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"LET SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS FORCES INSPIRE OUR ECONOMIC FORCES"--RAYMOND ROBBINS

Millionaire Social Worker Addresses Immense Audience at Imperial Theatre—"Good Uncorrupted Christianity Necessary to Life of Country"—Germany's Elu der.

Preliminary Meeting to Big Social Service Congress Attracts Huge Gathering of St. John Men and Women at the Imperial Theatre—Opportunities Here for Social Service.

Before an immense audience at the Imperial Theatre yesterday afternoon, Raymond Robbins, the Chicago millionaire, who is devoting his life to social service work, delivered an important message to the citizens of St. John. In an eloquent and forceful address Mr. Robbins pointed out the necessity of social service work in every community.



RAYMOND ROBBINS

The Chicago Millionaire and Noted Social Service Worker.

The gathering marked the preliminary meeting to the social service campaign, the opening gun of which will be fired at the Knights of Columbus hall this evening when outstanding figures in social service work will address the citizens of St. John. Rapt attention followed Mr. Robbins' remarks at yesterday's meeting. His address was one of the most logical and impressive that has been heard for some time, his patriotic utterances concerning the present conflict for freedom and the triumph of democracy being particularly striking.

A. M. Belding was the presiding officer at the meeting. In opening he explained the objects of the social service association. He stated that there was a great wave for social service throughout Canada. Congresses were being held in the various provinces with a view of arousing the people to a nation-wide effort to realize what was set forth in the declaration of principles.

Mrs. L. M. Curren rendered a solo which was greatly enjoyed, while members of the Y. M. C. A. took a silver collection to defray the expenses of the meeting.

Mr. Belding then announced that the social service meetings at the Knights of Columbus hall would be open to the public, while at the luncheon in the Stone church the ladies and gentlemen would also be welcomed. He wanted to know if a social service campaign was not a great necessity in the city. He had occasion to visit the police headquarters and to talk with Chief of Police Simpson. How many citizens made it their business to visit the headquarters and see conditions existing there? Only yesterday the police had made a raid on a local house. With respect to this matter he proposed to speak plainly to the men and women assembled. The case showed that there was a father who had consented to the shame of his two daughters in his own home. Two girls had been ruined, three boys were being allowed to grow up uneducated and not fitted to take a responsible place in the affairs of life, while two men, brothers, had been found in that home, having come there for immoral purposes. What was to be the future of these people? Who was going to take care of these children? Did St. John in view of this horrible condition in a local home need a social service campaign? These were questions that thoughtful men and women must consider.

Mr. Robbins, who was enthusiastically received, said that he considered it a great privilege to speak to this audience on some of the deeper issues of the common Anglo-Saxon life. This was a great hour in the life of the Empire and in the life of the world. The old order of things was passing from the world, the old individualistic control over life, the old individual life was passing never to return. A new social power was being developed in the world. More than anything else the world war had brought home to men a complete realization and understanding of conditions and the need of a transformation to higher ideals and better conditions.

For the past sixteen years the speaker

had lived in a crowded tenement ward in Chicago, where 75,000 people resided in an area of less than a mile square. In these crowded tenement homes the individual father or mother controlled practically nothing. Social service had accomplished great results. The people had awakened to the understanding that if children were to be raised who would not be a burden to themselves and the community there must be sanitary and health officials who would see that the proper conditions prevailed.

Mr. Robbins said that he would not lift the personal, moral and spiritual control of the child from the parents' shoulders, but the parents must meet that responsibility. In the tenement home beneath the one in which he resided there lived a father, mother and five children. The father and mother both went to work at an early hour, while the children were left to the care of the older children of the ward. They played in the city streets and acquired the morals of the streets instead of the morals of a peasant Christian family.

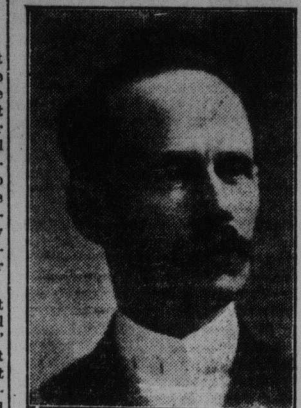
There was another vast change in the industrial affairs of the world. Industry today was different than thirty years ago. Then community and social bonds existed in the industries, but the irresponsible stock holding corporations had control of the industrial life of the country today. Organizations of capital and labor had sprung up and sometimes in their conflict had the effect of changing the conditions in the ordinary life of the individual.

Today, said Mr. Robbins, politics meant more to every man, woman and child than at any previous time in the history of the world. He was not speaking of party politics, but of social control through the public law. The government was advancing in its relationship to life. Laws were being enacted to regulate housing, sanitary conditions, morals, education and labor. Because of that fact the meaning of politics and government to the life of the individual was greater than ever before. "Get interested in politics because politics is interested in you and it is affecting the conditions of the home, of labor and of capital from year to year," said Mr. Robbins.

The present world war marked the testing out of the institutions of democracy to meet a highly organized machine in one of the supreme tragedies of history. The war must be fought to a successful issue and won for the democracy of the world. The men who had been trained to great ideals of sacrifice shall come back to the homelands to find what those who remained had prepared for them and how they were willing to engage with

the heroes in working out the destinies of the home and the future of the great Anglo-Saxon race.

He desired to impress his audience with the importance of the fact that the great material forces of the world should be shot through with a deeper spiritual purpose. There must be a spiritual dominion over the heart of every man, woman and child. After the speaker's success in the Yukon, where he dug up enough gold to do him for the rest of his days, he didn't try to break into high society. He used his liberty and his economic freedom to fight the battles of the men and women of the poor to help make it a little easier for them than it had been for him. He had taken up with other workers in Chicago the work of looking after the residents of a ward there. They realized that the whole future of a community was bound up in the children of that community. Pure food was finally secured after seven inspectors had been sent to the penitentiary, child labor laws had been enacted that



THE REV. J. G. SHEARER, D. D.

Toronto. Secretary of the Dominion Social Service Council. Outstanding figure in social service work who reached the city yesterday and is a guest at the Royal Hotel. He will be one of the chief speakers at the Social Service Council in the Knights of Columbus Hall.

took the children out of the mills and placed them in the schools, laws had been passed limiting the hours that women should work, while protective machinery laws and sanitary workshop laws had also been introduced. But even with the advantages accruing from the operation of these measures there was something lacking. Instead of supporting their families the men spent their wages in the saloon and the gambling house. These men had the social wasting and the self-indulgent personal motives in their hearts which must be transformed into self-restrained and social serving personal motives. They need religion—simple uncorrupted Christianity. The problems of the day could not be solved until one dealt with the moral and spiritual condition of the individual human being. When a community got the advantage of extra hours of leisure and modern living laws they must have the spiritual conscience to use them or they would have extra vice. There must be the spiritual control that will use leisure and wealth in the way it should be used. There was the necessity of a spiritual purpose in the heart.

Despite the great advancement that Germany had made before the war, all her wisdom, science and judgment didn't save her. The head of affairs in that country was making Germany a communist national suicide. The men in control of German affairs believed force and might and mere material power must prevail, and if the world

is to be worth living in Germany must be overwhelmed.

Mr. Robbins urged the meeting to let spiritual and religious forces inspire and lead forward the great problems of a nation's life. He believed that the great inheritance of democracy could meet the problems of society and preserve the great freedom of the spirit, both in government and society.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

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