

BISHOP RICHARDSON PAYS TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS

UNWARRANTED STATEMENTS OF IMMORALITY AND DRUNKENNESS

Bishop of Fredericton in His Annual Charge to Diocesan Synod, States That Soldiers Overseas Have Been Done Great Injustice Through False Reports—Church Fails to Properly Impress the Men with True Meaning of the Catholic Faith—Is Largely Feminized and Many Men Left in Ignorance of Value and Significance of the Sacraments.

Fredericton, April 8.—His Lordship the Bishop of Fredericton paid a strong tribute to "profound admiration" to the soldiers of Canada in his annual charge to the Diocesan Synod which opened at Christ Church Cathedral today. Bishop Richardson in his address said:

Let me try to set before you some of the impressions with which I have come back from the front overseas. But before I do so I desire to pay a tribute of profound admiration to the men who are bearing the brunt and burden of the battle. It is no exaggeration to say that our Canadian soldiers have made a record that will never die, and none, I think, have contributed more distinctly to that record than our own New Brunswick men. From every quarter there came to me expressions of pride and satisfaction in the work that Canadians have done, and everywhere in the British army there is a supreme confidence that whatever the task to which our men are asked to set their hands, they will not fail. By more than one army commander I was told that there is in the British forces no single corps to surpass the Canadian Corps in discipline and soldierly qualities, and as an efficient fighting force. For three years and more many of them have faced the most highly trained armies of the German Empire, and they have more than held their own. It is a joy to be able to bring back this splendid witness, and to assure you that, in the judgment of those who are best qualified to speak, the morale of the Canadian Contingent has never been so high as it is today.

Provision Made.

I need not say much about the provision made for the material and moral comfort of our men. Every possible care is being taken. The camps are magnificently laid out, and equipped with excellent sanitary systems. The food is good and well prepared.

There are a few things that ought to be said in regard to the moral evils of which so much has been made in connection with our soldiers. You will want to know—is it your right to know—the truth as to certain disturbing reports that have come to us in Canada. Let me try to tell you that. It may at once be said that there are undoubtedly some very grave moral evils to be faced by the men when we send overseas—evils that would be utterly wrong to make light of or ignore. The men do find themselves confronted with some terrible temptations, and many of them fall. I am thinking, of course, of the temptation of strong drink, and of sexual immorality with its attendant evil of venereal disease.

Gross Exaggerations.

Of one thing, however, I am confident—and I have only reached that confidence after the most complete inquiry, and after weighing carefully all the information that was laid before me—When everything has been said as to the gravity of these moral evils in relation to the soldiers, it is still true that the reports and rumors that have reached us there is no adequate foundation. Statements have been lightly made by men who ought to understand the duty of restraint in dealing with these matters, that reflect most unwarrantably upon the honor of our army, and are very far from true. There would seem to be a certain temptation to generalize from very small particulars. Something of this there has been, I am sure, behind the sweeping statements that have been so recklessly made with regard to the morals of our men in France and England.

Lurid Stories Told.

Lurid stories have been told, for example, about the use of intoxicating liquor by the troops. There is no doubt that too many men have been led astray in this direction, and I have not desire to minimize the evil, but it is simply untrue to say that drunkenness is common in the army. One cannot afford to make too much of individual experience, but it is surely not without significance that I can recall but very few cases of drunkenness that came under my immediate notice during the time of my work overseas. London, for example, is not likely to be more sober under stress of war than other places, and yet I do not remember once seeing a soldier drunk upon the streets. Nor, so far as I am able to judge, is there an excessive amount of drinking in connection with the camps in either France or England. Statements to that effect may safely be set down as gross exaggerations.

So with regard to the reports about sexual immorality and venereal disease. Here, too, the most unwarranted statements have been freely made. The evil is undoubtedly there. Conditions in London are unquestionably bad, and even worse, I am told, in Paris. Few soldiers can walk upon the streets at nights and escape

sollicitation. But these conditions are not peculiar to London, or to Paris, or even to the conditions of a great war. They are characteristic of every great modern city. The social evil is as old as the history of human life itself. The temptation to which our soldiers are subjected was not created by the war, even though its appeal has been in some respects accentuated and brought closer to them by the war. I would not willingly understate this great evil, but I think that there is no room to doubt that its manifestations and effect, as they concern the men who are sent overseas, have been made the subject of extraordinary exaggerations, and of this, too, I am sure—that, great as the temptation is the vast majority of our men are keeping themselves "unspotted from the world," and in this respect, at least, worthy of their Christian calling.

Canadian's Good Record.

So far as the question of venereal disease is concerned, I am content to quote from a published statement recently made by the Medical Service Department at Ottawa to the Secretaries of the Social Service Council of Canada. In this statement it is officially affirmed that (1) the percentage of venereal disease cases among our soldiers is decidedly lower than among the civilian population, and (2) that the percentage among Canadian troops is lower than for other British troops in Britain similarly situated. I need only add in this connection that the above statements are entirely borne out by the result of my personal inquiries while in England and France.

Religion At The Front.

When one passes from this unpleasant subject to the broader question of religion at the front, it is not easy to speak with the same assurance. From what I have seen and heard I should be of the opinion that there is among the men of our own communion (and it is with them that we are chiefly concerned at this moment) an extraordinary failure to grasp the fact that the Church is anything more than an organization to carry on religious services. There is certainly very little recognition of the Church as the Body of Christ, and as the centre of spiritual authority on earth. The average soldier has only the vaguest idea of himself as being by virtue of his baptism enrolled in a Divine Society, the characteristic marks of which are fellowship and service. There is no real sense of membership with corporate privileges and corporate responsibilities. And, most of all, perhaps, the fact would seem to have emerged from the experience of the war that, for the average churchman, the word of Communion means nothing more than a dim and distant ordinance with no very clear relationship to the ordinary life.

Loose Churchmanship.

Do not mistake my meaning. I do not share the feeling that the man at the front has no real religion. He is appallingly ignorant of what is com-



Bishop Richardson.

monly called religion. He knows little or nothing of Church teaching. He labors under the most complete misconception of what the Gospel ought to mean in relation to the lives of men. "The meaning of God, sin, repentance, grace, forgiveness, baptism, confirmation" is only dimly grasped at. The Holy Communion has no real message for him. But he is not without religion. In the midst of much profanity and apparent ungodliness there is being exhibited in the trenches a very real and widespread Christianity—the great qualities of patience, faithfulness, cheerfulness and unselfishness.

Facts To Be Faced.

In the first place, we must face the fact that the church has not been reaching effectively with its ministrations the manhood of the nation—that no church has really been doing that. We have been satisfied to see our churches more or less filled with women, whilst the majority of the men have remained outside, or, at least, have given only a very irregular and perfunctory attendance. We have acquiesced in the real work of the church being largely done by women, whilst the men have been permitted to discharge their indebtedness with gifts of money.

Responsibility of the Church.

It would seem to indicate with indisputable clearness that the ordinary layman has only a vague conception of the most fundamental facts about the church. He simply does not know, as he would put it, what is all about. From every side that witness comes, and it can hardly be doubted that the responsibility for this humiliating failure rests with the church. It can only have increased, dimly as the next future. Canterbury has put it, from "our inadequate presentation of the message with which we are entrusted."

The Supply of Clergy.

There are certain conditions in the diocese that have been giving me a great deal of anxious thought, and addressing seriously to the problems of administration. Chief among these is the increasing difficulty of the war upon our supply of clergy. At the beginning of last year, there were seven vacant parishes and missions, and I warned the Synod that the number was only too likely to increase in the next future. That prediction, I regret to say, has unhappily been verified, and at the moment of writing there are thirteen vacant cures, whilst another (Springfield) will occur in the course of the next few days, whilst there are one or two others for whose future I am feeling some concern.

which it is my duty to speak with the utmost plainness. It is that of the clerical stipends. More than once recently, I have spoken to you upon this subject, but never with a greater sense of responsibility than I today. It is the simple truth that the church is treating its clergy with very grave injustice. There is no other word for it. The treatment is unjust. We are expecting our missionaries to subsist upon stipends that were altogether insufficient before the war, but are now shamefully inadequate. In the diocese today eleven priests are receiving \$900.00, seven are receiving \$1,000.00, four are receiving \$1,200.00, and five are receiving between \$1,200.00 and \$1,500.00.

MAN NEARLY LOSES HIS LIFE IN THE MIRAMICHI

Special to The Standard.
Chatham, April 8.—The Miramichi is getting bad in places, Horatio Smith, an elderly man, had the misfortune to get off the beaten track last evening in crossing to work and went through. All efforts to rescue him with ropes and boards were without avail, until a boat was launched from the shore and hauled over the ice to where he was. He was rescued by this means.

GLASS OF SALTS CLEANS KIDNEYS

If your Back hurts or Bladder bothers you, drink lots of water.

When your kidneys hurt and your back feels sore, don't get scared and proceed to load your stomach with a lot of drugs that excite the kidneys and irritate the entire urinary tract. Keep your kidneys clean like you keep your bowels clean, by flushing them with a mild, harmless salt which removes the body's urinous waste and stimulates them to their normal activity. The function of the kidneys is to filter the blood. In twenty-four hours they strain from it 600 grains of acid waste, so we can readily understand the vital importance of keeping the kidneys active.

DEDICATE AND PREPARE FOR Greater Food Production

Every One's Duty. Give One Week to Preparation for the Spring Crop Drive. PLAN EARLY! BE READY!

A SPECIAL Proclamation by His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has been made to all County Councils to convene an extraordinary meeting to discuss ways to increase Food Production. ALL CLERGYMEN to proclaim from their pulpits on April 14th the terrible truths of the 1918 food situation. ALL CITIZENS to co-operate loyally in the sacred cause of producing more Food this year.

CLASS OF SALTS CLEANS KIDNEYS

If your Back hurts or Bladder bothers you, drink lots of water.

When your kidneys hurt and your back feels sore, don't get scared and proceed to load your stomach with a lot of drugs that excite the kidneys and irritate the entire urinary tract. Keep your kidneys clean like you keep your bowels clean, by flushing them with a mild, harmless salt which removes the body's urinous waste and stimulates them to their normal activity. The function of the kidneys is to filter the blood. In twenty-four hours they strain from it 600 grains of acid waste, so we can readily understand the vital importance of keeping the kidneys active.

last evening in crossing to work and went through. All efforts to rescue him with ropes and boards were without avail, until a boat was launched from the shore and hauled over the ice to where he was. He was rescued by this means.

Several men got in trying to rescue the benumbed man. He was 45 minutes in the ice water and was taken to the Hotel Dieu Hospital when sufficiently revived to be removed.

LEFT FOR FREDERICTON

Mayor Hayes, Commissioner McLellan and Dr. Wallace left for Fredericton last night to be present at the legislature when the power bill comes up. Commissioners Russell and Fisher will go up this morning.

PLANS—

- (1) Arrange definitely crop rotations
- (2) Secure seed early.
- (3) Where possible arrange to co-operate with neighbors in the seeding season. Change work.
- (4) Prepare to remain on farm every day after seeding commences until the seed is sown—Transact all necessary business now.

EQUIPMENT—

- (1) Carefully overhaul all harness.
- (2) Put all machines and implements into shape.
- (3) Procure the most needed repairs—Secure a few extra.
- (4) Have all tools, such as axes, saws, hammers and wrenches, ready and conveniently placed.

SEED—

- (1) Reclaim seed unless it is satisfactory.
- (2) Treat oats for smut.
- (3) Add 1 pint Formalin to 36 gallons of water. One gallon of this mixture will treat about two bushels of grain.
- (4) Treat potatoes for scab.
- (5) Have seed prepared before Spring operations commence.

FERTILIZERS—

- (1) Procure them early—The supply is very limited.
- (2) Have you used more than necessary in past seasons? Plan to use more green manures.

CROPS—

- (1) If your land is suitable for wheat so a few acres; if not, arrange in order that some cereal will be grown.
- (2) Food, not dollars, is the great essential—Use your land so that your country and also that you may feel that the best possible use has been made of every acre.

CONSIDER WHAT MAY HAPPEN IF AMERICA FALLS SHORT IN CROP PRODUCTION IN 1918!

NEW BRUNSWICK IS EXPECTED TO DO ITS DUTY IN THIS HOUR OF CRISIS.

J. F. TWEEDDALE,
Minister of Agriculture of New Brunswick.

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"The Food crisis is grave and urgent, beyond possibility of exaggeration."—Sir Robert Borden

Grow Your Own Vegetables

CITY people this year must help to grow their own food. Every pound of vegetables that can be produced in home gardens or vacant lots will be a positive addition to the supply of food. Moreover the cultivation of land in city, town and village will leave market gardeners and farmers free to grow wheat and other supplies for export.

It may be that the only contribution which you can make towards relieving the dire food needs of our Allies will be a vegetable garden. If 200,000 families in Canada would cultivate a garden of this kind it would mean a very important aggregate addition to our food supply.

In Montreal vegetables to the value of \$100,000 were grown on vacant lots last year. Calgary had over 1,100 lots under cultivation, covering an area of 200 acres. Splendid results were achieved in other cities.

There is even greater necessity for war gardens this year. Tremendous interest in the movement is reported from all parts of the Dominion. Are you a member of a vacant lot organization? If none exists in your community, help to organize one.

Home garden and vacant lot cultivation is really needed and may truly be considered a patriotic service.

Organized Efforts will Bring Best Results

Decide here and now to have a war garden. Persuade your neighbours to do the same. All the tools necessary are a spade, rake and hoe. The cost of seeds is a trifle. Grow only standard vegetables such as potatoes, beans, peas, beets, carrots, parsnips, onions and lettuce.

By growing your own vegetables you can not only perform a patriotic duty, you can also help to control the high cost of living.

Write to your Provincial Department of Agriculture for pamphlets on gardening and any additional information.

CANADA FOOD BOARD

Chairman

(In co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Agriculture)

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