

"Y" STARTS WORK AMONG FOREIGNERS

"Coming Canadians" Assisted by Association — Many Competent Teachers

The local Y.M.C.A. is again beginning its season's work among the "coming Canadians" of the city. Two years ago 341 men were reached through the classes held in the building, and in boarding and lodging houses in different parts of the city. Last year the number of men reached was 519, twelfth among the associations on the continent, and the second in Canada. Several of the classes were also continued two months longer into the summer than in the previous year.

Among the teachers were four lawyers and law students, three school teachers, 13 university students, some of whom were ex-teachers, and six office and business men.

The association holds a unique position for pioneer work of this kind. Many of the new comers will not respond to outside calls and must be sought at their lodging houses and places of employment, where their reception of teachers is most cordial. Questions asked such as "what church?" "what party?" "what cost?" indicate the vantage ground of the association. The men have been helped not only in teaching, but counselled in matters of employment, business, citizenship, correspondence, travel, lodging and other things.

A beautiful oil painting hangs in one of the association offices, the gift of a pupil after being 18 months in the city, and in appreciation of the teaching received. Other tangible expressions of appreciation have been made and many interesting experiences passed through by those who have been teaching. It has been far from a matter of merely "giving"—some of the teachers putting it clearly when they said they perhaps "got" more than they "gave." But apart from the experience received in teaching it is well to recognize the fact that among these "Coming Canadians" are men of large native ability, who if helped along at this stage will do credit to our citizenship.

Canada never called as now for a great united citizenship, and the association is keeping this prominently in the front during this season's work. From other examples which might be cited, one illustrates this arising out of the "Thanksgiving supper" held in the lecture room of the association building last Monday. Among the guests was a German who has been in Canada about a year, and during the last season a member of the classes. The plan of program called for announcing nationalities, etc. Thinking that he might be embarrassed he was counselled before the supper, when he said: "I shall be glad to say I'm from Germany, but I am a Canadian now." He further declared that he had absolutely no sympathy with the war.

The association, it may be added, will seek to co-operate most heartily with the schools and all other agencies in this most important work.