

Forty-Three Poles In Peril

Postwar contraversies are likely to be world-wide in their political and social implications. The barrage of high oratory involved in their discussion and solution only too often serves a double purpose: effectively to drown minor causes of injustice and to distract the world's eyes and ears from the contiguous problem to the remote.

Yet in our very metropolis of Montreal there presently exists what may be an inexcusable injustice with vast international and humanitarian implications. It is, so far as numbers go, a modest problem, but nonetheless human and nonetheless urgent for all that. Canadians by their silence in the face of injustice and the Canadian Government by its inaction may very well soon have on their conscience the end of peace and happiness for 43 brave men.

Number 45 Group R.A.F. Transport Command at D.R.A.F. has been disbanded, its duties, so grandly conceived, splendidly accomplished. The British personnel of the Group has been dispersed to other R. A.F. stations. But there yet remains here a wing of the Polish Air Force — 44 officers and n.c.o.'s in all—who have served with the R.A.F. since the fall of Poland. These 43 were in the Polish Air Force when Hitler struck; they followed their profession in the joint interests of all free peoples in France, in the Battle of Britain and later in the Transport Command. Now, as they believe, they are in grave personal danger.

Save for one man who has elected return to Poland, these men are not in accord with the present Russian-dominated Polish Government. They have evidence that appears convincing to them that they can hope for nothing in Poland save certain death.

This is a grave charge to lay against a properly constituted government. It is the graver in that all 43 men are natives of that part of Poland that has been given Russia. All 43 are convinced that, if they are forced to return to Poland they will at best be deprived of civil rights. They expect a worse fate.

All 43 are eager to stay in Canada. More than half of them have married Canadian wives who could not return to Poland with their husbands; many of these men have capital, all have the tools of their trades; and each burns with a fierce determination not to return to Poland until that country is once again free.

It is difficult to believe in the circumstances, but it appears to be the fact that the Canadian Government, deterred by some elegant diplomatic frippery, has declined to permit these men to remain in Canada as immigrants. Yet all 43 deserve well of Canada; indeed, of every United Nation.

In seeking sanctuary in Canada, these 43 Poles have not only justice on their side, the most solemn pronouncements of the United Nations also protect them. The third paragraph of the Atlantic Charter permits them to remain out of a Poland which is inimical to them in the words, "they"—i.e. Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt "respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live". The Pots-

dam agreement on Poland — signed by Marshal Stalin, President Truman and Mr. Atlee—while expressing its anxiety to facilitate the return of Poland of all Poles abroad, specifically applies this only to "those who wish to go".

These 43 Poles do not wish to return to Poland in the present circumstances. They have no hope of being accorded any rights whatsoever; they fear for their very lives. That opinion must in fairness be respected. It is monstrous that these men would be returned to Poland against their expressed wish.

It is well within the competence of the Dominion Government first, to grant asylum to 43 Polish servicemen; and then to bring pressure to bear on the United Kingdom Government formally to release these men from their nominal military duties. Here is an immediate, practicable and simple act of gratitude open to the Government of Canada. Neither Canada nor the United Nations can long survive if principles and lives are ever to be sacrificed to expediency.

("The Gazette"—Montreal)

Clothing Fairy Aids "Pedagogic Cinderellas,"

School teachers in Italy admit they are popularly referred to as "the Cinderellas of the working people", in a communication addressed to Domestic Relations Court Judge Juvenal Marchisio, of New York City, who is president of American Relief for Italy. The letter which came from a committee of Federal and private teachers at Rome, declared they were filled with "emotion" because they had been remembered, and furnished with essential and proper clothing by the relief agency, when it came to resume their pedagogical duties. Previous to that time the teachers had empty wardrobes and raiment that bordered on threadbare styles. They were handicapped until they received the clothing from resuming their duties in class rooms.

To reassure the officials of American Relief for Italy of their gratitude, the teachers took up a col-

RESCUE CAVE CHILDREN

New York — Discovered scantily clad, more than two score Italian children varying in age from two-years to fourteen, respectively, have been liberated from makeshift homes in cellars and caves, where they had been living for months, by field agents of American Relief for Italy. They had once lived in the town of Ateleta, destroyed during the war. Investigation disclosed that the children are now orphans, their homes and parents being destroyed during the war. The youngsters have been fed, warmly clothed in garments sent from American homes and placed in custodial care at an orphanage. The elder children scouted the wrecked countryside for bits of food. For beds the children had coarse bundles of straws. One little fellow explained "it was better to be in the caves and cellars than in buildings -which had no rooftops and no windows. It was warm in the caves." The plight of the children and the story of their rescue was sent in a letter to Domestic Relations Court Justice Juvenal Marchisio, president of American Relief for Italy, the agency authorized by the President's War Relief Control board to supervise and administer Italian Relief.

lection, and deposited the money to the credit of the relief organization abroad. The letter to Judge Marchisio reads in part as follows:

"We, all the teachers in Rome, cordially thank American Relief for Italy for donating us a complete outfit of clothing. We are grateful for the gift in itself, but also more grateful for the thought, which has been so kind. Although the importance of teaching is some times pointed out, as a matter of fact nobody has ever thought of us, and we are so used to being called the Cinderellas of the working people, that when anyone does remember us we are filled with emotion. For this reason and by a unanimous feeling, we also decided to make a modest gift, not as a counterpart but as proof of our gratitude! This ended the school vacation for thousands of children absent for many years."

Italian Clergy Bless Americans

New York — American donations of food, clothing, shoes and medicine have been acknowledged by a number of Italian Bishops and Monsignori, whose towns and communities have received them from American Relief for Italy. These letters were sent to Domestic Relations Justice Juvenal Marchisio, president of American Relief for Italy, the agency authorized by the President's War Relief Control board, to supervise and administer Italian relief. The organization and the American people are praised by the clergy for their "Christian charity." A text typical of the sentiments voiced is that written by Bishop Bernardino Salvatore, of Lipari, who stated: "Allow me to express in the name of my staff and all the diocese, the sentiments of

my deep gratitude for the clothing and other items which Christian Charity of the American people, has caused to be sent to cover the nakedness of our poor. May God, dispenser of all goodness let manifold blessings descend upon the great American nation."

BUTTER PRODUCTION

Canada's creamery butter output, which declined considerably during the last four months of 1945, continued to move to lower levels during the month of January of this year. Production in Jan. amounted to approximately ten million pounds almost 16 per cent less than that produced in the same month of the preceding year.

WOMEN'S SECTION

Improved Working Conditions For Country-Women

The members of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada have received a message from their president, Mrs. Cameron E. Dow, in which she asks them to make a special effort during this year to improve working conditions for the women on farms.

Canadian country-women always work hard and during the war they have had to take over many of the duties which usually fall to the men around the farm. Their men are coming back now, so they should be able to devote more time to their own affairs, and especially to improvements that will make their work easier.

Even long before the war rural electrification, better rural housing, farm sanitation and improved educational and recreational facilities were badly needed; all these improvements had to be put off during the war but there is no reason why they shouldn't be taken up now, and the sooner the better.

Anybody who has seen something of rural communities in Canada knows how crying these needs are, and if the women on the farms take it up themselves and make their demands heard through their own organizations, there is no doubt that something can be done.

HOME AIDES

Domestic workers are going to receive a new deal; the idea originated with Mrs. Rex Eaton, Director of the National Employment Service, Women's Division and is promoted by the National Employment Service. Each city in Canada will have its own administration.

DECREASE IN ADULT CRIME

Returns of criminal court proceedings record an overall decline in the number of adults convicted of breaches of the law during 1944 as compared with records of the previous year.

Theft, which accounts for roughly 25% of all convictions for indictable offences each year, showed a slight increase, but convictions for forgery and offences against currency, malicious offences against property, etc., were lower in number.

FEWER MARRIAGES IN CANADA

Fewer marriages were registered in 1944 than in 1943 or in 1942. The number of young couples taking the vows in the successive years was as follows: 127,372 in 1942; 110,937 in 1943; and 101,464 in 1944. The rate per thousand population as 10.9, 9.4 and 8.5 in the respective years.

LEATHER INDUSTRY OF CANADA

The Canadian tanning industry reported a new peak in the value of production in 1944, the total being \$45,001,000 as compared with \$44,773,000 in the preceding year, an advance of \$238,000. Ontario is the centre of this industry, accounting for over 86% of the total production, Quebec is next producing 12 per cent of the total output for the dominion.

The domestic worker, now to be called the Home Aide, will work at industrial hours and for industrial pay; the housework is done on a shift basis. The day is divided into three four-hour shifts 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 3.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. and 8 p.m. till midnight. She can work any or all of these shifts, for one or several employers, 1 or 7 days a week. If the pay is 40 cents an hour, \$1.60 for the four-hour shift or \$8 a week for a five-day-a-week service, a woman may earn \$17.60 a week by working an 9-hour day and with Saturday afternoons off; besides she receives her two chief meals—lunch and dinner on 5 days.

This plan which was tried in Toronto first has great advantages for both employer and employee. For the employer it means that the aide will come to her with proper training and can be employed for as many hours or days as she can afford and she does not have to keep a room for her.

For the employees the advantages are just as great; she can work as few or as many hours a day as she wishes, and as many days a week as she desires; and as she will begin her work supplied with a certificate of her knowledge for such a job she will be treated with respect.

Untrained women will not be accepted as Home Aides, and they must all take a "refresher course" of four one-hour lectures before they get their certificate and start working.

The Home Aide plan should be the means of raising the standard of living for thousands of women and girls and may also lead to better feeling between employer and employee.

CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

The Canadian Red Cross Society will appeal to the public for funds early next month. It will be the first national peacetime appeal and the amount asked for will probably be \$2,500,000 as compared with the \$10,000,000 asked for last year.

The money is needed for work in Canada—help for crippled children, outpost hospital service, new hospital buildings, nutrition, first aid, disaster relief, etc.

A separate war fund budget will take care of the Society's war work in connection with soldiers and veterans as well as its relief work in Britain, Europe and China.

RED CROSS ACTIVITIES

The Swedish Red Cross in co-operation with the Scandinavian section of the Foreign Relations Department has helped to send information from seamen, fishermen and others to their families in Denmark and Norway.

PUBLIC MUST DO ITS SHARE IN HEALTH WORK

During the "Health Week for Canada", early this month, stress was laid on spreading information on venereal diseases; the service clubs were asked to give a special message on this topic or on some other important phase of public health.

Women's organizations and schools were also asked to co-operate; booklets were sent to schools, containing a daily message on health for each school day during Health Week.