

Soldiers From The Front Appreciate K. of C. To Provide Employment for Soldiers

Chaplain Expected To Be An All-Around Good "Sport."

New York, Jan. 24.—Knights of Columbus secretaries and Catholic Chaplains who entered the military service through the Knights, stationed abroad transports bringing our troops home, are playing a big role in war relief work in connection with the care of and supplying comforts to the wounded warriors.

Our soldiers are men of action rather than words, but aboard ship returning home they frequently talk about their experiences abroad and it is then the various war relief organizations and their work is discussed. Knights of Columbus secretaries and Chaplains bring evidence daily of the esteem our soldiers entertain for the Knights.

First Lieutenant, Chaplain Father Marcellus Horn, O. M. Cap., who was in transport service for many months and who was this week again assigned to the same work aboard the U. S. Transport Metsonia, writes entertainingly about his experience on troop ships as a representative of the Knights of Columbus. In his letter he says:

"I would like to say a few words in praise of the Knights of Columbus. They are doing wonderful work for the boys, and would do more if people would only understand and supply the means. If they only had men and money enough to do their work in the best possible manner!

"Let me emphasize the fact that every cent the people give to the K. of C. is given to the boys in the form of little comforts the soldier so much enjoys. I have met hundreds of boys from the front, and all had the same story to tell. The soldiers love the K. of C. and appreciate the work they are doing. The same story can be told of their work everywhere in France and the States. I met officers, lieutenants, colonels, captains, majors—and all had the same story to tell about the Knights' work in France, especially at the front. 'Their work is a blessing for my boys,' one officer repeated again and again." Father Horn then continues:

"Since I entered the transport service in order to do my bit for my country in a great and glorious cause, and to assist our boys in their spiritual needs I have had lots of experience.

I have made four trips on one of the best transports in the service. At the end of this voyage I will have traveled full 24,000 miles. This long voyage I began on June 5th last year. During this time, from June till October, I have met thousands of our finest and best boys. This ship unloads thousands and thousands of the noblest and best specimens of American manhood, for our Uncle Sam sends only the best overseas. At ports 'somewhere in France' I have said goodbye to my noble soldier-friends of a few days and sent them on their way to battle and perhaps death with a fond prayer and a blessing.

"My work aboard ship is not only that of a spiritual father and guide; indeed my duties become very material at times, for instance, I am expected to be an all-around good 'sport'. The spiritual, real spiritual, work is only a small portion of my obligations. Now do not misunderstand me, I mean by the real work Holy Mass, confessions, instructions, etc.

"Place yourself aboard one of the transports. It is leaving one of the ports somewhere along the Atlantic coast with a few thousand soldiers. Soon time will become heavy on their hands. Some will get sea-sick, others home-sick; they need diversion and distraction. Now it is the chaplain's duty to see that everybody is happy. He must be to the soldiers: father, mother, sister, brother, sweetheart, friend, in fact, he must console, encourage, cheer. This is the work, the bit, I am trying to do. But how?

"This is how I try. I go about among them, speak to them, try to have a kind word and a smile for every one. I endeavor to see and speak to each one. At the same time I am letting them know that I am a Catholic priest and that I am at the service of all, and that the Catholic boys will have every opportunity aboard ship to attend Mass and receive the Sacraments. Thus I try to gain their trust and confidence. Of course, there is a Protestant chaplain aboard to take charge of the non-Catholic services. However, on the first two voyages, I also held services for non-Catholics, there being no chaplain aboard.

"Just imagine, holding forth to a Protestant congregation! Shades of Jupiter! How some good souls would turn in their grave. I think also that I can see a dubious smile on some of my readers' lips and a curious twinkle in their eye. Well, it was done just the same in the line of duty, and I believe I did some good; you never know how soon the good seed will strike good ground, take root and flourish. At the end of one trip, a non-Catholic boy came to bid me good-bye. While shaking hands, he said: 'Father, I'll not forget what you said about cursing and blaspheming; I've cut some of it already'. Then and there I felt well repaid for every effort I had made on the trip to do some good. That good Sammie was sent on his way with an extra blessing.

"Very much can be done by this personal contact with the men, in fact, it seems to me to be very important. They must know they have a friend in the chaplain, one who takes interest in all their affairs, big and small.

"But how keep the boys occupied? Officers and men gather about the ring to enjoy some good sport. (The ring is on deck of course). Boxing and wrestling contests and vaudeville entertainments take up many an afternoon and evening. The blood flows a little once in a while but nobody minds such a trifle. There is also music aboard for each regiment has its band. Then, too, we often find an orchestra among the different companies. So, why worry when there is such fun?

National Catholic War Council Takes Action.

The problem of re-inducting into civil employment three million soldiers and five to six million munitions workers will impose a severe test on the resources of the country. High prices and uncertainty in regard to market conditions prevent employers from engaging in new enterprises, and the winter months have practically brought building operations to a standstill.

In face of the serious situation which is threatening us, every organization in America should busy itself in finding positions for the demobilized soldiers and munitions workers and all employers should look upon it as a patriotic duty to make room for them.

The Reconstruction Committee of the National Catholic War Council, to which the Administrative Committee of Bishops has entrusted all reconstruction problems, has taken up the employment problem in co-operation with the other war welfare organizations and the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor. Fifteen field agents are already at work in the different States organizing Catholic committees to find employment for men discharged from the service.

So far, excellent results have been attained in New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. The agent of the Council in New York, Mr. Edward Arnold, has established ten Catholic Employment agencies. Seven of these are being operated by Knights of Columbus secretaries and three by agents of the Committee on Special War Activities. The Administrator of the Archdiocese of New York is sending a letter to all Catholic pastors with the request that they bring the matter before their parishioners, and appoint special parish committees.

The work of Mr. John H. O'Gorman in Pennsylvania and Mr. Francis E. Slattery in Massachusetts has won the highest approval of the officials of the U. S. Department of Labor. Mr. O'Gorman has done excellent work in organizing the different Catholic groups in Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Scranton, Erie and other cities in Pennsylvania. The work of Mr. Slattery in Boston and other important cities in Massachusetts has been equally successful. In Illinois, the Catholic agencies are being organized under the direction of Mr. Edward Houlihan, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Houlihan is being assisted by Mr. James Fitzgerald, Secretary of the Loyola School of Sociology. The work in Michigan is being directed by Mr. Ernest A. O'Brien, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus.

The Committee on Reconstruction has secured the services of Mr. P. J. Hanley, of Portland, Oregon, who for a number of years has been in charge of one of the most efficient private employment agencies in America. Mr. Hanley will organize the Catholic agencies in Oregon, Washington, Montana, No. Dakota, and Minnesota. Secretaries will be appointed in all the large cities in these States to work under Mr. Hanley's direction. Within the next few days, Catholic organizers will be appointed in Missouri, New Jersey and California. Later, the work will be extended to other States.

AMERICA HOPE OF WORLD, SAYS APOSTOLIC DELEGATE

New York, Jan. 19.—"America is looked upon to-day as the hope of the world. May God bless and prosper this great people."

These words were spoken to-day by Archbishop Bonaventura Cerretti, papal under-secretary of state, who arrived here recently on the steamship Lapland to represent the Pope at the golden jubilee of Cardinal Gibbons and to perform certain other important missions on behalf of the Holy See.

"I am very happy, indeed, to be back in America," he said. "Before leaving Rome I asked the Holy Father what I should say to the American people for him. 'Tell them,' he said, 'that I love and admire them; tell them I love their ardor and their spirit; tell them I am in full accord with their noble ideals and their high principles of freedom and justice.'"

Phelps Priest is Transferred to Mt. Morris.

Phelps, Jan. 20.—Rev. Charles E. Muckle, who on October 1st of last year succeeded the late Rev. M. T. Madden as pastor of St. Francis Catholic Church in Phelps has been transferred by Right Rev. Thomas F. Hickey bishop of the Rochester diocese, to Mount Morris where he will have temporary charge of that parish. His brother, Rev. John Muckle, of Geneva, in connection with his school work in that city will look after the interests of Phelps field pending the appointment of a permanent rector by Bishop Hickey. The change took effect yesterday. Bishop Hickey, it is believed, will delay the matter of announcing permanent appointments to these two places until after the nine priests of the diocese who went with the American army as chaplains overseas return home.

Catholic University To Be Reopened at Louvain

Louvain, Belgium.—Preparations are being made for the opening of the great Catholic university here which, in the first days of the war, suffered so badly at the hands of the Germans. The world-famous library, which was burned with its priceless collection of historic manuscripts, will probably be rebuilt at an early date. It is reported that a number of wealthy persons in America and England have offered to endow the university for this purpose.

Father Edelman Is Tendered Surprise

Mendon, Jan. 20.—A pleasant surprise visit was tendered to Father Edelman of Pittsford by the men of St. Catherine's parish of Mendon on Wednesday night. Father Edelman was pastor of St. Catherine's for several years and in appreciation of his services his former parishioners presented him with a purse and extended to him their greetings and best wishes for the prosperity and success of his work.

Corning Catholics Asked To Raise \$2,275.

Corning, Jan. 21.—Catholic parishes of this city have been asked to raise \$2,275 in the campaign to lift the \$200,000 debt of St. Bernard's Seminary at Rochester. St. Mary's is asked for \$1,250; St. Patrick's for \$600 and St. Vincent de Paul's for \$425.

Late News of Ireland

Carlow
At Newtown the Very Rev. Father Cullen, P.P., has had six subject stained glass windows and eleven ornamental windows and elaborate interior decorations made in the church.

Married—At the University Church, Dublin, by the Very Rev. Arthur Murphy, P.P., Emo, cousin of the bridegroom, assisted by the Very Rev. Paul Murphy, P.P., Edenderry, Thomas J. son of Thomas Murphy, Tullow street, Carlow, to Kathleen, daughter of J. P. H. Patterson, Edenderry.

Cork
Very Rev. M. M. O'Callaghan, P.P., Cloyne, formerly Adm. in Fermoy, has been appointed a Canon in the Deanery of Middleton.

It is the intention of the Cuzard line of steamers to resume the connections abandoned a year before the war, with Queenstown as a port of call.

Rev. D. D. Walsh, C.S.Sp., who died in a private hospital in Dublin through pneumonia, following an operation, was a son of John Walsh, Skeagh, Skibbereen. The young priest was ordained at Chevilly, near Paris, in 1910. He was appointed to the direction of the House of Philosophy at Kimmage Manor, was subsequently Master of Novices, and then to the control of the School of Theology. Requiem mass was celebrated in the College Chapel, Blackrock, by Very Rev. H.M.G. Evans, Superior at Kimmage Manor. There were many clergy present.

Dublin
The Rev. A. McArdle presided at a lecture in St. Francis Xavier's Hall on "Ireland, a Catholic Nation," by the Rev. F. Murphy, S. J., who said the glory of Ireland was her missionaries. In Germany 130 Irish saints and martyrs were honored, in France forty-five, thirty in Belgium, many in Italy and some even in Ireland. The greatness of their nationality had come from their Catholicity, and it was that which would build up the country into a nation once again.

Father Keating, O. C. C., who was attached to the Carmelite Church, Aungier street, Dublin, during Easter Week 1916, and was instrumental in bringing hostilities to an end at Jacob's factory, died in New York at the age of 30 years. He was an eloquent pulpit speaker and a brilliant writer.

Kerry
Rt. Rev. Dr. Broderick, Titular Bishop of Pednelirensi, Africa, and first Vicar Apostolic of Nigeria, who was consecrated at Killarney on Sunday, December 8, was born at Kilflyn, Kerry, in 1882.

Limerick
Rev. Cornelius Conway, at one time parish priest of St. Patrick's Limerick, has died.

Mayo
Captain Rev. John Waters, B. A., who died of influenza while with the army in France, was a son of Mrs. Waters of Hollymount, Mayo.

Tipperary
The Rt. Rev. Dean Ryan, P.P., V. G., and the Rev. D. Duggan, C. C., Cashel, have been publicly thanked by the Rosegreen laborers for their support in the matter of the harvest bonus.

Died—At Convent of M. Immaculate, Sickling Hall, Martina, daughter of Joseph Brennan, Noyne, Templemore. At Killemaule, Margaret, wife of Thomas P. Kennedy.

Catholic Short Notes.

According to the direction of some Bishops, the prayer, Pro Pace, ordered by the Pope in daily Mass, will be continued until after the Peace Conference.

Cardinal O'Connell, in a recent utterance, demands freedom for Ireland. He says now England has a glorious chance. "She must not fail us; she will not fail."

The Church in our country is emerging from the world-war with magnificent prestige.

The late Robert J. Collier, publisher of Collier's Weekly, while at dinner telling his wife of the splendid service the Knights of Columbus are rendering Church and Country, was suddenly stricken, fell from his chair to the floor and in a few moments was dead. He was only 42 years old, and in the '70's attended Mt. St. Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati.

While a town on the battle front, France, was being shelled Father C. E. O'Flaherty, of Mitchell, S. D., went out to care for the injured. A piece of shrapnel struck him, killing him instantly.

In the world-war, the Church has materially lost and spiritually gained.

The average duration of the lives of men and women in the United States is 41-49-100 years.

Pope Benedict XV. in an Apostolic Letter, says: "History has written in golden letters what Christianity and European civilization owe to Poland. Documents in the archives of the Vatican will show the almost indescribable martyrdom of the Polish nation."

A Dublin Benedictine priest, Father Campbell, was killed in the torpedoing of the "Leinster," and another priest was rescued after being three hours in the water.

Bishop Julien, of Arras, and Mgr. Baudrillart, of the French Academy, and president of the University of Paris, laid a wreath on the statue of the Blessed Joan d'Arc, on Riverside Drive, in New York.

In Trieste, so great was the need, that shoe strings sold for \$2 a pair and flour \$5 a pound.

The Supreme Pontiff, Benedict XV., continues in ordinary health, but is much harassed by evil reports of designing men who seek to charge him with unneutrality.

At present, and under the present government, the nomination of Catholic Bishops and the education of the clergy in Russia are not interfered with. No preference for any religion seems to be shown.

In the Kitgun Mission of Uganda, Africa, smallpox became epidemic, followed by the dreaded cerebrospinal meningitis. The poor people had no means, the poor missionaries had less—not even beds and medicine.

Brigands in Shantung, China, robbed and shot our of the missionary Fathers, and then, in superstitious fear lest he might rise from the dead and revenge his death, they cut his body into a thousand pieces.

The Supreme Pontiff, now gloriously reigning has begun the fifth year of his Pontificate.