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CATHOLIC CALL TO RECONSTRUCT

Church Council Lays Down Lines to Guide in Solving Post-War Problems.

TO INSURE SOCIAL JUSTICE

Re-employment, Labor Reforms, Social Betterment, Economic Conditions and Relations Between Employer and Worker Subjects of Official Pronouncement.

Drawn up by the four bishops who represent the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in America in the administration of the National Catholic War Council, an official pronouncement on the social and economic reconstruction problems facing this nation has been issued from the headquarters of this church council in Washington, D. C.

The document bears the signatures of Bishop Peter J. Muldoon of Rockford, Ill.; Bishop Joseph Schrembs of Toledo, O.; Bishop Patrick J. Hayes of New York City and Bishop William T. Russell of Charleston, S. C., and reads in part as follows:

Foreword. "The ending of the Great War has brought peace. But the only safeguard of peace is social justice and a contented people. The deep unrest so emphatically and so widely voiced throughout the world is the most serious menace to the future peace of every nation and of the entire world. Great problems face us. They cannot be put aside; they must be met and solved with justice to all.

Replacement of Men in Service. "The first problem in the process of reconstruction is the industrial replacement of the discharged soldiers and sailors. The majority of these will undoubtedly return to their previous occupations. However, a very large number of them will either find their previous places closed to them or will be eager to consider the possibility of more attractive employments.

Farm Colonies. "It is essential that both the work of preparation and the subsequent settlement of the land should be effected by groups or colonies, not by men living independently of one another and in depressing isolation. A plan of this sort is already in operation in England. The importance of the project as an item of any social reform program is obvious. It would afford employment to thousands upon thousands, would greatly increase the number of farm owners and independent farmers and would tend to lower the cost of living by increasing the amount of agricultural products. It is to assume any considerable proportions it must be carried out by the governments of the United States and of the several States. Should it be undertaken by these authorities and operated on a systematic and generous scale it would easily become one of the most beneficial reform measures that has ever been attempted.

Employment Service. "The reinstatement of the soldiers and sailors in urban industries will no doubt be facilitated by the United States Employment Service. This agency has attained a fair degree of development and efficiency during the war. Unfortunately there is some danger that it will go out of existence or be greatly weakened at the end of the period of demobilization. It is the obvious duty of congress to continue and strengthen this important institution. The problem of unemployment is with us always. Its solution requires the co-operation of many agencies and the use of many methods, but the primary and indispensable instrument is a national system of labor exchanges acting in harmony with State, municipal and private employment bureaus.

Women War Workers.

"One of the most important problems of readjustment is that created by the presence in industry of immense numbers of women who have taken the places of men during the war. Mere justice, to say nothing of chivalry, dictates that these women should not be compelled to suffer any greater loss or inconvenience than is absolutely necessary, for their services to the nation have been second only to the services of the men whose places

they were called upon to fill. One general principle is clear: No female worker should remain in any occupation that is harmful to health or morals. Women should disappear as quickly as possible from such tasks as conducting and guarding street cars, cleaning locomotives and a great number of other activities for which conditions of life and their physique render them unfit. Another general principle is that the proportion of women in industry ought to be kept within the smallest practical limits. If we have an efficient national employment service, if a goodly number of the returned soldiers and sailors are placed on the land and if wages and the demand for goods are kept up to the level which is easily attainable all female workers who are displaced from tasks that they have been performing only since the beginning of the war will be able to find suitable employments in other parts of the industrial field or in those domestic occupations which sorely need their presence. Those women who are engaged at the same tasks as men should receive equal pay for equal amounts and qualities of work.

National War Labor Board.

"One of the most beneficial governmental organizations of the war is the National War Labor Board. Upon the basis of a few fundamental principles unanimously adopted by the representatives of labor, capital and the public it has prevented innumerable strikes and raised wages to decent levels in many different industries throughout the country. Its main guiding principles have been a family living wage for all male adult laborers, recognition of the right of labor to organize and to deal with employers through its chosen representatives and no coercion of non-union laborers by members of the union. The War Labor Board ought to be continued in existence by Congress and endowed with all the power for effective action that it can possess under the Federal Constitution. The principles, methods, machinery and results of this institution constitute a definite and far-reaching gain for social justice. No part of this advantage should be lost or given up in time of peace.

Housing for Working Classes.

"Housing projects for war workers which have been completed or almost completed by the Government of the United States have cost some forty million dollars and are found in eleven cities. While the Federal Government cannot continue this work in time of peace, the example and precedent that it has set and the experience and knowledge that it has developed should not be forthwith neglected and lost. The great cities in which congestion and other forms of bad housing are disgracefully apparent ought to take up and continue the work at least to such an extent as will remove the worst features of a special condition that is a menace at once to industrial efficiency, civic health, good morals and religion.

Social Insurance.

"Until the level of legal minimum wages is reached the worker stands in need of the device of insurance. The State should make comprehensive provision for insurance against illness, invalidity, unemployment and old age. So far as possible the insurance fund should be raised by a levy on industry, as is now done in the case of accident compensation. The industry in which a man is employed should provide him with all that is necessary to meet all the needs of his entire life. Therefore, any contribution to the insurance fund from the general revenues of the State should be only slight and temporary. For the same reason no contribution should be exacted from any worker who is not getting a higher wage than that which is required to meet the present needs of himself and family. Those who are below that level can make such a contribution only at the expense of their present welfare. Finally, the administration of the insurance laws should be such as to interfere as little as possible with the individual freedom of the worker and his family.

A New Spirit a Vital Need.

"Society," said Pope Leo XIII, "can be healed in no other way than by a return to Christian life and Christian institutions." The truth of these words is more widely perceived to-day than when they were written, more than twenty-seven years ago. Changes in our economic and political systems will have only partial and feeble efficacy if they be not reinforced by the Christian view of work and wealth. Neither the moderate reforms advocated in this paper nor any other program of betterment or reconstruction will prove reasonably effective without a reform in the spirit of both labor and capital. The laborer must come to realize that he owes his employer and society an honest day's work in return



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE, NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL. Bishop Peter J. Muldoon, Rockford, Ill. Bishop Joseph Schrembs, Toledo, O. Bishop Patrick J. Hayes, New York. Bishop William T. Russell, Charleston, S. C.

for a fair wage and that conditions cannot be substantially improved until the roots of the desire to get a maximum return for a minimum of service. The capitalist must likewise get a new viewpoint. He needs to learn the long-forgotten truth that wealth is stewardship, that profit-making is not the basic justification of business enterprise and that there are such things as fair profits, fair interest and fair prices. Above and before all, he must cultivate and strengthen within his mind the truth which many of his class have begun to grasp for the first time during the present war—namely, that the laborer is a human being, not merely an instrument of production and that the laborer's right to a decent livelihood is the first moral charge upon industry. The employer has a right to get a reasonable living out of his business, but he has no right to interest on his investment until his employees have obtained at least living wages. This is the human and Christian in contrast to the purely commercial and pagan ethics of industry."

CHURCH OPPOSES REDUCING WAGES

Increased Incomes for Labor and Participation in Management Urged by Catholic Council.

Pledging hearty support to all legitimate efforts made by labor to resist general wage reductions, Bishop Peter J. Muldoon of Rockford, Ill.; Bishop Joseph Schrembs of Toledo, O.; Bishop Patrick J. Hayes of New York City and Bishop William T. Russell of Charleston, S. C., representing the hierarchy of the Catholic Church in America in administering the National Catholic War Council, have issued the following as a part of an official pronouncement on economic and social reconstruction:

Wage Rates Should Be Sustained.

"The general level of wages attained during the war should not be lowered. In a few industries, especially so directly and peculiarly connected with the carrying on of war, wages have reached a plane upon which they cannot possibly continue for this grade of occupations. But the number of workers in this situation is an extremely small proportion of the entire wage-earning population. The overwhelming majority should not be compelled or suffered to undergo any reduction in their rates of remuneration, for two reasons—first, because the average rate of pay has not increased faster than the cost of living, second, because a considerable majority of the wage-earners of the United States, both men and women, were not receiving living wages when prices began to rise in 1915. In that year, according to Lauck and Sydenstricker, whose work is the most comprehensive on the subject, four-fifths of the heads of families obtained less than \$90 dollars, while two-thirds of the female wage-earners were paid less than \$60 dollars. Even if the prices of goods should fall to the level on which they were in 1915—something that cannot be hoped for within five years—the average present rates of wages would not exceed the equivalent of a decent livelihood in the case of the vast majority. The exceptional instances to the contrary are practically all among the skilled workers. Therefore, wages on the whole should not be reduced even when the cost of living recedes from its present high level.

Living Wage Minimum of Justice.

"Even if the great majority of workers were now in receipt of more than living wages, there are no good reasons why rates of pay should be lowered.

generally recognized by legislation. What is required is an extension and strengthening of many of the existing statutes and a better administration and enforcement of such laws every-

ST. BERNARD'S TO BE FREE OF DEBT.

Final Reports Read at Luncheon at Seminary.

The effort of lifting the debt of St. Bernard's Seminary was a complete success. The total subscription during the fourteen-day drive amounting to \$139,384. This represents an over-subscription of \$39,366, as the goal set for the campaign was \$100,027.

The table that follows shows the amount pledged by each parish and each district in the campaign for money with which to free St. Bernard's Seminary from debt:

Table with columns: Parish, Amount, Sub's, Total. Lists various parishes and their contributions to the debt-freeing campaign.

ELMIRA DEANERY

Table with columns: Parish, Amount, Sub's, Total. Lists parishes in the Elmira Deanery and their contributions.

ROCHESTER DEANERY

Table with columns: Parish, Amount, Sub's, Total. Lists parishes in the Rochester Deanery and their contributions.

MONTELEONE DEANERY

Table with columns: Parish, Amount, Sub's, Total. Lists parishes in the Monteleone Deanery and their contributions.

ROCHESTER DEANERY. St. Andrew's, Rochester, \$1,180.00. St. Anthony's, Rochester, 300.00. St. Augustine's, Rochester, 1,584.50. Blessed Sacrament, Rochester, 3,417.75. St. Boniface, Rochester, 1,982.50. St. Bridget's, Rochester, 1,701.25. Corpus Christi, Rochester, 9,818.00. St. Francis, Rochester, 1,261.75. St. George's, Rochester, 807.50. Holy Apostles, Rochester, 2,208.50. Holy Cross, Rochester, 995.50. Holy Family, Rochester, 2,770.75. Holy Redeemer, Rochester, 1,812.25. Holy Rosary, Rochester, 2,315.25. Immaculate Conception, Rochester, 3,920.11. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Rochester, 928.75. Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester, 1,384.50. Our Lady of Sorrows, Rochester, 351.25. Our Lady of Victory, Rochester, 870.00. Sacred Heart, Rochester, 2,349.50. St. John's, Rochester, 777.50. St. Joseph's, Rochester, 3,438.50. St. Lucy's, Rochester, 308.00. St. Mary's, Rochester, 2,919.25. St. Michael's, Rochester, 2,718.25. St. Monica's, Rochester, 1,057.00. St. Stanislaus, Rochester, 1,000.00. St. Peter & Paul's, Rochester, 3,782.75. St. Raphael's, Rochester, 584.75. St. Vincent's, Rochester, 1,370.75. St. Vincent's, Chicago, 396.00. Water, Rochester, 438.50. Water, Jersey, 388.75. Water, St. Joseph's, 252.00. Assumption of the B. V. M., 342.75. St. John Evangelist, 449.25. St. Leo's, 324.50. St. Paul's, 49.75. St. Patrick's, 445.00. St. Nicholas's, 84.25. St. Patrick's, 100.00. St. Anthony's, 190.50. St. Mary's, 110.00. St. Joseph's, 325.00. St. Joseph's, 329.25. St. Michael's, 222.50. St. Ann's, 262.50. Assumption of the B. V. M., 324.50. St. George's, 444.00. St. George's, 120.25. Holy Trinity, 582.50. St. Bernard's, 342.00. St. Patrick's, 3,442.00. Total: \$90,247.86

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MONTELEONE DEANERY

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A new ecclesiastical era is setting in Spain. The clergy are more appreciated and better compensated.

In the Polish church of St. Stanislaus, Petrograd, Russia, Bolshevik soldiers went to the tabernacle to rob it of its chalice and ciborium. The pastor endeavored to defend the tabernacle and the Blessed Sacrament. Then and there they shot him to death.

Marshal Foch, of France, lost his only son in the world-war, and also a son-in-law.

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