University of Iowa, to interview Secretary Baker in order to find out what could be done to mobilize the educational forces of Iowa for the purpose of rendering some help to the men in the cantonment to be located near Des Moines. The interview took place on July 6th: and the Secretary of War referred the matter to Mr. Fosdick. In the plans proposed by Mr. Klingaman was an offer from the University to teach through its extension division conversational French to the enlisted men, to give a somewhat more formal French course to the officers, and by means of lantern slides to present the geography of Europe with especial emphasis upon the Western front and upon the social and economic phases of French life.

Late in July Mr. Fosdick decided to turn all educational work over to the Army Young Men's Christian Association.

[28] *The Camp Dodger*, February 1, 1918.

Mr. Klingaman was authorized to organize the work at Camp Dodge and to select an educational director to be approved by representatives of the Young Men's Christian Association. Professor Arthur C. Trowbridge of the Department of Geology at the State University of Iowa was chosen as educational director.

On August 6, 1917, a conference, called by the Iowa State College, met at Ames to consider educational work at Camp Dodge. Representatives were present from educational institutions in Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota. At this meeting a resolution was adopted which offered the educational resources of the several colleges and universities represented for educational purposes in the army camps to which troops from these States might be sent. The resolution also requested the Iowa State Board of Education to appoint "an educational director to coördinate the educational resources of these colleges and universities and to coöperate with the educational agencies in these camps." Mr. Klingaman was appointed director by the State Board of Education. Changes in the distribution of the men sent to the army camps prevented the broader plan of coöperation from being worked out.

Naturally French classes were very popular among both officers and men. French instruction was placed in the hands of F. R. Le Roux of Minneapolis, who has had many years of experience in teaching French. He had charge of officers' classes in French conversation and of normal training classes which prepared soldiers to teach their comrades. Three other experienced French teachers have been employed for the conduct of classes, and they have been assisted by fifty officers and enlisted men.

At one time in the winter there were five hundred officers and twelve hundred enlisted men in the French classes. During March there were sixteen French classes for officers

with an enrollment of 210, seven normal classes with 52 members, and fifty-three classes for enlisted men with an attendance of 1760. Uninterrupted instruction was impossible, for troops came and went, and classes had to be organized, broken up, and reorganized almost continuously.

With the arrival of the first men in the fall of 1917 the need for instruction in English became apparent. The problem was not so serious at Camp Dodge as in some of the other camps, but a good many men were found unable to read and write English. Most of these men were foreigners, but some were Americans who had had almost no schooling. The large contingent of colored men from the South was characterized by a high percentage of illiteracy.

The organization for the teaching of English was begun by Professor Walter Myers of the State University of Iowa. Later he entered an officers' training school and the work was continued by others. For the month of March there were nineteen classes with an enrollment of 211 among the foreign and illiterate white troops. During the same month there were twenty classes among the colored men with an enrollment of 1758.

Early in June, 1918, a divisional order was issued, requiring those men in the camp who had "not gone to school above the fourth grade and those not able to speak, read or write English" to attend classes for the study of English. Instruction in citizenship was made obligatory by the same order for all foreigners in the cantonment. Plans for carrying out these orders include regimental schools which will be organized by the chaplain of each regiment working in coöperation with the educational secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association of each brigade. Men who are in need of instruction will be detailed to attend three nights a week for sessions of one and one-half hours.

A general test has been devised by which the men who

are eligible for attendance at these classes can be found. It consists of the filling out of a blank, asking for the name, company, regiment, and schooling of the soldier, and a short specimen letter. These blanks will also be of assistance in grading men and in selecting teachers.

Besides French and English classes there was during March instruction in the following subjects:

Typewriting	26	classes	with an enrollment of		213
Shorthand	3	classes	with an enrollment of		36
German	5	classes	with an enrollment of		40
Animal Husbandry	3	classes	with an enrollment of		1200
Automobile Shop Work	1	class	with an enrollment of		15
Clerical Work	1	class	with an enrollment of		32

Including French and English there were, during March, a total of 159 classes with an enrollment of over 5000.

Professor Trowbridge resigned late in May to take a place in the Personnel Bureau of the National War Work Council of the Young Men's Christian Association. He was succeeded by Mr. H. L. Eells, formerly of the rural education department of the State Teachers College and recently educational secretary at one of the brigade buildings.

Undoubtedly the splendid work done by Professor Trowbridge in directing and organizing the educational work at Camp Dodge was a reason for his appointment to the new position. The educational work at the cantonment has been of an especially high calibre. The instruction in French has resulted in the publication of a book by Professor Le Roux on *Conversational French,* which has been used at Camp Custer, Michigan, and Camp Travis, Texas, as well as at Camp Dodge.[29]

[29] *The Camp Dodger,* February 1, March 23, 30, May 31, June 7, 1918; letter from A. C. Trowbridge to O. E. Klingaman, dated April 1, 1918; information furnished by O. E. Klingaman in regard to the activity of the Extension Division of the State University of Iowa in educational work at Camp Dodge.

RED CROSS ACTIVITIES AT CAMP DODGE

For a number of months Red Cross activities at Camp Dodge were confined largely to supply work, the divisional athletic director, John L. Griffith, acting as field director. By Christmas, 1917, it appears that 15,000 sweaters, costing approximately $80,000, had been distributed. In addition to the sweaters, 13,000 pairs of knitted socks, costing $25,000, about 9000 pairs of wristlets, worth $9000, about 4500 mufflers, worth $9000, and about 600 helmets, costing $1800, had been distributed among the soldiers. Furthermore, 12,000 Christmas packages were given out at the Young Men's Christian Association buildings on Christmas eve. Delicacies and gifts were distributed to soldiers who were patients at the base hospital. The total expenditure of the Red Cross from the opening of the cantonment to the end of 1917 was estimated at upwards of $150,000. All the supplies were sent from the central division headquarters at Chicago.

During March, 1918, Mr. H. S. Hollingsworth, General Secretary of the Associated Charities of Des Moines, was appointed Associate Field Director to have charge of home service: he began his work on the 20th of that month. Mr. Hollingsworth coöperates with officers, with the Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Lutheran Brotherhood, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the chaplains. His services are intended to improve the morale of the soldiers by helping them to keep in touch with home and family conditions, and also by relieving the anxiety of relatives as to the whereabouts and condition of soldiers at the camp. Home service undertakes to render the same kind of service that is given by the civilian relief committee of the local chapter, with this difference that it is undertaken from the camp end. It works with the local chapter wherever possible, and endeavors to relieve the soldier of

home cares and worries, thus enabling the men to devote their best energies to their training as soldiers.

The report upon home service for August, 1918, gives an excellent description of the character of the work. Thus, the number of new cases dealt with was 212 compared with 176 during July. The total number of cases from March 20th to August 31st was 689. During August the work was made exceptionally difficult by the departure of the Eighty-eighth Division and the preparation for the organization of a new division. Every day new men came into the camp by the train-load; for several weeks these men were stationed in the large tent city adjoining the main camp. Under such circumstances the location of a single soldier often required as many as ten or twelve calls. A large number of cards explaining home service were posted in conspicuous places throughout the camp in order to inform new men as to where to go with their home problems.

Illustrations of camp home service during August indicate the nature of the work. A mother who had not seen the boy who had been stolen from her in his childhood hastened across the continent and spent five happy days with him at New York. The coöperation of the secretary of the civilian relief committee of the Joplin, Missouri, chapter with the camp service brought about this remarkable reunion. An account of the incident was published in *The Camp Dodger,* and copied in a Des Moines paper as well as in a Minneapolis daily.

A soldier who had been in the base hospital was worried about the digging of his potato crop. He also had a claim of $160 which his attorney thought he could collect if he were at home. Through the home service the matter was taken up with the commanding officer of the man's company with the result that he secured a furlough for a few days.

Another soldier was vexed because his wife, who was

soon to be confined, went home to her mother instead of remaining in Des Moines where he could see her a few times each week. He also feared that he would not be able to finance the coming event. He was talked out of his irritation and was assured that the Red Cross would give him the needed assistance in the form of a loan. At the proper time he made arrangements for a furlough. This man is grateful to the Red Cross for showing him the situation in the proper light.

One of the most distressing cases of the month was that of a soldier whose wife was sick at the home of her brother in Missouri. Checks from the government had not begun to arrive; there were no relatives able to give any assistance; and the woman was almost destitute. The soldier had sent her almost all of his pay and in addition had borrowed money from his comrades to send her. He was assured that the Red Cross would give proper care to his wife.

The extent of Red Cross work at Camp Dodge, as it has developed with the growth of the cantonment, is shown by the number of buildings required to provide for the varied activities. Headquarters have been located in a small building near the corner of Depot Street and Des Moines Avenue, but will soon be moved into a new building which is almost ready for occupancy. The new quarters will have a large waiting room, a general office, and two private offices. Five bedrooms will be provided for the use of the staff, which consists of the field director, associate and assistant field directors, and several assistants and stenographers.

Besides the headquarters building, there are three others near the base hospital, which serve especially the needs of patients, nurses, and visitors to that institution. Red Cross supplies are kept in a large storehouse near the head-

quarters, and these to the amount of $40,000 to $50,000 are constantly on hand.[30]

LIBERTY THEATRE AT CAMP DODGE

Liberty Theatre at Camp Dodge was opened Wednesday evening, February 6, 1918, with a home talent production of "Rip Van Winkle" which was presented to an audience of 2500. According to *The Camp Dodger* both the show and the theatre made a decided hit with the men. This theatre is like all the other theatres maintained by the War Department in the various camps throughout the country. It has a local manager who attends to all matters pertaining to its use. Prices do not exceed twenty-five cents, and smileage books are used in securing admission. Regular bookings are made for theatrical companies; home-talent productions are staged; and moving pictures are shown. The aim is to provide good amusement of a kind suited to the soldiers' needs and wishes at moderate prices. No profits are necessary since the theatre is planned to pay expenses only.[31]

Besides the Liberty Theatre, located near the center of the cantonment, there is a theatre under private management at Herrold, a little town at the north end of the camp. Herrold was a little crossroads community grouped about a post office before it was absorbed into Camp Dodge. It owes its life and development to the patronage of the soldiers. The theatre is the chief amusement attraction, but in addition there are a pool and billiard hall, three eating places, agencies for two wholesale grocery houses, a store selling military supplies and clothing, and a drug store.[32]

[30] *The Camp Dodger*, December 28, 1917, March 30, April 13, May 17, August 16, 1918; report of Home Service Section, Camp Dodge, for August, 1918.

[31] *The Camp Dodger*, February 8, 1918.

[32] *The Camp Dodger*, January 25, 1918.

Near the southeast end of the camp two similar groups of amusement, eating, and supply places have grown up — Dodge City and Army City. Dodge City contains the Trilby Theatre which offers movies and other attractions to the southern end of the camp as do the Herrold and Liberty theatres to the other sections. All the private enterprises are, of course, under strict supervision, and are additional to the provisions made by organizations working within the camp proper, or arranged for by the government staff.

ATHLETICS AT CAMP DODGE

Recreative athletic work at Camp Dodge has been in charge of John L. Griffith of Drake University, who was appointed Divisional Athletic Director late in September, 1917. The plans, outlined by the director and approved by the commanding officer, provided for the appointment in each company of an athletic officer to supervise and be responsible for the athletic work of the company. An athletic council made up of company representatives is responsible for the regimental athletic and recreational program. Representatives from each regiment form a divisional athletic council which, with the director, plans the work of the camp as a whole.

During the first few weeks the time allowed for athletics, usually from four to five in the afternoon, was devoted to the promotion of mass athletics and games in the companies. Later football teams were organized and regular championship games were played.[33]

By the end of October athletics began to assume definite form; arrangements had been made for a systematic and regular course for each man. Several companies had organized football teams and inter-company games had been played. A day of field sports was held as a fitting

[33] *The Camp Dodger,* September 28, 1917.

close to the second Liberty Loan campaign. Over 20,000 soldiers assembled and watched the various events. Each regiment and battery had its own program. Regimental bands were present, and under orders from General Plummer every man not on guard or police duty reported at the meet. The field day was the first result of the new athletic management at the camp. Undoubtedly it was the largest field meet ever held in Iowa.

Athletic training is also supplemented by work in boxing and wrestling. Mike Gibbons, a well-known boxer, was appointed instructor in boxing; while Earl Caddock, a champion wrestler, became instructor in wrestling. Assistant instructors are trained by Gibbons and Caddock for each platoon of every company, and they in turn train the men.[34] The director and his assistants are also aided in their work by the physical directors of the Young Men's Christian Association and the Knights of Columbus.

According to the plan a box of athletic equipment is provided for each company. Each box contains six baseball bats, twelve balls, catcher's mitt, mask and protector, six association footballs, two Rugby footballs, two sets of quoits, six playground balls, four playground bats, two medicine balls, three official's whistles, one rubber patching outfit, ten sets of boxing gloves, official rulebook for baseball, soccer, volley ball, and basket-ball. Money to pay for these boxes — each of which costs $136 — has been raised in a variety of ways. The Iowa State Council of National Defense has urged county councils in the States from which men come to equip a company with one of the boxes. Receipts from athletic games and exhibitions have been used for the same purpose. By the middle of April, 1918, seventy companies and batteries had been supplied.[35]

[34] *The Camp Dodger*, October 26, 1917.

[35] *The Camp Dodger*, October 12, November 2, 1917, April 13, 1918.

Early in November a divisional football team was organized from among the many former football men who were to be found among the drafted men. Every regiment had a team that would rank above the average small college eleven. The divisional team played three games — winning two and losing one. Camp Funston was defeated at Omaha by a score of three to one. At least twenty-five other teams played games, and the total number of participants ran into the hundreds.

With the close of the football season attention was turned to basket-ball. Nearly every organization in the cantonment was represented by a team. Practice games were played in the Young Men's Christian Association and Knights of Columbus auditoriums. Company and regimental championship series were arranged for and carried out. Field sports, which were developed during the spring, kept up the interest in athletics, while varying the particular interest according to the season in the customary manner.[36]

Director Griffith received his commission as captain in the National Army about February 1, 1918. This action was due not alone to a new policy of the War Department, by which athletic directors were made commissioned officers, but was also a deserved recognition of the unusual success of Captain Griffith as a promoter of athletics in the cantonment. While he has had unusually good results in developing winning teams under difficult conditions, he has not given excessive attention to competitive athletics: he has kept in mind the all-round physical development of every man, realizing that athletics in a military camp must contribute to the making of fighting men if they are to have a place of importance in military training. Athletics must help to win the war.[37]

[36] *The Camp Dodger*, December 14, 1917, February 1, 1918.

[37] *The Camp Dodger*, February 1, 1918.

The play period of one hour, from four to five in the afternoon, is used according to a schedule arranged by the director and is officially known as "Organized Recreation". One of the weekly schedules reads as follows:

Monday
Fifteen minutes play — O'Grady.
Forty-five minutes play — Soccer.

Tuesday
Fifteen minutes play — Center Ball.
Thirty-five minutes — Boxing.
Ten minutes — Shuttle Relay by sections.

Wednesday
Fifteen minutes play — Three Deep.
Thirty-five minutes — Company High Jump (height 3 feet 6 inches).
Ten minutes shuttle relay, by sections.

Thursday
Fifteen minutes play — O'Grady.
Thirty minutes — Broom Wrestling.
Fifteen minutes — Rescue Relay by squads.

Friday
Sixty minutes — Playground Ball.

These play periods are valuable as they prevent the men from getting muscle-bound, divert their attention from drill, and rest them, besides giving them wholesome exercise.[38]

Recreational features are not forgotten in the effort to make the work contribute to the training of the men as soldiers. The play periods are in charge of the company and regimental athletic officers, who in turn work under the direction of Captain Griffith and his assistants. Games and contests are of such a character as to make possible the use of large numbers at the same time in which the element of personal contact predominates.

[38] *The Camp Dodger*, March 9, 1918.

Each week the director meets representatives from each company for the purpose of illustrating and explaining new games and contests. Among the games and contests are "Three Deep", "Soccer", "O'Grady", "Shuttle Relay", "Center Ball", "Company Broad Jump", "Medicine Ball Relay", "Hand Wrestling", "Indian Wrestling", "Football Relay", "Playground Ball", "Baseball", "Company High Jump", "Broom Wrestling", and "Rescue Relay".[39]

As the athletic work developed with the coming of spring, and as the prospect of overseas service grew nearer, more and more emphasis was naturally placed upon preparation for actual warfare. The recreational element was kept in mind, but more and more the games and contests were characterized by group and individual training for hand-to-hand fighting. Company Ditch Jump, the Siege, Over the Top, Platoon Crouch, Follow the Leader, Crouch Shuttle Relay, Jumping Contest, and Relay around the Stake were among the games and contests used.

Athletic training in the camp also aimed to fit the men to meet the physical tests required by the military authorities, which tests include jumping, scaling, climbing, digging, marching, boxing, and wrestling. The need for such training is shown by the fact that the records indicated that some companies averaged less than six feet for the standing company broad jump, while others averaged eight feet. Military tests require seven feet.[40]

HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTING AT CAMP DODGE

As a result of the experience gained in the handling of the athletic work at the cantonment, Captain Griffith conceived the necessity for systematic training in personal contact combat and for the preparation of a regular series

[39] *Athletic Circular*, No. 2, March 2, 1918.

[40] *Athletic Circulars*, Nos. 4 and 5, March 16, 30, 1918; *The Camp Dodger*, May 17, 1918.

of lessons. In working up such a course he was assisted by specialists in the different forms of fighting to be taught. Beginning on June 24, 1918, the men of the Eighty-eighth Division were given instruction in various phases of hand-to-hand fighting. This instruction continued for two weeks and was given under the supervision of the division athletic organization. Strictly speaking, however, the sort of combat which was taught could not properly be described as athletics, sport, or recreation.

"These new methods of fighting are to be drilled into the soldiers for but one purpose, and that is to make them able to defend themselves when put at close grips with the Huns. In the course of instruction . . . . the aim will be to so train each man in the art of hand-to-hand fighting that when he goes unarmed against an armed or an unarmed enemy, or when he is forced to fight in such close quarters that customary weapons are valueless, he will be able to skillfully and quickly master his opponent and Put Him Out of Business."

The course is divided into four parts: hand wrestling; charging; wrestling; and hand-to-hand fighting. The first three parts are in the nature of games and contests and all unnecessary roughness is barred; the fourth part consists of practice and demonstration of methods of disabling an enemy. Naturally these last methods do not take the form of contests, but each man is taught the holds and blocks both from an offensive and defensive standpoint.

"Much of the fighting in Europe to-day is of a hand-to-hand character. Therefore, if a man is trained in scuffling, wrestling, boxing and rough-and-tumble fighting, he will the more readily overcome an enemy and at the same time save himself. All of this work is predicated on the assumption that in action a man will do the things that he has thought out previously or has been trained to do. No unusual play

is ever pulled off in baseball or football that has not been previously worked out by the player, and in boxing or fighting the man who has carefully worked out a number of well-tested moves has the advantage over the untrained man.''

In arranging the lessons, therefore, no effort has been made to retain the principles of sportsmanship. In the first three parts the methods of several modern forms of athletics have been used, but only where they best served the needs of the work to be done. The fourth division, hand-to-hand fighting, contains nothing which reminds one of football, boxing, or wrestling. It is in this part of the instruction that the grim purpose of the whole training becomes plain.

Soldiers who have seen service overseas are agreed upon the opinion that there are many times in actual warfare ''when scientific knowledge of how most effectively to use 'Nature's weapons' can be utilized to dispose of an adversary who might otherwise prove a dangerous menace.''

A manual for use in instruction has been prepared, giving thirty-three illustrations of positions in hand wrestling, charging, wrestling, and hand-to-hand fighting. Explanations of the positions accompany the illustrations. This manual was published as a supplement to *The Camp Dodger* for June 21, 1918.[41]

This system of hand-to-hand fighting has attracted the attention of military men all over the country and is being considered favorably by the officials of the War Department as a part of the regular schedule of training for all fighters in the National Army. The value of athletics in training soldiers has been made of maximum importance at Camp Dodge.

Furthermore, in the opinion of a representative of the

[41] *Hand-to-Hand Fighting Supplement* in *The Camp Dodger*, June 21, 1918.

Commission on Training Camp Activities, the athletic work and recreational systems organized by Captain Griffith are the best in the country. The soldiers in the Eighty-eighth Division have had more thorough training along recreational and athletic lines than the men in any other camp in the United States.[42] Captain Griffith has applied his long experience in training athletes and in organizing recreation for men to the particular problem presented by the national emergency in a way that has contributed largely to the preservation of the morale of the soldiers, and which promises in addition to increase their military efficiency in a conspicuous manner. He has always been an advocate of compulsory athletic training and has been noted for his resourcefulness in college athletic activities. His ability as an organizer and executive is also illustrated by the fact that under his administration Camp Dodge has been the best equipped in respect to athletic supplies of any camp in the United States.[43]

SINGING AT CAMP DODGE

Early in October an organized effort was begun at Camp Dodge to teach the men of the National Army how to sing. Regular singing classes were formed in each company. The singing, however, is not confined to these classes, but it is primarily intended to instruct the men how to join in a song while on the march. It is a recognized fact among military men that a good marching song always makes the road seem just about half as long on an all day hike.

The first singing classes were held in the barracks and lasted half an hour. Dean Holmes Cowper of the school of music of Drake University is in charge of camp singing: he is assisted by a number of competent men. During the first month every unit in the camp was expected to have had its

[42] *Iowa City Daily Citizen*, August 6, 1918.

[43] *The Camp Dodger*, May 17, 1918.

first instruction. One or two musicians accompany the song leaders in their tours through the camp.

At the request of General Plummer the first lessons were confined to old-fashioned marching songs which have been used successfully in former wars and which are known to almost every man who sings at all. Such songs as "Marching Through Georgia", "When Johnny Comes Marching Home", and "Hot Time" were among those used. Later popular airs of recent origin were introduced until each company had quite a list in its repertory. Song books prepared for the purpose by the Commission on Training Camp Activities were furnished to every company for the men to sing from while they were learning and for use later in spare time practice.

Until some of the larger buildings were finished, the work was handicapped considerably because the weather prevented singing in the open air and because the barracks were only available between six and seven in the evening. The Young Men's Christian Association buildings were also used for chorus work.[44]

Later on, as the work was developed and organized and the Liberty Theatre gave a place for gathering together large bodies of men, daily singing drill was ordered for each company, and each regiment or separate command had a weekly song drill period of one hour. The daily song drill period for each company was arranged between two of the military drill periods, by subtracting five minutes from the end of one, and five minutes from the beginning of the next.

The hour for regimental or battalion weekly song drill was arranged by the organization commander in consultation with Dean Cowper, who so adjusted his schedules as to be present at these weekly drills for each regiment. Accom-

[44] *The Camp Dodger*, October 12, November 2, 1917.

paniment by musicians was arranged for all drills. The weekly regimental drills were held at the Liberty Theatre when the weather made outside work impossible.[45]

As in the case of the athletic work, camp singing has reached an unusual development under the leadership of Dean Cowper. Not only has he had remarkable success with community singing among the soldiers, but he has inspired a much greater attention to other forms of music. Choruses, quartettes, and bands have received his assistance and have been benefited by his suggestions. He has brought out in a remarkable way the wealth of musical talent to be found in such a large body of men and has utilized it for social purposes. In addition he has aroused in the community outside the camp an interest in and an appreciation of mass singing such as has never before been manifested. Aided by public spirited organizations like The White Sparrows, he has conducted at the Drake Stadium a number of great singing festivals, in which the participants were numbered by the thousands. To attend one of these great gatherings can not fail to arouse the enthusiasm of even a non-musical person. One who has not heard a great national anthem sung by such a concourse of people can not realize its wonderful effect. The following letter written by R. B. Patin, executive secretary of the War Camp Community Service of Des Moines and printed in *The Survey* for October 6, 1917, describes one of these occasions:[46]

Dear Mr. Braucher:

I hasten to tell you of the most inspiring sight I have ever witnessed and the greatest occasion of its kind ever staged in America.

This afternoon fully twelve thousand people assembled at the stadium of Drake University for a community sing, headed by

[45] *The Camp Dodger*, February 15, 1918.

[46] *The Survey*, Vol. XXXIX, p. 3.

three military bands and led by Dean Holmes Cowper of Drake University. After singing America and the Battle Hymn of the Republic a military quartette from the Negro officers' reserve training camp sang I Want to Be Ready, and Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray. Immediately afterward twelve hundred Negro soldiers marched into the stadium under command of Col. Ballou, U. S. A. The applause was deafening and after a demonstration of marching and manual of arms three hundred men stepped to the center of the field. Soon the melody of Swing Low, Sweet Chariot was holding the vast audience entranced. The deep, rich and high-pitched voices carried to all parts of the stadium. Shouting All Over God's Heaven was even more wonderful in effect, while Tipperary quite carried the audience away.

The ceremony of raising and lowering the flag was wonderful as the twelve thousand people arose and sang The Star Spangled Banner. The program lasted for an hour and a half and from the appreciation expressed Des Moines will be glad for the repetition of such events. Colonel Roosevelt, who had been invited to be present, found it impossible to come.

The Negroes regard the event of this training camp as the greatest in the life of the race since the Emancipation Proclamation, and as such the people of Des Moines were glad to give recognition. This occasion has had the desired effect of an increased regard for the ability of the Negro soldier and an appreciation of his service to the country.

I suggested the community sing and secured the consent of the military authorities while a local organization known as The White Sparrows led by Dean Cowper, carried out the program.

We have arranged for more of these in September.

Sincerely,

Des Moines, Iowa. R. B. Patin.

According to Owen Wister, author and member of the music committee of the Commission on Training Camp Activities, "music is as necessary to the soldier's heart as bread is to his body. It is often spoken of as a luxury . . . . even in time of peace". In his opinion "it is probable that no battle was ever won by soldiers who did not sing. When soldiers have been too exhausted to sing, just listen-

ing to music has put new life into them. Just such a case as I have in mind occurred during the retreat of the British from Mons in 1914.

"The heavy fighting they had been through had proved too much for a certain contingent of troops. The men lay on the ground, played out, indifferent and benumbed. The enemy was coming, but the men were too tired to care. Their commanding officer looked at them in despair, and entreaties to march on were of no avail; the men refused to budge.

"Near at hand was a toy shop which had been abandoned by the proprietor when the retreat began. The officer made for the shop and a moment later appeared with a toy drum and a tin whistle. Then, while he played the drum, two soldiers took turns playing the whistle. The music from the drum and the whistle awakened the benumbed men, stiffened their legs and spirits to further efforts, and they arose and marched ten miles to safety.

"That is what music did in one case. In the ancient age the Romans and Greeks had their battle songs, and even now our warriors sing in battle. It has helped to win many a victory. Indeed, music has played a brilliant part in the history of all great wars."[47]

POST EXCHANGES AT CAMP DODGE

At first regimental exchanges at Camp Dodge were opened in temporary locations and their frequent removals were a source of inconvenience to their soldier patrons. By the end of November, however, all the nineteen permanent exchange buildings were ready to receive their stocks, while several exchanges had paid for their stocks and would soon be in a position to pay dividends into their regimental funds. The exchanges are open except during drill periods.

The character of the stocks carried by the exchanges is

[47] *The Camp Dodger*, June 7, 1918.

shown by the Christmas business done by them. Where formerly the soldiers spent their money for sweets, soap, and tobacco, they now purchase cameras, pictures, safety razors, and similar articles. The exchange recognizes that the American soldier is accustomed to many little luxuries and accordingly provides them for their military customers.

Many of the men found it possible to do all their Christmas shopping without leaving the cantonment. One of the soldiers declared he had bought "everything for everybody at home", and that he had obtained them "cheaper than usual". As he made this remark he handed over a large part of his monthly pay to the clerk. Among the parcels, which he obligingly showed to the reporter, were a safety razor, an art calendar, an excellent pocket knife, pictures of the camp, some fine toilet articles, and a two-pound box of candy. The exchanges prepared for the holiday trade by laying in an unusually heavy stock selected to meet the demand. Holiday shopping in the camp was also relieved of all the waiting, scrambling, and annoyance of ordinary purchasing in stores during that period. Soldiers could do their buying early, and thus make sure that their gifts would be received in good season.

One exchange with a group of patrons not a great deal larger than the average infantry company turned out a profit of nearly $1000 a month. Selling goods at standard prices, it disposed of more than $3000 worth of merchandise a month. The basis of profit is thirty-three per cent less than the average merchant enjoys, and there are, of course, no overhead expenses. Charge accounts payable each government pay day ran in some instances as high as $10 a month. This exchange serves the remount soldiers who work every day, including a part of Sundays, and consequently spend their money in the cantonment instead of in Des Moines.

At the end of five months the exchanges had developed a business involving the retailing of an average of $100,000 worth of goods a month. During the five months they totaled $494,672, or a monthly average of $98,933. Practically all the exchanges had found it possible through the business done to pay for the stocks they had on hand, and to accumulate profits that will eventually be distributed as dividends and turned over to the company funds.

The records for sales are as follows: September, $87,439; October, $144,662; November, $95,942; December, $71,268; January, $95,361. On February 1, 1918, a total of $81,481 worth of merchandise was in the stocks of the exchanges. As the sales increase and warrant it, larger stocks will be provided. With an increased number of men at the camp, it was estimated that in the next few months the sales would increase to more than $150,000 monthly. By doing all of their purchasing at their own exchanges, soldiers benefit themselves by paying less and by the fact that all profit made in the exchanges is eventually distributed as dividends and goes to provide better food and mess equipment, athletic outfits, and similar things.[48]

THE CAMP DODGER

The first camp newspaper to enter the field after the organization of the National Army divisions was *The Camp Dodger*. Not long after its establishment it became the official organ of the Eighty-eighth Division and was placed under the direction of the camp exchange. This arrangement meant that all the profits from advertising and other sources would be turned into the hands of the division exchange officer for distribution to the regimental funds.

When the paper began publication September 21, 1917, it started as a four-page, eight-column weekly. For the

[48] *The Camp Dodger*, September 28, November 29, December 14, 1917, January 11, March 9, 1918.

week ending June 14, 1918, the paid circulation amounted to $24,300 and the size had been increased to eight pages for regular issues with occasional larger issues for special reasons. Until June 1, 1918, the subscription price was $1.00 for six months. On that date it was increased to $1.25, partly because of higher cost of publication, and partly because of the decision to increase the size of the paper. Single copies continued to be sold for five cents.

Up to June 27, 1918, *The Camp Dodger* had turned over to the camp exchange $12,350.19, which represented the profits from September 21, 1917, to date. In addition there remained unpaid profits of about $650. Late in July an editorial stated that the total monthly profits would soon reach $20,000. The same editorial declared that 40,000 persons read the paper each week.

The handling of the sale of the paper, as is the case with its editorial and business management, is a coöperative affair. Many soldiers add to their incomes by devoting a few hours of their off duty time to the distribution of *The Camp Dodger*. Ten to fifteen salesmen handle the papers in their respective regiments, clearing from five to ten dollars a week with but a few hours of work. These hours are easily adjusted to off duty time, most of the men finding that it interferes very little with recreational hours while adding materially to their monthly income. Solicitors are given a twenty per cent commission at first, but after they have taken one hundred six months' subscriptions the commission is increased to thirty per cent. As much as $30 to $40 a month may be earned in this way.[49]

COMMUNITY SERVICE AT CAMP DODGE

Early in the fall of 1917 plans were made for the mobilization of the social resources of Des Moines for the soldiers

[49] *The Camp Dodger*, March 30, April 5, 26, May 31, June 28, July 26, September 13, 1918.

at Camp Dodge. A working organization, consisting of a dozen or more committees with several hundred persons actively taking part, made plans which included the throwing open of all the recreational facilities in and around Des Moines to the soldiers; the entertainment of the relatives and friends who come to visit the soldiers, especially helping to procure rooms for them; the guarding of the moral conditions in the city and its vicinity; and the prevention of extortionate prices in stores and other enterprises serving the soldiers. Executive responsibility for this varied work has been in charge of a representative of the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities — Mr. R. B. Patin.

Fourteen committees were organized to cover the different phases of the work. Three recreational committees undertook to supervise commercial and public amusements and special entertainments. A music committee was expected to secure the coöperation of all musical talent and to develop community music, band concerts, and other musical activities. Two committees were made responsible for placing the facilities of civic, social, and fraternal organizations at the disposal of soldiers. Two committees took charge of the home entertainment of the soldiers in their off duty time. One of these committees busied itself with the making of a list of families who were willing to take soldiers home to dinner after church Sundays. Still other committees dealt with the supply of magazines, educational opportunities, publicity, and law enforcement.[50]

One of the first results of the activity of the War Recreation Board of Des Moines (the official title of the new organization) was the opening of an Army Club at Ninth and Pleasant streets late in October. The building was turned over by the Shriners for the use of the soldiers; and

[50] *The Camp Dodger,* October 5, 12, 1917.

under the direction of Mr. Patin and several local committees it was remodeled and equipped. It contains all the facilities and conveniences of an up-to-date club, and it is entirely controlled by Camp Dodge officers and men. The rooms are open from one o'clock till midnight on week days, and from nine in the morning till midnight Sundays. About $8000 was raised for meeting the expense of the necessary changes and for maintenance the first year. At the formal opening General Plummer and General Getty were present, and G. S. Nollen of the civic and social committee presided.[51]

The activities to be undertaken by the War Recreation Board of Des Moines were outlined by Mr. Patin in November as follows: "Social occasions where the soldiers will meet girls and women under natural and wholesome conditions will be especially important. Officers and men will be asked to receptions, dances, outings and parties of all sorts, for instance, by the various churches to which they belong; and they will be invited not merely to receive but to give — to furnish entertainment by giving concerts or games or theatricals or minstrel shows. For it is always participation, expression, the active rather than the passive form of recreation and membership that counts."

Another big problem, according to Mr. Patin, "is that of the young girl. It has been the experience in Europe and in Canada that young girls are apt completely to lose their heads over the soldiers. The girls are eager for an opportunity to meet the soldiers, to show their appreciation of what the soldiers are doing, and this part of the community is under such a severe emotional strain that a great deal of attention will be given to working out this problem. Besides encouraging the social opportunities above suggested, we will take special measures to keep the girls' minds busy

[51] *The Camp Dodger,* October 5, 26, November 2, 1917.

so far as possible on other matters,— for instance — in hospital work; in work for children in the playgrounds; in gardening, and in taking the place of men in various industries."

In Mr. Patin's opinion "of the relations from which these young men in training camps are cut off, that to the home is perhaps the most important . . . . something will be done by local communities in the neighborhood of the camps in affording to officers and men, through the plan of 'taking a soldier home to Sunday dinner', and other forms of hospitality, a reminder of what a home atmosphere is like.

"A great many people in Des Moines have coöperated very loyally in trying to do something for the soldier boys, and I hope the community will waken to its privilege, for when the soldier is giving his life nothing else can be compared."[52]

Besides the Army Club for all soldiers, the Jewish people have provided a separate club for the men of their faith at 715 Grand Avenue, while the Young Men's Christian Association maintains rooms for the downtown use of soldiers at Fourth Street and Grand Avenue, which is distinct from the city headquarters. A club for colored soldiers is located in the old Lincoln school building at Ninth and Mulberry streets.

About June 1, 1918, the name War Recreation Board was changed to War Camp Community Service.[53] The offices and headquarters are in the old Federal building opposite the county court house at the corner of Fifth and Court streets.

The protective work for girls and women is carried on in connection with the other forms of community service by

[52] *The Camp Dodger*, November 23, 1917.

[53] *The Camp Dodger*, May 31, 1918.

a staff of three or four women, who also coöperate with the representatives of the Travelers' Aid Society and of the Young Women's Christian Association. An effort is made to prevent women and young girls from acting in ways which may result disastrously to them. Help is also extended in all cases that arise out of the conditions surrounding a large camp. After the positive and constructive work has failed, assistance and rescue work must be provided. By united endeavor and by preventive methods these results are reduced to a minimum, but evil or unfortunate consequences can not altogether be avoided. The problem of the war baby and the unmarried mother must only too frequently be faced.

The prevention of vice and drunkenness in Des Moines and vicinity on the part of the soldiers from Camp Dodge was made easier by local conditions due largely to State legislation. The Cosson law, declaring houses of prostitution to be nuisances, and providing for their abatement as such, and State-wide prohibition made persons catering to such offenders punishable by the courts, and consequently it remained only to deal with bootleggers and illegal resorts. That the campaign against the twin evils of drunkenness and immorality has been waged as successfully as is at all practicable, and that Des Moines is relatively a clean city, is shown by the record of only six new cases of social disease and fourteen arrests for drunkenness among the 40,000 soldiers at Camp Dodge during the month of June.[54]

One of the original results of the efforts to mobilize the social resources of the community for the benefit of the soldiers was the organization of about two hundred women under the name of Camp Mothers. Each of these women undertook to bring "good cheer to the men of their company, to visit the sick and open their homes and other homes

[54] *The Camp Dodger*, June 21, 1918.

to the soldiers''. The plan aims to place each soldier in a position in which he can have the friendly interest of an older woman who will do for him many of the little services that a mother might do for a son.

VI

CONCLUSION

A study of social work in military camps, based upon Camp Dodge as a concrete example of such efforts, compels attention to it as a unique and remarkably successful manifestation of social teamwork. It rests upon the principle so characteristically described by Kipling.

> It ain't the guns nor armament, nor funds that they can pay,
> But the close coöperation that makes them win the day;
> It ain't the individual, nor the army as a whole,
> But the everlastin' teamwork of every bloomin' soul.

If such varied methods are of value in the training of soldiers, why not apply them in times of peace? If they make better soldiers, why would they not make better citizens? Why not provide for the physical, mental, and moral life of our citizens with the same purposes in mind and with the same broad point of view? Can we not better afford to train citizens for peace than for war? Why must we wait for a war to do the things we ought to have done long ago, and which we know how to do, if only the emergency is great enough to compel us to use the inner social energies that ordinarily lie quiescent?

Universal military training in the light of this experience becomes something quite different from what has been and still is urged by the advocates of preparedness. We are forced to face the question whether we can afford to do without it even in times of peace. Just as a by-product of the Hun menace to civilization, the United States, in its efforts to mobilize its resources to go to the assistance of

the nations which have been fighting since 1914 to ward off this peril, has made a constructive contribution available in times of peace as well as in war. The men who undergo this training, and survive the chances of battle, will be better men in every way than they would have been without it. We shall never intentionally and consciously give up these undoubted gains. The only danger is that we shall drift for the lack of a constructive program. Confronted with numberless serious problems, we are likely to be confused and to give up what we would not, could we see exactly what we were doing.

This is not an argument for universal military training: it is intended merely to point out what has been actually accomplished and to raise the question whether we can afford to give up the possibilities, unrealized before the stress of war compelled us to protect ourselves and help in making the world safe for democracy. Can we help to make the world safe for democracy unless we train our citizens in the fullest possible way to live happy and useful lives? If we can lavish billions of dollars to train men to fight because we must, we can more reasonably invest millions in training them for citizenship, and we ought to do it wisely and willingly.

FRED EMORY HAYNES

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
IOWA CITY