

INTERNATIONAL WORK.

**Progress and Organization.
How It Met a Need During
the Recent War.**

The international committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, as the name indicates, has charge of the extension and strengthening of this work throughout the world. The majority of associations under charge of this committee are in the United States and Canada, but like the missionary boards of the churches the international committee is reaching out into other fields and planting this work for young men by young men.

In the history of business, social and religious enterprises there is no example of a propaganda of great reform principles which has been attended with such signal and such well merited success. The machinery which has so often grown up to hamper and hold back causes by the weight of its own unwieldiness has found no room. Machinery there is, but as perfect as any in the best organized business enterprise. Supervision and control is perfect. The central committee in New York is kept in constant touch with the membership, the boards of New York on the one hand and the servants of the association on the other, in the persons of secretaries and physical directors. Their intimate knowledge of men all over the United States is something marvelous to the uninitiated. But after all this method is as simple as it is business like. Every change of office must be immediately reported, with all essential details, to the central office, and is there properly filed. Through national and state conventions and summer schools every association is brought into touch with international and state secretaries; is stimulated to the most advanced methods of work, and on the other hand the international and state secretaries are taking inventory of the strength of the workers in certain fields, of their special adaptation for certain lines of labor. All that is valuable of this knowledge of men and conditions in the field reaches the ear of the international committee. The international secretaries in the field represent the combined wisdom and experience of this central committee. They are hands and feet and tongue and utterance through the whole land and other lands. Through state secretaries the local associations are kept in touch with each other. By means of the international secretaries traveling through certain sections the state secretaries are brought into closer relations with each other and with the international committee.

The inspiration which Mr. Michener has lent us here has been a small part of the grand work for the northwest. Such is the work all over the United States and Canada. Special international secretaries have been created as there has appeared to be demand—one for the work among the colored people in the south, two for the student volunteer movement to foreign missions, international railroad and educational secretaries, and during the civil war and the late war with Spain—the Christian commission was organized under the leadership of an international secretary appointed by the international committee. There is scarcely any one but is familiar with the admirable services rendered by the commission during the last few months. The saving of young men, body and soul, from the vices which run riot in the red path of war has come close to the hearts of many, has come to the attention of all, but I can not forbear to invite your attention to an article on "The Army and Navy Y. M. C. A." in the November number of the Review of Reviews by the editor. If any one has not read it, look it up. It is worth your while. It is generally known that thousands of our young volunteers, the very flower of our young manhood, instead of coming home imbued and hardened by the camp life, returned to their homes with a new and noble soul awakened within them. God lives and does these things, but blessed are those men like Miller and his co-workers through whom they were accomplished.

Many know about the stream of good which has flowed out from this labor of love, read the article and learn to whose large heartedness its inception was due and to whose thorough business management and spiritual oversight the marvelous fruits of this work must be attributed. It is this kind of thing the international committee is constantly engaged in, personally and through its representatives—meeting emergencies through the guidance of the spirit of God and reaping harvests to His name. They are lifting the indebtedness of local associations, promoting careful investments in suitable buildings through the country, providing local secretaries, physical directors for such associations, disseminating tons of literature annually which is calculated to promote safe methods of work and to create new life—and above all, through personal contact with these men who are both conversant with business principles and filled with the spirit of God, the associations of the country are being transmitted into one united body.

The characteristics which above all distinguish the Young Men's Christian Association are: its appeal for the development of the all-around man, the deep spirituality of its leaders and the definiteness of its purposes. To these characteristics it owes its existence and success. To the supervision of such men as the late E. R. Melumey of the international committee it owes these characteristics. Have you thought it all out and given honor and support where such are due, or have you been shut up to your own little problems and this corner of the world? Have you thought that the hand which has led you, may in turn rightfully look to your strength to be led.

One of the commonest temptations of the modern young man is this unreasoning acceptance of things as he finds them, ready to his hand. As he walks the paved way, the toil of those that went before is nothing to him. The vantage ground of the golden experience of others presented in a modern text-book, prescribed laboratory work or lectures is accepted by the student as a mere matter of course, when perhaps the facts discovered or the thought elaborated have cost the best effort of the ablest minds for centuries. The largest part of our thinking has already been done for us by scholars and statesmen. It would seem sometimes as if these beaten paths had been made too easy, and that some of that stern struggle and determine dig for truth which characterized the labors of our fathers produced deeper consideration, stronger character, just as the plain food, pure air and water and roughing it of the summer camping trip induces a better digestion than coaxing the stomach with prepared foods.

There is economy in stepping upon the shoulders of our fathers; an earlier concentration of effort for some end in life may result, but there comes with it also the possibility of narrowness of vision, overabsorption in personal interests, selfishness. In the daily treadmill of our beaten rounds of duty we not infrequently indulge in the fear that inherent creative power, originality may suffer loss from disuse. There is more vital ground for fear that the soul may become dead to gratitude and to God.

The deepest mire of selfishness is thanklessness. Will not the members of the Young Men's Christian Association find the deepest blessing in living not unto themselves? The agency through which we, as an association, reach the world field is the international committee. This common mother of us all demands the support of our money and our prayers.

WILLIAM W. HAYS, AGS.
ATHLETIC NOTES.
In spite of the poor weather and lack of funds, C. M. Barr has put the track in excellent shape for some fast work. Negotiations are still pending for the interstate and interscholastic meet with Iowa. Next Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock the dual track meet with Kansas university will be held on the campus before the Kansas-Nebraska base ball game. Six men from each college will contest in ten events, first places only to count, each first place scoring five points.

Have the "Evans" do your washing.



J. J. KING.

J. J. King, recently elected president of the association, is a man eminently qualified for that position. He graduated at the State Normal at Peru in '05, and has since been principal of the schools at Cedar Rapids, Neb., in which capacity he has given the best of satisfaction. While a student at Peru, Mr. King first became interested in Y. M. C. A. work and from that time he has kept in touch with the movement. The office of president, as the association now stands, is one in

which a great deal of business capacity is demanded and for that reason the members of the association feel that Mr. King is just the man for the position.

Already he has shown good judgment in the formation of his committees and it may be safely said that the association has never been so strongly organized as it is at the present time. Mr. King has also been interested in the college settlement work during the year.

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