

WHAT THE CHURCHES CAN LEARN FROM THE GREAT LAKES GOBS

THEME OF NOTED MAN AT COMMUNITY MEETING

Bernard Iddings Bell in Scathing Indictment Tells How Church Has Fallen into Disfavor with Young Manhood in Service of Nation.

Dean Bernard Iddings Bell, Chaplain at Great Lakes, noted speaker and professional writer, gave an epoch-making address at the Presbyterian church last Sunday evening in which he likened the church to the ruined walls of Jerusalem and told its members and representatives "what they can learn from the gobs at Great Lakes."

He painted a pathetic picture of the young manhood of our country as represented at Great Lakes, having been snatched from their vocation, education, career, and called to the service of their country. Here they engaged in the great crusade for an ideal and were raised to the higher plane of duty, obedience, service, coupled with a certain amount of danger and the ever present possibility of death. After the mutual confrontation of a common enemy and a common cause, these men rebel against the "decorated stones" offered by the church when they have asked for bread.

The Ham was Done in the Time of Peace

Dean Bell says: "I am not one of those who believe for an instant that the contribution of the churches to the building up of the morale of our men and the caring for them religiously has been a negligible thing, to be spoken of with hanging head. The churches have done for the men far more than I ever thought they could or would. . . . If the churches had been one thousandth part as efficient in preparing these boys to go forth as they have been in ministering to them, after they went forth, there would not be as much to preach about as there is this evening, as much to write about and talk about concerning the inefficiency of the Church. There has been woeful inefficiency, but it was the inefficiency of the church in time of peace.

Now we are coming back again to the state of peace, to the conditions and the places where this work was so badly done before the war. We are like the prophet Nehemiah when he returned from captivity. We are looking at the Church as he looked at Jerusalem. We see its walls broken down, its palaces deserted, its temple unfrequented, its gates burned with the fire of a time which has tried men's souls."

Here is Our Job

The speaker urged that we waste no time over the imbecilities of the past, but like the prophet Nehemiah go straight to the matter of rebuilding. "Here," said the prophet, "is our job. Come let us build up the walls of Jerusalem, that we may be no more a reproach." Such is our job. We must not waste time in reproaches. The churches are half empty, despoiled, forsaken. Even in times of pestilence the health officers close them along with the poolrooms and moving picture nonessentials. Magazine articles lambast or lampoon us. We couldn't prevent the war. We couldn't influence the war. We are ignored in plans of reconstruction. No one will care anything for us as long as our walls are evidently in ruins.

Non-religious Young Manhood at Camps

"Probably no one can appreciate how broken down these walls are who has not gazed upon the religious or irreligious condition of the young manhood of America in one of our great camps. As one comes to know them intimately, as I have had the chance these fifteen months, one finds that they simply know nothing about religion. . . . When you ask them how long it has been since they attended Divine worship; many of them reply that it has not been since boyhood. A surprising number never say their prayers on their knees and are willing to tell you so. . . . Almost never does one find a conception of sin as a down-right violation of eternal law. Complacency toward evil, even when it is of a sort the man does not practice himself, and a happy tolerance

of God are very common. Religion is vague—sentimental.

Product of New Fangled Sunday Schools

They have a fetish regard for copies of the New Testament. Nearly everyone wants one. Almost nobody reads one after he gets it. If he tries he can't make head nor tail out of it. The Bible is a puzzling book to one who goes at it without any instruction, and these men have never had instruction. They went to Sunday school, either one of the old style which used to teach quaint catechisms and scattered Bible stories, or one of the new kind which tells the children of the habits of little chipmunks and the dear little birds; but in them they never got an idea of the Bible as a guide to live by.

Men Religious; Churches Were Not

All of this is a blue picture, is it not? Are the boys naturally irreligious? Not a bit of it. I have never met among the hundreds of young men I have talked to about religion in camp, one fellow who was not intensely interested in God. The war had called out of them a great and unselfish idealism. They had burst the shackles of conventionality and they felt themselves free men. Irreligious men? There are no such. Only they didn't connect up the church with their longings for noble manhood and for unity of spirit with the Eternal Heart of Things.

Church a Thing of Formalities and Fripperies

"The church for them was a thing of formalities and nonessential fripperies, respectabilities, conventionalities. The men were religious all right. But the church was not religious. It was a venerable old ruin. It was a crumbling old invalid. . . . If any enthusiast about any denomination in Christendom, Catholic or Protestant, wants to see how little religion amounts to among the American people, and if in particular he wants to see what is the matter with his own church, let him live for one year in a cantonment. Then he will come back and say: "Men and women of the church, you have gotten so used to these old ruins that you don't know how disgraceful they are. Here, lend a hand, clear up the rubbish. The folks are coming back home soon. Let them not gaze upon us and find our condition a reproach and a stumbling block. Rebuild the walls."

What is a Christian Home?

Now what are some of these walls of religion that need rebuilding? First is the Christian home. I do not mean the place where folks shall have merely the best of eating and sleeping quarters. A home is not a small hotel. . . . It is not a place where Father spends his time when the office and the golf club are closed, where mother stays when she hasn't anything more amusing to do, where the children are under the tutelage of nurse-maids, or under the tutelage of the streets in their no-school hours, where the only group meeting place is at the meal table.

Imitation Homes

What a poor imitation of a home many of us Americans have, even those who live in comfortable suburbs. Selfishness rules them all too often. Each person within them lives for himself. Dad and mother are a source of coercion to the children, and the children are a source of nuisance to the parents. Away go the kiddies to boarding school as soon as possible so that the parents may get rid of them. Away go the kiddies themselves as much as possible to get rid of dad and mother. No reading together, parents and children; no playing together, no counsel together, no sorrows shared, no joys worked for in common. Nothing in common.

And so, of course, no praying in common. No common invocation of God before the common meal is eaten. No common asking of God's benediction in the morning as the day begins. (Continued on page four)

IT LOOKS LIKE A LONG DUSTY JOURNEY



ANNUAL MEETING OF BANKS STOCKHOLDERS

Resources of Highland Park State Bank Now Over One Million Dollars

The Stockholders of the Highland Park State Bank held their annual meeting in the office of the bank on Saturday, January 11th, and elected the following persons as directors for the ensuing year:

C. G. Alexander, J. M. Appel, Frank J. Baker, B. D. Butler, A. C. Morgan, Marshall E. Sampson, John M. Tuttle. President Baker's annual report was read at the meeting. After calling attention to total resources of over one million dollars and Capital, Surplus and undivided profits of over one hundred thousand dollars he says: "A year of world-war financing by our Government necessitated heavy demands on the banks of the country. The records indicate that your bank met these demands cheerfully and adequately. Notwithstanding these demands and the greatly increased cost of operating; and, notwithstanding the anticipated and liberal transfer of savings deposits into Liberty Bonds, the Bank has established a new record on earnings, and shows increased deposits in both savings and commercial departments."

The organization of the board and the election of officers will occur on Thursday, January 16th.

RECEPTION TO BE GIVEN FOR MR. AND MRS. FITT

Mr. Louis Kriedler to Sing To Be Held Tomorrow Evening in Presbyterian Church

At the reception to be given on Friday evening to Rev. and Mrs. Frank Fitt by the officers of the Presbyterian church, Mr. Louis Kriedler will sing. No written invitations have been sent. An effort has been made to reach everyone through the various churches and through the Press. It is the earnest wish of the officers of the church that everyone will join them in giving Mr. and Mrs. Fitt a hearty welcome.

LETTER RECEIVED FROM PRIVATE ROY H. OLSON

Private Roy H. Olson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Olson of Ravinia, whose name recently appeared in the casualty list as missing in action, is in a hospital in France according to a letter received from him by his parents last week. Whether he is ill or wounded is unknown, as the letter gave no definite details. Private Olson is a member of the 5th Ammunition Train, Regular Army.

FRIDAY, LILA LEE IN "THE SECRET GARDEN"

Marguerite Clark Saturday in "Little Miss Hoover," also Universal Comedy. Matinee at 2:30

Motion Pictures to be shown at the Pearl Theatre next week are:

Sunday, Dorothy Dalton in "Quick-sand," also a Vitagraph comedy and Katzenjammer Kids; Monday, Marguerite Fisher in "The Mantle of Charity," "Wolves of Kultur," Pathe comedy; Tues., June Elvidge in "The Zero Hour," Pathe News, Mutual Comedy; Wednesday, Norma Talmadge in "The Heart of Wetona," Christie comedy and Allies War News; Thursday, William Farnum in "Les Miserables," Pathe News, and Arbutle comedy; Friday, Lila Lee in "The Secret Garden," Famous Player Pictograph and Mutt and Jeff; Saturday, Marguerite Clark in "Little Miss Hoover," Burton Holmes Travelogue, and Universal comedy. Matinee at two thirty.

ERNEST EMIL RASMUSSEN PASSED AWAY TUESDAY

Interment in Memorial Park Cemetery. Funeral to be held at 1 o'clock today at Prior's

Mr. Ernest Emil Rasmussen, aged 27, passed away Tuesday as the result of organic heart disease. Mr. Rasmussen is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Rasmussen of Elm Ave. The family have made their home in this city for the past seven years.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon at one o'clock at Prior's undertaking rooms. Interment will be in Memorial Park Cemetery. He leaves to survive him a mother and father, one sister, Ella, and a brother, Clarence.

SIX PRISONERS ESCAPE FROM FORT SHERIDAN

Saw Hole in Roof of Guard House, Lowered to the Ground by Sheets

Six federal prisoners, two of them said to be desperate characters, made their escape Sunday night from Fort Sheridan by sawing their way thru the roof of the guard house and lowering themselves in the street by means of the sheets.

One of the men, Robert E. Osborne, alias Fay Van Avery, figured in a recent jail delivery in Milwaukee. A few days ago he attacked his guards with a bayonet which had been left near him, but soldiers came to the rescue in time to prevent a murder. He is wanted for desertion, for fraudulent sale of Liberty Bonds and for forgery.

NORTH SHORE TO GET FEDERAL CAPITAL?

PLAN BY GEORGE B. JONES

Proposed Site for New National Capitol to Extend from Lake Forest to the City of Glencoe

On Monday, December 30th, the Engineer's subdivision of the Association of Commerce, listened to an exposition of a thesis that the capitol of the United States be moved from Washington to the north shore of Lake Michigan, the federal buildings stretching from the present town of Lake Forest to Glencoe.

The proponent of this extraordinary project is George Bayard Jones of the Chicago firm of patent attorneys: Sheridan, Jones, Sheridan & Smith. Mr. Jones is a graduate in engineering of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and in law of George Washington University. He has lived in Washington, St. Louis, Boston and Buffalo and has twice visited Europe, always developing an interest in city planning with special application of his study to the problem of the relocation of the federal capital. "Therefore," says the Chicago Commerce Weekly, "Mr. Jones is capable of thinking practically of this proposition of magnitude even though the question is now and may long remain in the academic realm."

The plan of the federal capitol scheme shows the capital city of the United States located on the bluffs of Lake Michigan, between the towns of Lake Forest and Glencoe, and stretching approximately from Lake Michigan to the Des Plaines River. The physical advantages of such a site are incomparable. The bluffs rise seventy feet above Lake Michigan. A mile west is the Skokie Valley, suitable for park purposes; the ground then rises gradually until Des Plaines valley is reached.

The city is broadly divided into three parts—that devoted to the federal government, that devoted to the municipal government, and that devoted to the private life of the citizens.

The federal buildings are located on the bluff with executive department adjoining the present reservation of Fort Sheridan, and the judicial function of the government adjoining the town of Highland Park. In the center is the legislative function of the government dominated by the great building of the capitol.

The present lines of the Northwestern and the Milwaukee would be depressed with the Union station in the present town of Highland Park.

The entire scheme of government buildings, parks, recreation grounds, forest preserves, residence districts, transportation, and even botanical gardens are all carefully worked out with mathematical precision by Mr. Jones, who, in his report, claims that "Washington is destined to be almost completely rebuilt inasmuch as the present buildings are inadequate."

Whether viewed as an Arabian Nights tale or an established possibility, such a plan recommends itself to the people of Highland Park as a flattering commentary on the natural beauty of this locality.

HIGHLAND PARK URGED TO CLEAN SIDEWALKS

Slippery Condition of Walks Menaces Pedestrians in All Parts of the City

The present precarious conditions of the sidewalks in Highland Park is reminiscent of country districts, the general store, and the hill tribes. Everybody, one would think, wants his sidewalk cleaned off, but everybody's shovel and their aspirations do not point the same way.

Slippery sidewalks are like tooth-brushes—intolerable except to the owner. One wonders why they do not clean them up so that older people who have not Liza's facility in crossing the ice can find their way about the city. Why not make the sidewalks safe for our pedestrian democracy?

What! Have our enlightened suburbanites degenerated into a ring of cracker-box philosophers in the general store, and relegated the cleaning of the sidewalks to the limbo of non-essentials together with bath-tubs and barber shops?

PRESS GETS TWO MORE MEMORIAL LETTERS

E. V. PRICE AND W. C. EGAN

Mr. Price Favors Memorial Hospital While Mr. Egan Suggests the Erection of Simple Shaft

The thought of erecting a fitting tribute to the memory of those citizens of Highland Park who gave their all on a foreign field of battle is unanimous. The question now to be decided is, what shall it be? We have heard from the advocates of a community hall and a park monument, but the latest from Mr. Walter Baldwin, President of the Highland Park Hospital Association meets with my hearty approval. It admits of almost unlimited possibilities—embracing the thought of a fitting memorial, one that will live forever in the minds of succeeding generations. It will be appreciated long after the average passer-by has lost interest in the inscription on any monument Highland Park can afford to erect, long after a community house with its expensive upkeep has gone to decay.

The "Memorial Hospital" in which name Mr. Baldwin proposes to rechristen and re-dedicate our present building, with its much needed isolation ward, its individual memorial room tablets, its bronze memorial on the grounds with a record of names; perchance a room set aside in perpetuity for the free use of any immediate member of the family of any war veteran; will be not only an historic but a useful memorial erected by a thoughtful and grateful community.

Highland Park has been called on in a financial way urgently during the last two years and has responded in a generous manner. There will be further requirements to be met before we again are back to anything like normal conditions. Heavy taxes for many years to pay the costs of war confront everyone directly or indirectly, and in my judgment utility and necessity should govern all future requests for donations from our citizens. Our hospital is a necessity. Its first six months' experience demonstrated it to be a greater necessity than its fondest advocates dreamed. Several of our citizens, men and women, notably Mr. Baldwin, its president, have devoted a large amount of their time in seeing that it was well managed from the start. Had it acquired an unenviable reputation in its infancy, its usefulness would have been seriously impaired, but it has made good. Would it not be wiser for Highland Park to do ONE good thing and do it right than to scatter our resources over a large number of efforts and do none of them perfectly. By all means let us have "The Memorial Hospital."

ED V. PRICE

Mr. Egan's Letter

Editor Highland Park Press,

Dear Sir:—

There have been two suggestions exploited in your paper for a memorial to those who left here to battle for a world freedom: The Community Building and the Hospital Extension. Why commercialize their heroic deeds by making their memorial a side issue in a public building. Both these buildings are needed and in time will come, but the time should not be now when building material and labor are at their highest and when there have been so many just calls for contributions for patriotic activities. Our heroes are as much entitled to a separated and distinct memorial as were the heroes of the past.

Memorial buildings soon lose the memorial phase of their existence, as for instance, the Chicago Academy of Science, erected as a memorial to the late Mathew Laffin. As a trustee of the Academy for a number of years I was a constant attendant within its walls and talked with many strangers visiting it. Not even ten in a hundred knew it was a memorial building although it was so stated in large capital letters over the entrance.

Why not erect a simple memorial shaft with funds collected from the many instead of the few so all can feel that their appreciations of the deeds of our valiant patriots are represented in it. A monument before

Continued on Page 10