

**REPORTS FROM EGYPT**

**Activities Of Y.M.C.A.**

**EXPENDING LOWRY GIFT**

National headquarters of the Y.M.C.A. in New Zealand have received several more reports dealing with the activities of the organization with the 1st echelon now in Egypt. The reports deal with every phase of the work. Mr. Victor Jones, who was secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Wellington, writes that Mr. J. H. Ledgerwood was working after the evening programme in the big marquee at base headquarters, and Mr. F. E. S. Long was depicting the united Y.M.C.A.'s, and he was being kept busy purchasing goods and making contacts, following through the building project, and depicting the city work idea. "I might say," writes Mr. Jones, "that the attitude of General Freyberg to our work is a fine one, and we can expect lots of help from divisional headquarters." In reporting that a central committee had been set up, Mr. Jones states: "We have drawn together a very influential committee in the city." This committee is taking a very active part in establishing a New Zealand Y.M.C.A. in Cairo. An attempt was made to secure the Ezbekia Gardens site, but this was done during the last war, but it does not seem to have been possible on this occasion.

Referring to the Lowry donation of £100 for a hut at base headquarters, Mr. Jones writes: "If we are resident in our country for any long time I do not see any need for expending the money on one specific project. However, if we are moved off into Egypt and there is need for a big leave-out, we would use some of it at present."

I should like to know what conclusions are attached to the gift. If there are none, I think we could use all portion of it in instituting the city work we have in mind in Cairo. The Ezbekia Gardens are not available there for the small soldiers' home which is running there at present, but we are developing another site near the one which serves our troops and I

think, with a little imagination and money, it would be an ideal centre."

A further reference to this subject is made in a report from Mr. Long, which reads:—"An effort to provide facilities for soldiers on leave in Cairo has occupied our attention rather considerably, and in this we have had the splendid services of Wilbert Smith, national secretary for Egypt (an American), and latterly that of Jack Massey, representing the English Y.M.C.A.'s. A committee representing Army and Air Force has been formed and things are beginning to move. The Prime Minister of Egypt has been approached for a central site and he is investigating the position. (The committee running the soldiers' club in Ezbekia Gardens is unfavourable toward the suggestion that the Y.M.C.A. should take over the club.) Vic Jones is handling this side of our work and is also acting as liaison officer in procuring speakers for lectures."

**A Central Hut.**

On the subject of a central hut in the base camp Mr. Jones reports: "You will probably be interested to know just what we are doing at present. The Army is building us two constructional huts 80 feet apart and joining them with a 12ft. high wall, thus making an opening or auditorium, which I believe is a very desirable thing, specially in hot weather. For a few days we could get no action at all, and in desperation we put forward a proposition for expending some of our money on building. That could not be done because there were no materials to be had, most of it being in the possession of army headquarters. Major Grenville did not see any reason at all why these huts could not be built for us and issued instructions accordingly. Plans will be completed today and erection should take place within the next week."

"(Later). We have just come in from driving the first nail in our building. It should be up in no time, and we shall then have a permanent home. It will consist of two huts, each 70 feet long and 30 feet wide. They will be 80 feet apart and joined by a 12-foot-high fence. Both huts will have a veranda facing in, and the enclosure will act as an auditorium for all kinds of programmes."

**Ricochets**

A Russia 'lection?

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Railway unit for overseas service: Up guards and at 'em.

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Not much sylt in Goebbels' mud-slinging.

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Theme song to Hitler: "Why was he born so bootyful? Why was he born at all?"

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Diggers in Palestine plant seeds outside their tents. Evidently they are digging in.

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French troops plant potatoes at the Maginot line. But they still hope to give the Nazis beans!

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N.Z.E.F. in Palestine holds race meetings with donkeys to serve as mounts. At home, the donkeys merely serve as punters.

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Telegraph: "On the map, Italy resembles a boot." But the question so far is whether the boot will be on the other foot.

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No New Zealand mail service to Germany, says Postal Director. But there are still ways and means to let Hitler know what we think of him.

\* \* \* \*

A visitor from Hongkong has criticised the way New Zealand people walk. Possibly he saw them returning from the races.

**SURGICAL DIVISION**

**Appointment Of Officer Commanding**

The appointment of Dr. P. A. Ardagh to the position of officer commanding the surgical division of the 2nd New Zealand General Hospital, with the temporary rank of lieutenant-colonel, is announced by Military Headquarters.

Dr. Ardagh served in the Great War of 1914-1918 in the Field Ambulance Division with the rank of captain and had a distinguished career, being awarded the D.S.O. and the M.C. He was again mentioned in dispatches and recommended for the V.C. for personal gallantry in establishing and working in an advanced medical depot, which was under shell fire for 36 hours at Creve Coeur.

Dr. Ardagh was president of the Christchurch branch of the British Medical Association in 1938.

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