

STOLEN MACHINERY IN OCCUPIED GERMANY

The military police of the allied armies of occupation in the Rhine provinces have made a number of interesting discoveries in those regions during their search for machinery and other stolen material taken out of Belgium and France.

German profiteers, under the indulgence, if not with the connivance of the War Department in Berlin, have amassed great fortunes, and have lived on the fat of the land, arousing disgust apparently, or perhaps only envious resentment, among the masses of their own compatriots. On more than one occasion the arrest of the guilty party has come about through information furnished to the police by someone among his townfolk.

In Viersen, a Prussian town of spinning mills, there were found in the possession of the farm of Preuss and Winden a large number of machine tools, steam hammers and other costly equipment. All of these were actually in use, and one of the three enormous workshops in which they were installed had been carried thither, piece by piece, from Feiglein, in Belgium.

Another concern, known as the Mafam Auto Co., was found to own a large three story warehouse at Rheind, near Gladbach, packed full of brand new Belgian, French and Italian motor cars. This company was capitalized at \$5,000.00 and the cars in its possession were worth over \$500,000.00. During the investigation into the manner in which they had been acquired Herr Direktor Leyse quite lost his self possession, to such a degree indeed that when at last he was caught making signals to his bookkeeper and accused of the action he struck the face of the investigating officer, Lieutenant Gilles. Leyse was arrested and furnished bail to the amount of \$900,000.00.

About a thousand Belgian machines, all purchased through the German War Department, were found on premises belonging to a man named Schorch, and this event furnished a clue which led to the recovery of many others in this vicinity. All of them had been shipped thither by the "Wunba," ostensibly a stock company due to individual initiative, but in reality a creation of the War Department in Berlin. When a German manufacturer needed raw material or machinery on easy terms he had to apply to the War Department which then referred his application to the Wunba. (W. M. B. A.—Waffen und Munition Beschaffung Amt, or Office for the Procurement of Arms and Munitions.) The Wunba had numerous local agencies in the various regions of occupied territory and was empowered to order the dismantling of a given factory in order to supply the German applicant.

The actual wrecking operations were carried out under the direction of an association of five principal contractors for a commission calculated on a percentage basis. Payment was not made directly to the wrecking company whose commission was ordinarily 5% of the total cost.

Undoubtedly many machines have been defected from their normal mission of kindly service to the needs of a peace loving people and so transformed for the harsh purposes of militarism as to be unrecognizable parts have been destroyed or melted for shrapnel. In Erkelenz, for example, incredible quantities of debris mountain high, fragments of machinery, bolts, nuts, screws, etc., were found.

Director Peterson of the Air Transport Service, who had been shipped to him from Valenciennes, four hundred electric motors from Ongree Marbais. At the latter works, two hundred aeroplane motors, eighty-one automobiles and six hundred magneto were found. The shops and machines that were seized in Gelsenkirchen, at the collieries, are worth millions.

Many more names are on the list, showing that the investigation of the police have been of use in the recovery of vast amounts of plunder, but it is doubtful in many cases whether much would be gained by the return of this old material. It has had to be taken apart in order to be transported to these regions. If it is taken apart again to be set up in Belgian factories, the bolts will be loosened, all the riveting will have to be cut and made anew. There are manufacturers who would consider the material under such circumstances as little better than junk.

"Why not build new machines, wherever possible, instead of taking back the old? Why not make full use of German industry and man power west of the Rhine for the purpose of supplying new machines? The Allies have this resource at

their command. The German industrial workers have moreover agreed to work under the direction of the allies. Why should not Belgian manufacturers who must reequip their factories apply to their Government for the type and number of machines wanted; the Government then to place the order with a German firm, and Berlin to pay the bill,—at the lowest possible price, to be sure. Thus German industry would be kept alive for the benefit and not the detriment of Belgium."

Such arguments are frequent nowadays in Belgian newspapers, no matter what their opinions on political or economic questions; bitter resentment exists among all classes, evoked by the thought of Germany's traffic in their national industrial resources, and this resentment is greatly increased by the thought of the pitiless method which was devised to extract a maximum of profit from exploitation.—Belgian Bulletin.

FATHER FRASER'S LETTERS FROM CHINA

We are now giving to our readers some of the Father Fraser's letters which for one reason or another were not published at the time they were received. These realistic pictures of active Chinese missionary work are, we believe, well calculated to stimulate interest in the later and still more important phase of Canadian participation in the glorious work of the conversion of China to which Father Fraser is now consecrating his energy and his zeal enlightened by a rich experience.

Catholic Mission
Taichowfu, China.
Good Friday, 1917.

Dear Friends,—Yesterday we spent a day of paradise. Out of the two side altars I composed one lofty one and with the aid of draperies, candles and artificial flowers made a first class repository. I divided the school children and grown-ups into four groups who succeeded one another in chanting before the Blessed Sacrament the beautiful prayers and litanies contained in a special book of visits to the Blessed Sacrament in use by the Christians. With what ardor and perseverance they prayed and chanted all day long and continued it through the night till the Mass of the Presanctified this morning!

The procession of the Blessed Sacrament to and from the repository was very imposing and watched with extreme interest and joy of soul by the congregation. It was all new to them being mostly neophytes and recent converts. It would have done the hearts of all contributors to my mission good to see the long line of little boys, dressed in red cassocks, surplices and little capes, with bowed heads and holding tapers in their hands, the standard bearers, thurifers, cross bearer, canopy and all the rest, and think that it was their alma, and their alma alone, which enabled me to produce such a work for God's glory in this far-off pagan land.

I would feign have kept my curate near me during this busy week but thought it better for the propagation of the Faith to send him to a new church in a distant city to carry out as far as possible the beautiful ceremonies of Holy Week for the benefit of the people there.

That was really very thoughtful as you say in your "Notes" of the people of Mabou to hold a concert for the benefit of my mission. I am very grateful for the organizers and audience. May God bless and reward them as also all those throughout Canada who have contributed sums, big or little, to this work of God.

Yours gratefully in Christ,
J. M. FRASER.

TO THE CARDINAL

BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE TO THE PRIMATE OF BELGIUM

The Stars and Stripes, published by the American army abroad, has the following tribute to Cardinal Mercier:

At the moment when the Belgian bands, leading the rejoicing columns of troops back into their homeland are sounding forth that great anthem which tells how the Belgian "arising from his tomb, has reconquered by his courage, his name, his rights and his flag," we of the Allies who have known and watched him, and through doing so have grown to love and revere him, stand with bowed heads in honor of Cardinal Mercier.

Truly he was and is, as the poet said:

One who never turned his back, but marched abreast forward,
Never doubted clouds would break,
Never dreamed, though right were worsted, wrong would triumph,
Held we fall to rise, are baffled to fight better sleep to wake.

In the days when the hosts of darkness strode roughshod over his country, when the whole world stood aghast at the enormity of the German crime, his voice was the first to be lifted in righteous indignation, stirring protest, regardless of the consequences to himself. For more than four long and weary years he has been, in the best sense of the word, a pastor to his people, the comforter of his flock, ready and willing to lay

down his life for them if the conquerors made that the price of his zeal in their behalf. With strong and comforting words he has heartened his nation's soldiers and the armies of its benefactors, telling them that those who lost their lives in combating the enemy would find them again, that by dying they would be saved.

A great priest, a great patriot, a great Christian—above all, a great soul is he; such a man as all the Allies, regardless of race or creed, delight to honor, and are better in mind and spirit for having honored—Mercier of Belgium.

SOUTH AMERICAN HISTORY

Notre Dame, Indiana, May 13.

Study of South American history will be made compulsory for all students of the College of Arts and Letters beginning next September according to an announcement made recently by the Rev. Mathew Schumacher, prefect of studies. The subject is substituted for English history, a course in which has until lately been required of all Arts and Letters students at the university. Heretofore the course in South American history has been required only of students in foreign commerce. The wide interest in Latin America and the frequent misrepresentations of the Church there have determined this action of the faculty. Notre Dame is the first school in the country to take this step. The South American library, recently donated to the university by the Very Rev. J. A. Zahn, former Provincial of the congregation of the Holy Cross, is the most complete collection of its kind in the country.

OBITUARY

SISTER MARY J. COLUMBA
SHANAHAN

The death of Sister Mary J. Columba Shanahan which occurred at St. Joseph's Convent, Hamilton, on Wednesday the 7th inst., may be likened in the symbolism of her name to the flight of a dove bearing with it the olive branch of peace to the Ark of eternal rest. If the preceding Angel laid out before us the Book of Life there only could we learn the sanctity of her soul partially revealed by the spirit of love and sacrifice that animated all her actions and endeared her to the members of the Community.

The serenity of her life was not marred by the approach of death. Faithfully and perseveringly the good Sister discharged all the duties of her office until morning dawned on the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph when it was discovered she had spent a restless night and was unable to rise. Her local attendance was summoned and the last rites of Holy Church administered. Calmly her eyes closed upon the world and before her illness could be made known the soul of this a saintly religious was with God.

Sister M. J. Columba Shanahan was born in Guelph on Jan. 8, 1860. She was educated at Loretto Convent in that city and always entertained the greatest esteem and reverence for her teachers, one of whom is still living. On Feb. 2, 1878, she entered the Community of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Hamilton, and received the Habit on Aug. 15th of the same year. Her vows were made on Dec. 28, 1880. For several years Sister Columba was Assistant Superior at the House of Providence, Dundas, and also at the Convent in Hamilton. At various times she discharged the duties of Sacristan in the Convent Chapel, St. Mary's Cathedral, and at St. Joseph's Church.

The funeral services took place on Friday morning, May 9. Solemn Mass of Requiem was sung by Reverend J. A. O'Sullivan, of St. Mary's Cathedral, assisted by Reverend A. J. Leyse, Deacon, and Reverend J. F. Hinchey, Sub-deacon. The clergy in the sanctuary were Very Reverend T. Kelly, V. G., Reverend P. J. Maloney, Reverend F. McKeary and Reverend J. Bonomi, St. Mary's Cathedral; Reverend J. Englert, Reverend J. McCowell, St. Anne's Church; Reverend S. McGee, St. Patrick's Church; Reverend T. Malone, Dundas.

Very Reverend J. T. Kelly, V. G., officiated at the interment in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, attended by Reverend A. J. Leyse, Reverend J. F. Hinchey, and Reverend P. J. Maloney.

The pall-bearers were Messrs. J. M. Brown, J. F. Kavanagh, P. Burdett, J. Nelligan, P. Cheeseman and W. Begley.

Mrs. J. J. McCabe, Smethport, Pa., a sister of the deceased, and Miss Maria Sheehan, Erie, Pa., near relative, were present at the funeral services.

The Sisters desire to express sincere thanks for the Mass cards sent by friends.

VICTORIAN ORDER OF NURSES

The Victorian Order of Nurses of Toronto are in receipt of many letters of appreciation for their work during the influenza epidemic, and Miss Hall, the lady superintendent, is congratulating herself on feeling very grateful that none of the nurses were afflicted with the disease. Doctor Hastings, M. O. H. of the City of Toronto, writes:

"I have to express to the V. O. N. our keen sense of gratitude for their valuable co-operation during the influenza epidemic in this City."

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