

## CANCELED STAMPS

## HELP SUPPORT MISSIONS IN PAGAN LANDS

By Rev. J. Van der Heyden  
(Louvain Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

Between the years 1891 and 1923 four hundred and twenty-five thousand francs were secured to the Belgian missionaries in pagan lands through the sale of canceled postage stamps collected by the seminarians of the six Belgian diocesan seminaries.

The work—"L'Oeuvre des Vieux Timbres," as it is called—is still going on, and with yearly results, as against those of years immediately preceding the War; increased five-fold. The credit for originating it belongs to the students attending the Liège Seminary during the scholastic year 1891-92. They were prompted to it by a feeling of comradeship for college chums who had answered King Leopold's appeal for Congo missionaries. Of the total earnings three hundred thousand francs are ascribed to the Liège Seminary. They served to found in the Congo six Christian villages, one hospital and twenty-nine so-called "Fermes Chapelles," to which the missionary appoints black catechists for the teaching of religion and other picked blacks to lead in agricultural pursuits. He visits these foundations at regular intervals, supplies them with farm implements, seeds, plants, etc., advises and directs. The chief who grants the use of the land retains the title to the property, whilst the Christian neophytes, who form a sort of community around the small chapel, enjoy the usufruct.

Next in importance to the O. V. T., of the Seminary of Liège, is the S. Amandus Werk of the Bruges Seminary. It was started in 1902. During the first twenty years of its activity it averaged annual receipts that barely reached the 2,000 francs mark; but after the War, it took a fresh start, so that for the year 1923 a tenfold increase in net profits was reported.

The Seminaries of Malines, Ghent, Namur and Tournay entered the stamp-collecting field later and their contribution to the Mission Fund while small yet, is steadily increasing.

## VALUES OF CANCELED STAMPS

When the initial appeals for canceled stamps were made, people wondered what could be done with them and how they could be converted into money. It is a secret no longer; for the stamp-collecting craze exists the world over and the dealers in stamps for collection purposes are the principal clients of the enterprising seminarians. The ambition to possess rare specimens is responsible for prices running all the way from a few cents to hundreds of thousands of francs, sometimes to the sums paid for famed pictures by the old Masters.

At the late International Exhibition of Postage stamps held in Brussels, one and two-penny stamps from Mauritius Island were listed at 300,000 francs apiece—more than enough to pay the year's salary to seven members of King Albert's Ministry.

At the same exhibition, the sale, in blocks of four, of the five-franc stamp issued to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the use of the first Belgian postage stamps, brought a million francs. To preclude a corner and give all collectors a fair chance to add the coveted sheet to their collection, each purchaser was allowed but four stamps at a time. As their numbers ran into the thousands, they were made to penetrate Indian file into the office where the sale took place. There were those who spent days going round, succeeding in getting to the wicket from seventeen to twenty-two times a day. A Paris stamp dealer, it is said, had fifty men on the ground, to make sure to secure the eleven hundred and seventy-five blocks for which he had advance orders from his customers.

A few days after the exhibition the tetrad of colored miniature engravings was sold by the dealers at 125 francs. The 50,000 sheets of four stamps, at 30 francs a sheet, set aside by the postoffice authorities for sale during the Exhibition Week had all been disposed of.

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netting a pretty profit to the State. Considering its indebtedness of forty billion francs, it has good use for all the money it can get, and it may well thank the stamp collectors for helping it so readily to a million.

Three years ago, the Minister of Railways, Post and Telegraph took advantage of a new issue of 50-centime stamps to reserve for the collectors 10,000 sheets of twenty-five stamps each, obliterated with a special mark used only during the sale, as was also done for the recent sale. He thought that number of sheets would suffice to satisfy all the philatelist's demands, but he was grossly mistaken, for twice that amount would not have been enough.

USED FOR MOSAICS AND PORTRAITS

There are other uses for canceled stamps than the making of book collections. They are used also for making mosaic designs on columns, walls, souvenir plates, glassware, etc. In Liège an artist has continually on exhibit pictures of landscapes, reproductions of tableaux by the Old Masters, portraits, etc., made of postage stamps exclusively.

A few years ago, Mr. J. Bisset, the manager of the Mission Stamp Company of the United States, located 1888 North Avenue, Bridgeport, Conn., in making an appeal for obliterated stamps, discontinued the sending of stamps, from England, France and of all the larger countries below the seven-penny and one-franc denomination, also of all the lower issues of current U. S. stamps. Their value may be infinitesimally small, it is true, but for all that, they are turned into coin, and therefore gratefully accepted by the stamp-gatherers of the O. V. T., Grand Séminaire, Liège, of the St. Amandus Werk, Groot Seminarie, Bruges, and of all the Seminaries of Belgium.

Mr. Bisset's circular ended with the recommendation that boys be interested in collecting specimens of Rowland Hill's invention for the three following reasons; it is a good investment, for stamps are continually increasing in value; it is an excellent means for learning geography and history; it is a good way to help the missions.

The old adage "Little things on little wings take little souls to Heaven" finds application here. Thanks to those little squares of paper carried upon the wings of our letters, churches, schools, and hospitals, are erected in pagan lands and missionaries supported through whose instrumental souls are introduced into the Kingdom of the Church and thence to the Kingdom of Heaven.

## AURANIA'S MAIDEN TRIP

## NEW CUNARDER WILL JOIN CANADIAN SERVICE NEXT YEAR

The Aurania, newest addition to the Cunard fleet, will commence her maiden voyage on Saturday when she sails from Southampton and Cherbourg to New York. She is a sister ship of the Andania, Antonia and Ausonia, at present running between Montreal and Channel ports, and with her other sisters Alanina and Ascania, will form the fleet of Cunard steamers on the Canadian service next year.

The Aurania, launched in February last, is a one-class cabin steamship of the latest design and has accommodation for over 500 cabin passengers and 1,200 third class travellers. The ship is 598 feet long, 50 feet beam and of 15,000 gross tonnage. The engines are of the new double reduction geared type burning oil, and the construction of the vessel embodies the latest developments of comfort and safety that are the fruits of over eighty-four years experience enjoyed by the Cunard Line.

The public rooms, writing room, library, lounge, smoking room and verandah cafe are on "A" deck. The children's playroom, on "B" deck, is equipped with the latest play devices for children.

The staterooms, designed for two, three or four passengers, are unusually large and well lighted, being situated amidships. As there is only one class of cabin passengers carried all staterooms are in the most desirable part of the ship. They are furnished with careful thought for the passengers' comfort and equipped with every modern convenience. Another feature of these rooms is the ventilating system, which is such that it gives the maximum of fresh air.

## ENGLISH PILGRIMS HONOR MARTYR

London, Eng.—The 245th annual pilgrimage to the tomb of the Venerable John Kemble, of Welsh Newton churchyard, Herefordshire, created special interest this year, as the Cause of Father Kemble will soon be considered by a Pontifical Court of Process for Beatification.

Father Kemble, who was imprisoned and martyred for saying Mass, was a collateral ancestor of Mrs. Siddons and of Philip John Kemble, the famous actors.

His name lives in the speech of the people of Herefordshire and Northern Monmouthshire in such phrases as "Kemble Pipe" and "Kemble Cup," which commemorate the martyr's dying request for a last smoke before he was drawn on a cart to the place appointed for his hanging, drawing and quartering.

The "Kemble Pipe" and the "Kemble Cup" are the last smoke and the last drink.

Pilgrims to Welsh Newton marched in procession down the main street of the village to the churchyard, where a little girl placed a floral cross on the martyr's tomb.

Addressing the assembly there, Father Dewey said public opinion had changed in its attitude toward the Venerable John Kemble, as it had changed toward Saint Joan of Arc. People who were not Catholics now honored Father Kemble as a man who suffered martyrdom rather than forfeit his principles.

## HUNTERS! TO YOUR GUNS

A few more days before game-time. Then its deer hounds and bird dogs, mackinaws and kneebots, shot guns and rifles, with thoughts of business and tame city amusements put out of mind.

The exodus of sportsmen to the famous Canadian Hunting grounds is getting under way. The bird men are packing their duffle bags for the grouse, wild geese and duck hunting grounds. The forests of the Highlands of Ontario offer the greatest deer country on the Continent—a land where every hunter brings home his deer. Northern Ontario is famous for moose trophies shipped home every season. All game-birds, deer and moose are within easily accessible distances from you.

Canadian National Railways can transport you to the best hunting grounds of the particular sport you desire. Ask any Canadian National Agent for full information. He can give you all the routes, rates, seasons, game laws, and any other data that you require for the trip.

## THE MOTOR CHAPEL IN ENGLAND

The motor chapel is at work again in English villages, taking the tidings of Christianity to small communities which rarely hear the voice of a priest.

Two priests of the Catholic Missionary Society are with the car. They carry a tent which is pitched in the fields at night, and they do their own cooking. One of the priests acts as chauffeur.

Dr. Herbert Vaughan, a nephew of the late Cardinal Vaughan and of the late Father Bernard Vaughan, is head of the Catholic Missionary Society, and it was he who invented the motor chapel, which evoked great interest when it made its first appearance a few years before the War. It was admittedly an adaptation of the American chapel cars, and was more suited to English conditions because of the comparatively short distances to be traveled.

The original motor chapel was pressed into War service in 1914, when there was a sudden demand for auto engines. The car now on the road is a new one. It is constructed so that the back can be opened to disclose an altar, at which Mass is celebrated in the churches towns and villages.

The present tour is through Hampshire. Ten years ago the Eastern counties were worked. At the little village of South Warnborough the missionaries are speaking every evening under a large chestnut tree which stands in the middle of the main street. They camp in a nearby field, and their visit has created considerable interest among the people of the surrounding hamlets.

The missionaries gave their first Holy Communion to five children in one family who had never before had an opportunity to receive the Sacrament.

It is difficult for people in the New World to realize that in a country so small as England there can be settlements long distances from a church, so as to make Mass attendance an impossibility.

On the West coast there are many such places, some as much as 25 or 30 miles from a church. It is not so easy to evangelize these places as it is to evangelize settlements in the United States; for the American settlements are comparatively new, and are often made up by people of Catholic stock who are easily led back to the Church when they are given an opportunity to practice their religion, the population of these English villages, is composed of people who have been rooted in the soil for centuries, and among whom there is no Catholic tradition.

The motor chapel is therefore sowing seed in almost barren ground. But the hard and self-sacrificing work of the missionaries must tell in the end.

## MUSKALUNGE FISHING AT FRENCH RIVER CAMP

In the fall when the lunge become voracious and the life of a young fish is worth practically nothing, the fisherman comes into his own. Fighters to the last gasp, the lunge is the one fish that one prays, will rise to the plug or minnow and when he does—well, try and yawn. A hot shore dinner in the heart of the lunge territory, French River, a rest and then a recounting of the day's sport around the open fire, is something one never forgets.

The beauty of the woods in autumn, the snappy morning atmosphere when one's blood runs

faster, good fishing, warm bungalows electrically lighted and a clubhouse with a huge fireplace, music, dancing—all these may be had at French River Bungalow Camp which will remain open this year until October 15th following the request of patrons of the camp. The camp is only 215 miles north of Toronto and any Canadian Pacific agent will gladly supply all information, make reservations, etc. An hour's communion with a hungry lunge is worth a lifetime listening to the other fellow tell about it.

## IRISH FARMERS FACE POOR CROPS

Dublin, Ireland.—The present year is proving an exceptionally bad one for Irish farmers. There have been prolonged spells of bad weather with heavy rain and little sunshine all through the summer, and conditions at the beginning of harvest time are very serious. The farmers have found work in the fields for the last few weeks almost impossible. Floods from the Shannon to the Finn valley are the rule.

In most places the crops are either ruined or in serious danger. Potatoes in Limerick, in the West, and in parts of the North are black and in danger of rot. The consequences to the people of the western sea-board, where the potato is the principal food of the great majority, would prove very serious if the crop failed. The cereal crops, too, are beaten down by the incessant rain. In many districts the hay could not be saved and root crops, such as turnips and mangolds, are rotting in the ground.

There are grave fears that the conditions in the West may lead to privation and even famine, while the flooding of the west bays will mean suffering for the poor in the matter of their winter fuel supplies. With a spell of fine weather even now the harvesting in the south might prove hopeful, although the month of August has been one of the wettest on record.

## IRISH TRADE RETURNS

Dublin, Sept. 10.—The returns of the trade of the Southern Counties for the first half of the current year have just been issued. The imports for the period were valued at £93,478,305 and the exports at £21,877,493, leaving an adverse balance of over nine million pounds. Of the total imports Great Britain sent goods to the value of £28,563,648 while she received exports to the value of £18,848,510. The United States proved the next best customer sending goods valued at £1,791,851 and receiving in return goods to the value of £97,811.

An examination of the figures, however, reveals the fact that with the exception of the trade with Britain commercial intercourse with foreign countries proved altogether unfavorable to Southern Ireland. As a matter of fact, the imports from all those countries were approximately forty times greater in value than the exports. On the whole, the returns are regarded as unsatisfactory both from the point of view of the adverse balance and the decline in the exports of some of those commodities, especially agricultural produce, in which Ireland should have a much stronger market in Great Britain.

However, efforts are now being made to improve the position. On the one hand the Dublin Industrial Development Association has declared that already the modified form of protection granted by the recently imposed tariffs has improved the position of manufacturing concerns in the home market. Similar news comes from Cork, where the Lee Boot Factory has had to increase its staff very considerably to cope with the increased home demand.

The United States Shipping Lines have now opened elaborate offices in Dublin with a view to the develop-

ment of trade between Ireland and America. On September 2 Irish newspapers contained a full-page display advertisement inserted by one of the Irish-American national organizations announcing that special facilities had been secured for all Irish manufacturers who desired to pay a personal visit to see how things are done in the great factories of America, and it is believed that a large number of industrialists will avail themselves of the offer.

Another notable development is taking place in North Cork, where the project for the establishment of the sugar beet industry is being energetically pushed forward. This movement has been approved by a special meeting of the Bishop and priests of Cloyne and is being enthusiastically adopted by the farmers.

## DIED

McDONALD.—At London, Ont., on September 12th, Allan McDonald, of Bad Axe, Michigan, aged twenty-six years. Interment at Bad Axe, R. I. P.

HEFFRON.—At her home 2924 Lycaete Ave., Detroit, Mich., Aug. 7, 1924, Mrs. Elizabeth Heffron. Leaving five sons and two daughters. May her soul rest in peace.

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