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LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1917

CATHOLIC HUTS FOR SOLDIERS (By an Overseas Chaplain)

From the beginning of the War the Y. M. C. A. has had an ever increasing number of soldiers' recreation tents and huts. These serve as a social centre for the soldiers—a place where they can see a movie, write a letter, hear a concert, buy eats, drinks or smokes, and meet their friends. On Sunday morning these tents are placed at the disposal of the various chaplains, Catholic included. When there is no church at hand, Mass is said in a Y. tent. On Sunday evening the Y. M. C. A. officer, who according to the Constitution of the Society must be a Protestant, usually holds a Protestant song service of some kind. From time to time the Y. M. C. A. evangelist (there are two Baptist ministers doing this work) holds a special Protestant service. That the Y. M. C. A. is not non-sectarian, as once again in its last campaign for funds it claimed to be, is apparent from the above facts. It is a Protestant inter-denominational society. It occupies a unique position in the Canadian forces—the Y. M. C. A. official in charge of a tent holds the rank of Hon. Captain—and does much good of a social and recreational nature. Catholic soldiers make use of its advantages, as do all others. Yet we are not quite at home in a Y. tent. No Catholic may be a Y. M. C. A. official, and its own religious service is always Protestant.

Hence, Catholics have felt it their duty, where possible, to erect Catholic huts, which, like the Y. M. C. A. huts, would be open to all, but which would have at the same time a Catholic atmosphere. St. Patrick's Club at Boulogne, which dates from the early part of the War, is a striking example of how successfully this can be put into operation. It is run on precisely the same principles as the Y. hut—with this exception that the moving spirit is not a Y. M. C. A. official, but a Catholic chaplain. In many places a combination chapel and tent has been erected. This makes it a real Catholic centre, where the chaplain can say Mass daily, hear confession, give instructions, meet his men and generally increase his influence for good. The religious convictions of Protestant soldiers who frequent these Catholic huts are never interfered with in any way. Needless to say, however, catechetical instruction is given to all who seek it. In some of these Catholic huts, as in the one on the grounds of Westminster Cathedral, more Protestant soldiers can at times be found than Catholic. This but gives sleeping accommodation at an infinitesimal charge and exhibits true Catholic charity towards all.

Now the need of such Catholic huts both in the training camps in England and behind the line in France, is apparent. It may then seem surprising that the Catholic Canadian chaplains did not before now appeal to the Catholics of Canada for funds for this work. The following is the explanation. Till March, 1917, there was no one in England with the rank of Catholic Senior Chaplain, who could speak in the name of our chaplains. For an individual chaplain to make an appeal would not have been satisfactory; for apart from the fact that such an appeal would necessarily be personal, not official, the chaplain might have been removed to another sphere and type of work when the solicited financial assistance arrived. As soon, however, as Major the Rev. Wolstan T. Workman, O. F. M., M. C., was appointed Assistant Director of Chaplain Services for the Roman Catholics of the Canadian Forces, and thus became official head of our Catholic chaplains, he wrote to Canada soliciting money for a Chaplains' Fund for

Catholic Huts. Writing to a Chaplain in Canada under date of March 30, 1917, from the Department of Militia and Defence (Canada) London, England, he makes the following appeal:

"There is a matter of some importance I wish you would take up. We are in urgent need of financial help for the Chaplains' work with the men. So far we have depended principally upon the charity of English Catholics for the building and equipping of church huts and chapels, for rosaries and the many incidentals necessary for the proper carrying on of the work. The Catholic Women's League has been our principal benefactor. Only last Saturday Bishop Colter, of Portsmouth, opened a splendid C. W. L. Hut for our men in Bramshot. It is a Godsend to us—a home from home—and for the time being a chapel for us. It has cost over £500. Now are we to continue to depend on English people who have more than they can do for their own? Can we not have a Canadian Catholic Women's League to help us . . . or perhaps for more speedy service, why not ask the Knights of Columbus to take it up? . . . Wake up our dear people at home, and tell them that we object to go Canadian cap in hand to people no better off than themselves. You may make what use you like of this letter, but use your own experience too."

Father Workman's letter was forwarded to each Canadian State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus, with the request that the State Convention recommend a per capita tax of \$1 per member for this fund. At the same time Major Rev. John J. O'Gorman, who was charged with forwarding this appeal, received the following letter from His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate:

"Delegatio Apostolica, N. 13788.
Ottawa, April 19, 1917.
Rev. J. J. O'Gorman, D. C. L., C. F.
Ottawa General Hospital,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Father O'Gorman:—The appeal of the Rev. Father Workman, O. F. M., M. C., Assistant Director of Chaplain Services (R.C.), about to be conveyed by you to the Knights of Columbus, in order to obtain assistance for the Catholic Chaplain Service of the Canadian Overseas Forces, will, I am sure, receive a prompt and effective response. The Knights have always made it their chivalrous duty to further the interests of religion wherever and whenever most necessary. Their generosity in seconding the efforts of Catholic chaplains, working for the welfare of soldiers in the Canadian Forces, will be most praiseworthy.

Believe me, dear Father O'Gorman,
Yours very sincerely in Xto.
(Sgd) P. F. STAGNI, O. S. M.
Abp. of Ancyra, Del. Ap."

Ontario was the first province to hold its State Convention and it unanimously decided to donate a per capita tax of \$1, or in all \$7,000, to this fund. Alberta Knights followed. Upon a motion of Right Rev. Bishop McNally, a sum of \$1,000 was donated to the Chaplains' Hut Fund. Assurances have been given that Manitoba and Maritime Knights intend to give their support. It is worthy of note that Winnipeg Knights last year erected a \$3,000 chapel in Camp Hughes. They would seem to have the honor of being the first in the movement. A fortnight ago the Quebec State Convention of the K. of C. recommended to its subordinate councils a per capita tax of \$1.00 for the fund. As there are several thousand Knights in Quebec, this will mean several thousand dollars.

Meanwhile organizations other than the Knights have shared in the honor of this work. In Ottawa, two concerts and lectures have been organized, one by the K. of C. Glee Club, the other by the Alumnae of the Congregation of Notre Dame, and each netted \$105 to the Hut Fund. The St. Patrick's Parish Guild forwarded a contribution of \$50.

The Overseas Chaplains now confidently appeal to the Catholic public to support "The Catholic Canadian Chaplains' Fund for Soldiers' Huts." This Fund has been formally approved by His Excellency, the Apostolic Delegate, and by bishops in all parts of the country. It is managed by Major Rev. W. T. Workman, A. D. C. S., assisted by a committee of chaplains. Capt. Rev. Frank French, D. A. D. C. S., Canadian Corps Headquarters, France, is in charge of the work in France. Major Rev. John J. O'Gorman, Blessed Sacrament Church, Ottawa, is at present the Canadian representative of the Fund. The last mentioned will cheerfully for-

ward contributions to Father Workman, and acknowledge them in the Catholic press. Those wishing to send money direct, should send it by draft, payable at the Bank of Montreal, Waterloo Branch, Pall Mall, London, England, to

MAJOR REV. W. T. WORKMAN, M. C.
A. D. C. S. (Canadians)
Cleveland House, St. James Sq.
London, England.

The Y. M. C. A. in their recent campaign for funds for their overseas work, asked for and obtained \$750,000. The Catholic Chaplains would like an amount one-fifth of that size, or \$50,000 for Catholic Huts, one-half of which will be required this year. Of this \$8,260 has been contributed already. The Overseas Chaplains now appeal to the reverend clergy, to the officers and members of Catholic societies, and to individual Catholics to rally to the support of this Hut Fund, which will supply a great need of our soldiers overseas.

The money can be raised either by a levy in the case of a society, or by organizing an entertainment for this purpose or by collections or by individual contributions. All contributions will be publicly acknowledged and a full account of the expenditure of the money will be likewise published.

JOHN J. O'GORMAN, C. F.

SIX ADDITIONAL CHAPLAINS

On the request of the Department of Militia and Defence for six chaplains for immediate service with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces overseas, His Lordship Bishop Fallon has submitted the names of the following priests:

Rev. B. S. Doyle, Penetanguishene, Ont.
Rev. Charles A. Fallon, O. M. I., Washington, D. C.
Rev. Edward Hawks, Philadelphia, Pa.
Rev. Thomas P. Hussey, Kinkora, Ont.
Rev. Francis P. White, St. Columban, Ont.
Rev. Anselm Wood, Victoria, B. C.

Rev. Fathers Hussey and White are pastors in the Diocese of London. Their departure makes a total of six priests from this diocese who are ministering to the spiritual needs of our Catholic soldiers at the Front.

The Rev. Charles A. Fallon, O. M. I., is the second of Bishop Fallon's brothers to volunteer for service as Chaplain with the Canadian Army.

THE RIGHT TO CONSCRIPTION

In the discussion of the all-absorbing political question of the day Parliament is filling pages of Hansard by the hundred. But when all is said and done some fundamental considerations are left untouched. Has the Government a right to enact the proposed legislation, a positive, unquestionable right the exercise of which implies, on the part of the people, a duty to accept and obey? There is abundant evidence that there is confusion on this fundamental point. And that evidence is seen in the reasons alleged for the passage of the Bill before Parliament as well as in the threats of violent opposition should it be enacted into law.

Under our form of government the people have the undoubted right to express by every lawful means their disapproval of any proposed government measure, but under ordinary conditions and in normal times no one thinks of asserting the right to disobey once it has become law. With regard to conscription, however, there is a feeling, not confined to Quebec, that Parliament is exceeding its powers.

One reason for this is that the period for which the members were elected has expired. Does this fact in any way limit the legal and constitutional powers of Parliament? A little consideration shows quite clearly that it does not. The duration of Parliament is fixed by the British North America Act, and the life of the present Parliament has been extended by the same authority which enacted the British North America Act. That is the essential and fundamental thing. The present Canadian Parliament has during the period of extension all the powers it ever had.

Another reason for the feeling that Parliament is exceeding its powers in the matter of conscription, is the belief that Canadians not only should not be compelled to fight except in the defense of Canada, but that the authority of Parliament is strictly confined within these limits. The very opponents of the conclusion of this argument admit its force

and cogency. They maintain that we are fighting in France and Flanders for the defence of Canada.

The argument and the confusion of thought to which it has given rise centres around the Canadian Militia Act.

Up to 1904 the clause in question of this Act read:

"Her Majesty may call out the militia, or any part thereof, for active service, either within or without Canada, at any time it appears advisable to do so, by reason of war, invasion, insurrection, or danger of any of them."

In 1904 this clause in the new Act was made to read thus:

"The Governor-in-Council may place the militia, or any part thereof, on active service anywhere in Canada, and also beyond Canada, for the defence thereof, at any time it appears advisable so to do by reason of emergency."

A reason alleged at the time was that the clause as it stood in the old Act did not make it clear whether the militia could be sent outside of Canada or not. Objection was taken during the debate that under the new Act Canadian soldiers could be sent to take part in wars in any part of the world so long as they were considered for the defence of Canada. The contention was not denied. Even Mr. Bourassa rallied the objectors on their "little Canadianism."

There seems to the layman very little difference, so far as the point in discussion was concerned, between the two clauses. But there was a very real and radical change in substituting "The Governor-in-Council" for "Her Majesty." This was a distinct step in advance in self-government. By it the Canadian Government assumed direct control over Canadian military matters and ended any controversy on the subject. And such controversy there was, even if in those far off peaceful days, it was considered purely academic, if considered at all by the mass of the people.

The sovereign authority to enforce compulsory military service must reside somewhere. In the development of self-government, by tacit acquiescence if not by formal enactment, the Canadian Parliament has been conceded full control over Canadian military affairs. Her power is not limited and irrevocably fixed by her own Militia Act, no matter what interpretation may be put upon it; or what opinion may be held as to the present War being for the defense of Canada. Canada is at war, and her Parliament has the indubitable right to exact and enforce military service from every Canadian. And obedience is a duty binding in conscience.

To question this is anarchism. Honest and sincere and patriotic opponents of compulsory military service for Canada in the present circumstances do infinite harm to the cause they advocate and to Canada in calling this necessary and unquestionable authority of the State into question. Their argument should be directed against the expediency, the wisdom, the prudence or the necessity of such a measure.

MAJOR REDMOND

Now that fresh evidence reaches us of the persistence, if not of the spread, of the Sinn Fein form of insanity amongst the youth of Ireland, it is consoling to read of the profound emotion which Major Redmond's death stirred in the heart of England.

"Such tributes as were paid to Major Redmond have never before been paid to the memory of any private member in the House of Commons," says the Westminster Gazette. "The funeral oration of which Mr. Lloyd George's speech will remain almost a classic example, is reserved for men who have held high office in the service of the State."

"Oh, that this blood were for Ireland," said Sarsfield, mortally wounded in exile. Major Redmond's blood was for Ireland indeed, and as she will inherit well from it in these days, through all after-generations, she will be proud of him who gave it," is the tribute of the Observer.

Public Opinion, which reviews the whole British press, says:

"Major William Redmond, M. P., brother of the Irish Leader, gave his life in that amazing battle of Messines Ridge. And if the spirit which moved the House of Commons when it paid tribute to him lasts, then his death may bring life and light and reconciliation to the Irish Convention and perhaps an end to Irish strife."

Perhaps the most hopeful as well as the most interesting and significant was the speech of Sir Edward Carson:

Sir Edward Carson, in his tribute to the Commons to his "much lamented and life long opponent," seized with dramatic instinct on the taking away of Major Redmond from the battlefield in an Ulster ambulance. This seemed to him the symbol of the new spirit of reconciliation, which the death of this very gallant Irishman has bequeathed to Ireland.

"He had been taken away and cared for in an Ulster ambulance by Ulstermen"—Sir Edward Carson spoke these words with a tremor in his voice and bowed his head. Then, raising his head, he said:

"If in the trenches we can fight side by side for the common cause of liberty, certainly so far as I am concerned, I would like in my own time to see some solution of the long-continued Irish quarrel which would meet the ideals of liberty of all parties in Ireland."

There is everywhere apparent the desire to make amends to the gallant Major's gallant brother, whose peerless services to the Empire were so shamefully requited. In his magnanimous and courageous interpretation of the old bitter, yet national, Irish saying—"England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity," the Irish leader was a leader indeed. John Redmond's death, the climax of a half-century's sustained and statesmanlike effort to bring about the reconciliation of the two races, at the outbreak of the War led a transformed Ireland in her loyal and enthusiastic cooperation with England in the most difficult hour of her history. England's greatest blunder in the blundering conduct of the War was the betrayal of her Irish ally. Long after this stain on British honor has been removed history will record the disgrace of British statesmanship.

Willie Redmond's life and death illustrates the spirit of that new Ireland which English political exigencies cynically handed over to the evil spirit of Sinn Fein.

Englishmen of all ranks and of all parties now recognize this, and keenly feel its disgrace and its disaster. Of this there is abundant and consoling evidence.

Carson's tribute to William Redmond recalls the open letter addressed to him some time previously by that sturdy and clearheaded English journalist, A. G. Gardiner; it concludes thus:

"That is your work. That is the indictment. I shall add no word of reproach. This is no time for reproaches. You know—no one knows better—how anxious these days are—how near we are to perils from which the mind shrinks. Is it possible that at such a time you will add to those perils a danger which will be both a danger and a shame? You have done great wrong; but it is in your power to make atonement for that wrong. You can pluck from the hearts of your Ulster friends the distrust of your fellow citizens which you have helped to sow there. You can if you will, make Ulster listen to reason and feel the breath of Freedom and reconciliation that is blowing through the world. You can settle the Irish question, wipe out the treason of which you have been guilty, and remove from this Empire the one blot that sullies its name. I am told that you fear the monster you have created. Do not forget this, that if you stand by the monster of Ulster arrogance you are delivering Ireland over to disruption."

Carson's tribute to William Redmond gives reason to hope that he is beginning to see how much nobler, as well as how much more patriotic and statesmanlike, is the spirit which animated his gallant and life-long opponent than that which envenoms Ulster and has produced elsewhere in his native land the reaction from the Redmond spirit to that of Sinn Fein.

It is not yet too late to heed A. G. Gardiner's solemn warning:

"In this time, when the great mind of freedom is abroad throughout the earth, you block the path of reconciliation. You stand with your back to the light. You, who have no title to be in any British Government except as the bringer of appeasement in Ireland, are using your position in that Government to prevent appeasement. If the present negotiations break down they will break down because the war that has taught the world so much has taught you and the little Prussian garrison in Ulster nothing. They will break down, too, because, while you have not surrendered to the great spirit of the time, Mr. Lloyd George has surrendered to you."

Let us copy our blessed Mother in light-hearted joyousness in God's service, remembering that we honor our good Master when we show a bright face in His service. Has not St. Peter told us to cast all our care upon Him? Why then should we not be happy as a child in its Father's arms? Let us beg our Lady to win for us this grace.—R. S. G.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

ACCORDING to Lord Inchcape's letter to The Times, ment has been selling in England at a profit to the middleman or purveyor of 400%. As one having large interests in pastoral lands and meat-curing plants in Australia, and as chairman of the steamship company carrying their product from thence to England at practically pre-War rates, the noble Lord is in a position to know. And yet, after three years of a death struggle with the most formidable military power in history, it is still possible for mercantile pirates in England to accumulate huge fortunes at the expense of those who have borne the burden and heat of the conflict. It would be interesting to have someone with the necessary inside knowledge tell us something about profiteering of food-stuffs in Canada. The uncovering of that festering sore might go a long way towards solving the problem of the maintenance of Canada's army in France.

WHY is it that so many Canadians are still content to accept colonial status in the affairs of the Empire? While British statesmen have for the most part outgrown that idea, and now recognize in Canada a self-governing Dominion, and an integral part of the Empire, certain English journals of reactionary tendencies, and not, therefore, fully emancipated from the insular spirit of the past, still persist, notwithstanding the formal title of the Sovereign, in referring to the "greater Dominions Overseas" as "colonies." Canadians need not quarrel with such survival of feudalism, but it speaks ill for the dignity and self-respect of this great Dominion, that so many of its citizens have not in their own estimation outgrown the bands of colonialism.

SO INTENSELY has the world been engrossed in the great War for the past three years is to have been practically oblivious to the extraordinary development which, during the same period, has been going on in some of the less conspicuous portions of the earth's surface. The remarkable prosperity which the protracted struggle in Europe has brought to the United States and to given classes in Canada and other countries in the two Americas, has been especially marked in the island of Cuba, and as typical of the same condition in other of the lesser nations it may be not unprofitable to take a glance at that "pearl of the Antilles" under war-time activities. We are indebted to Mr. A. T. Quilez, of the Canadian Trade and Commerce service in that island, for some interesting facts and figures in this regard.

It is a fact that will occasion some surprise that Cuba now figures in statistics with the largest volume of imports of all the Latin-American republics with the single exception of the Argentine. This statement is the more significant when it is considered that Cuba is but thinly populated, and that but a very short time has elapsed since she became independent, prior to which her history is a long and almost uninterrupted series of revolutions which kept the island in turmoil and brought to it ruin and desolation. So greatly has this condition changed that it has now in constant operation no less than two hundred sugar mills producing over twenty-five million bags, or more than three and a half million tons of this product. In the cultivation of sugar, Cuba, owing to the advantages afforded by the climate, soil, rainfall and other elements peculiar to it, is without a rival. That the island should now, under stable government, be reaping the full benefit of this great heritage contributes but one element to its present era of progress.

IN THE MATTER of tobacco, the supremacy of Cuba, under the name of its capital, Havana, has become proverbial. The Western section, known as Vuelta Abajo, produces a special grade of tobacco, the quality and aroma of which has never been approached by that grown in any other soil. Always a great asset to the island, this tobacco industry has likewise undergone marked development, especially in regard to production and manufacture, since the outbreak of the War—this notwithstanding the shutting-off of certain important markets. The Cuban has realized as never before the prodigious value of the product and the industry connected therewith, and under the sense of security under

which he now lives can devote himself, as he could not formerly, to perfecting his processes. The Cuban cigar industry caters to the whole world, and with the advent of new enterprises and industries it is obvious that immigration will increase, and capital in extending proportion be invested in this direction.

SOME YEARS ago, Mr. Quilez tells us, a wild plant known in Spanish as "Malva" was considered a pest by the Cuban farmers owing to the facility with which it grew and spread over otherwise productive land. It has now been found that this plant yields a most valuable fibre which will bring good prices in the markets of the world. One hundred acres of the cheapest and poorest land in Cuba will produce at the first crop—four years after planting—a net profit of over \$17,000, so that it is bound to figure largely in the future in the wealth of the island. And this is but one of the many products, hitherto unappreciated, which the exceeding fertility of the soil has placed at Cuba's disposal.

UP TO the outbreak of the War the mineral wealth of Cuba had not assumed its legitimate place in its table of resources. The attention of the Government being now turned in this direction under the reversed law of demand and supply, an era of development has been entered upon. A geological survey is in process, and it is found that iron, copper, manganese and asphalt exist in large quantities while nickel, lead, gold and silver have also been discovered. The islanders are said to have fully awakened to the possibilities before them and with the impetus given by the War Cuba is sure to assume a much greater place among the productive nations than her own sons had previously dreamed of.

ON THE BATTLE LINE

CANADIAN TROOPS, including men from British Columbia, Manitoba, Central Ontario and Nova Scotia, have made another considerable advance toward Lens, capturing the enemy's front line protecting Avion, a suburb of the coal city. This carries the British line to within a mile of the centre of Lens, which is now almost completely surrounded on three sides. The attack was pressed home on a front of some two miles, and included the capture of the village of Eleu de Leuette. There are no indications as yet that the defensive positions taken up by the Germans behind the city have been abandoned, but it is mentioned by Canadian Press correspondents that the craters in the roads around Lens, caused by the use of immense quantities of explosives, and with the idea of delaying the British advance, are now preventing the Germans themselves from bringing up reinforcements to their force round Lens. It is possible that the German commanders are deliberately sacrificing this force to hide a retreat to be made on a much wider scale than is as yet apparent. At only one point in the advance did the Canadian meet with serious resistance, machine gun fire and uncut wire delaying some of the Manitoba men.

BRAZIL has revoked her decree of neutrality in the war between the Entente Allies and Germany. It has been clear for some time that Brazil would not long delay active participation in the war. In fact, several warlike actions have been taken against the Hun. Brazil could give the Allies the aid of a number of fine warships.

THE GERMAN REPORTS continue to say a great deal about minor actions. An interesting item in their report of yesterday reads: "A bombardment by our artillery and mine-throwers caused great damage to the English trenches on the coast." Another paragraph states that Entente artillery bombarded the German occupied town of Ostend in retaliation for a German bombardment of Dunkirk. These statements add color to the belief that an engagement on the Belgian coast line will not long be delayed.

THE BULGARIANS it is stated in despatches from Copenhagen, have declared that they will not send troops to any other front but their own, with the exception of the few Bulgarians on the Galician front. Sofia is determined not to weaken its front against the Allies in Macedonia. It is explained that so far as Bulgaria is concerned the objects of the War have been attained, although it had been hoped that Saloniki might have been included in the territory it has gained. Bulgaria, it is reiterated, is ready to make peace.

SOME AMAZING figures are given by Dr. Addison, British Minister of Munitions, in regard to Britain's output for war in shells, in steel, in airplanes. In everything essential to carrying on the War fast strides have been made. The supplies of new design tanks are coming forward excellently and this would indicate that the British have greatly improved on the original tanks, and intend to