

Father Francis A. Kelley Speaks Before Huge Audience.

Thousands Outside Convention Hall Who Couldn't Gain Admittance.

Rev. Francis A. Kelley, the "fighting chaplain" of the Twenty-seventh Division, spoke in Convention Hall, Wednesday evening, March 12th, under the auspices of the Knights of Columbus, to an audience which filled to overflowing the large hall.

"I could take you through the Ypres sector," began Father Kelley, "or on one of the night raids; I could tell you of our troubles in carrying rations and munitions; I could take you to the city of Ypres, or what once was the city of Ypres where now not a single building is standing. I could take you through Peronne, a city of 85,000 before the war and not a single building left now. I could tell you tales of ruin and desolation. I could ask you to close your eyes and could conjure up for you a mental tableau of some of the horrors visited on France and Belgium.

"But we will pass over our work during June, July, August and the first part of September. During the last part of August we started down to enjoy what the British call our rest period. The Twenty-seventh was brigaded with the British. We were given a rest period of fifteen days. Then one day came the word that our division had been chosen to break the famous Hindenburg line.

Father Kelley described the Hindenburg line, which was composed of four trenches and four sections of tangled barbed wire. In the trenches were concrete pill boxes, concrete machine gun nests, concrete anti-tank positions, concrete minnewerfer positions.

"Every one was adamant in character," remarked Father Kelley, "showing that William Hohenzollern had established his boundary for the German Empire. He hadn't counted on New York state."

Behind the line of trenches was the Hindenburg tunnel, a concrete affair with a canal running through it.

Scores of luxuriously furnished boats were on the canal, guard rooms, rooms for provisions and munitions and electric lighting plants.

"On the 29th of September," continued Father Kelley, "the zero hour was 4:45 A. M. There were no reserve tanks. At 4:45 A. M., 1,200 guns of the Australians opened a flash of flame and hurled shells such as the Germans had never experienced before. Under that barrage the 107th and the 108th Infantry began to advance. At first they were mowed down, but when the boys saw their comrades falling beside them it gave them new resolution. All sorts of gas was poured in our midst. On that day there was no duds among the shells of the Hun. They were all 100 per cent pure. Every one landed and exploded. The whole air seemed filled and the heavens rent by the flying shrapnel. The wounded were evacuated slowly but surely. The Barrage followed barrage. At 11:15 our lads found themselves 100 yards from Jerry's barbed wire and going like sixty.

"Word came back that they might rest because they had fought so well. The commanders sent the word out to the lads, to the lads of the 107th and 108th, your lads and mine, but the answer sent back was, 'give us barrage and we'll shove them farther.'"

"They got barrage. The 108th on the right was the first to reach the first line of barbed wire at 12:50. At 1:05 they got back for the first time since 1914 what the Germans had taken; for the first time the Hindenburg line belonged to the Allies. At 2 o'clock they had the second trench, at 4:15

the third and at 5:50 the fourth, and an aviator circling above dropped down a slip, saying that the Germans had gone to the tunnel and that the four lines were ours. This was a day's work.

"On the next day the barrage opened at 4:20 A. M. We were up and at him at 4:45. This time we had the advantage, for we were on a hill. In the first hour we gained 60 yards and in the second 300. So it went on, always up at him again. This was kept up until 2:45, when word came back that the ground was mined. The only thing to do was to open another barrage. At 3:40 another barrage was opened, a smoke screen was dropped, and the 105th, 107th and 108th began to go forward, until 6:20 when the aviator dropped a note to say that we were 210 feet from the tunnel and that the Germans were a mile and a quarter away."

After telling the story of this turning point in the war, Father Kelley said that he could not help feeling proud of his boys. "Why shouldn't you be proud, why shouldn't Rochester be proud of the 108th Infantry and the 106th Machine Gun Battalion. Why shouldn't we be proud of every lad who left the city in uniform."

James M. E. O'Grady was chairman of the meeting and introduced Father Kelley to the audience, calling attention to the fact that the chaplain had been six years at St. Bernard's Seminary in Lake avenue. In the course of his introductory remarks Mr. O'Grady said that the father of the "fighting chaplain" was a guest of the committee and was seated on the platform. Out of respect to the father of the priest the audience rose and cheered. A large number of prominent men of the city were on the platform, as well as many of the Knights of Columbus who were in charge of arrangements for the meeting.

At noon he attended the luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce, where he was one of the speakers. After lunch he spoke at Nazareth Academy. At 3 o'clock he was the guest of Mr. George Eastman, and late in the afternoon he visited St. Bernard's Seminary. At 5 o'clock a dinner in his honor was given at the Powers Hotel by the officers of the Knights of Columbus. George T. Roche, grand knight of Rochester Council, was in charge of the dinner arrangements.

Knights of Columbus Has Option on House on Chestnut St.

An option has been secured by the Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, on the piece of property at the southeast corner of Chestnut and Lawn streets. The property is known as the Ernest home. If the order purchases this property, it will be used for a new home for the organization, which at the present time is quartered in the Triangle building. For some years past the Knights of Columbus have been making plans for a clubhouse. In 1910 the council was deeded the house of the late Dr. J. J. A. Burke in East avenue, opposite the Genesee Valley Club, but the council sold this property because it was not suited for its use. In 1916 the Schuyler lot in Main street east, between North Union and Alexander streets, was purchased and the council announced that the clubhouse would be built there. The Knights still own the Main street east property, but so far have made no announcement regarding its disposition.

All France is associating the marvelous victories and the sudden cessation of the war to the Sacred Heart of Jesus—especially to the dedication of the Allied Armies to the Sacred Heart by the Marshal of France and General of the Armies, in the little church at his headquarters.

The new Archbishop of Santiago is Mgr. Crescencio Errasauris.

Late News of Ireland

Carlow
Married by the Rev. Thomas J. Hayden, brother of the bride, assisted by the Very Rev. P. Harley, Adm., James, youngest son of James Delaney, Powerstown to Mabel, youngest daughter of the late Owen Hayden, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow.

Cork
Rev. M. M'Grath, P. P., Ring, died somewhat suddenly. He had labored many years in the parish, in which he was held in affectionate regard. There were 35 priests at the obsequies and funeral and a large attendance of the laity.

The Cork branch I. T. G. W. U. unanimously decided to support William O'Brien for the general treasurership.

The newly elected Lord Mayor of Cork paid official visits to the Bishops of both denominations, colleges, schools and other institutions in the city. Both Most Rev. Dr. Cohan and Right Rev. Dr. Dowse cordially received his lordship.

Dublin
In Dublin rugby and swimming circles the news of the death of Timothy Egan was heard with much regret. He played for Bective Rangers, and gained inter-provincial honors as a forward, whilst he swam with Clontarf, S.C.

Kerry
M. Mulvihill, R.D.C., Liatowel, has been sworn in a J.P.

Limerick
Congratulations to Canon Cregan, P. P., Abbeyfeale, on his recovery from several months' illness, took the form of an assembly of parishioners, with torches and a brass band, at the Presbytery. Cheers were given for Canon Cregan, who thanked the demonstrators.

Cardinal Mercier, writing to Mayor of Limerick acknowledging a resolution from the citizens congratulating Belgium on having regained her freedom, said he was particularly touched by the sympathetic message.

Mayo
M. J. Cusack, organizer at St. Muredoch's Cathedral, Ballina, has resigned, on obtaining an appointment in Limerick.

There has been a second outbreak of influenza in Achill Island, some 90 cases being down with it in the village of Keel, and three nurses had to be sent to cope with the epidemic.

Tipperary
Rev. R. Meskill, C. C., President, said at a meeting of Cahir Branch of the Town Tenants' League that when the Sinn Feiners got into power they would look after the interests of the town tenants and of everybody else, and there would be no need for that organization.

Very Rev. J. J. Hayes, P. P., Houghton-le-Spring, Durham, has been raised to the Cathedral Chapter of Henham and Newcastle. He is a native of Ballycobe, Tipperary.

Mrs. Rourke, who died at William street, Nenagh, was reported to have reached 121 years. She claimed to have had 50 direct descendants in the war, the majority of whom were wounded, but none killed.

Waterford
The solicitors at Waterford P. Sessions congratulated the mayor (Councillor McDonald) on his reelection for a second term. Leonard Hutchinson, who has been awarded the medal of the O. B. E., for great courage in attending to wounded soldiers, is a Waterford man.

The King of Belgium, accompanied by his Prime Minister, visited Cardinal Mercier, and conferred upon him the Grand Cord of the Order of Leopold.

The population of China is estimated at 430,000,000 souls. Of these millions two millions are of the Catholic faith, with 2,267 priests.

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Giovanni Martinelli, Tenor, To Sing

Giovanni Martinelli, tenor of the Metropolitan Opera Company, who will be the soloist at the final concert of the season of the Rochester Orchestra, Hermann Dossenbach, conductor, on Monday, March 17, has won success after a varied career. He was born in Montagnana, Italy, near Venice, the son of the village trumpeter. He sang in church and cafe, his real occupation being wood-carving. On Sunday evening he went to school to study music as a member of the village band, and played the clarinet in public places on Saturday evenings.

At 20 he started his training as a soldier and was made a member of the military band. During his last and third year as a soldier, he amused himself and his comrades by singing in the barracks and his songs included many of the popular operas. One day the bandmaster heard him and the result was that Martinelli was taken to Milan, where Guveni, Zerbini and Pole, well known musical agents, offered him a contract when he had finished his military training.

He studied with Mandolini for two years, then made his debut and the public went into ecstasies over him. Since then he has come to America and made a sensation on his appearance at the Metropolitan Opera House.

Matthew Toohey Dies Suddenly in Buffalo.

Palmyra, N. Y.—Mr. Matthew Toohey, who dropped dead on Trowbridge street, Buffalo, N. Y., last Saturday morning was brought to Palmyra, N. Y., for burial. The funeral was held on Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock at St. Ann's Church. Interment was made in St. Ann's cemetery.

He leaves four sisters, Mrs. Anna Traynor, of Marion; Mrs. Michael Kinsella, of Buffalo; Mrs. Michael Doyle, of Clyde and Miss Florence Toohey, of Rochester; and one brother, Patrick W. Toohey, of Portland, Oregon.

Grave labor and political disorders have arisen in Argentine and its chief, beautiful city, Buenos Aires. About 800 persons were killed in riots, churches burned, religious driven out of convents and a priest murdered, says a cable message.

From the Vatican Hill of Eternal Rome comes the voice of the Shepherd of all nations, saying: "Representing though unworthily, Jesus Christ, the King of Peace, we shall use all the influence of our apostolic ministry that the decisions of the Council may be willingly accepted and faithfully followed."

On the occasion of the visit of the Belgian King to Cardinal Mercier, the carrillon of the Cathedral of Malines rang out for the first time since the invasion of Belgium.

The Archbishop of Cincinnati and the Bishop of Covington raised their voices on behalf of suffering Jews.

R. B. I. Day School.
You may start your course in the R. B. I. Day School Monday, March 17.—Adv.

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