WAR AND THE CHURCHES

NO REVIVAL OF RELIGION IS NOTICED IN CANADA.

Visitor From United States Finds That Young Men Who Used to Do Church Work Have Gone to the Front in Exceptionally Large Numbers.

NO revival of religion is noticeable in Canada as a result of the war. The church services are scarcely better attended than usual, says Dr. William T. Ellis, who has begun with Canada in a tour to observe the results of war upon the spiritual life of the nations engaged. Recruits are not hunting up ministers in order to talk about their souls; and so far as Dr. Ellis was able to learn from conversation with clergymen and church-workers, "there is no special interest in the problem of immortality among the soldiers." They are described as "a debonair lot, and not wearing their hearts upon their sleeves." The effect of war is, however, mainly observable, so Dr. Ellis writes in the Boston Transcript, among the left-behinds, especially among the kinsfolk of the dead. We read:

"The casualty list seems to be the tie that is binding Canada anew to God. For the losses of the war have reached into every community and into every circle. Over and over again I was told that Canada did not catch the real significance of the war until the toll of the dead began to appear in the papers, and to be announced from the pulpits.

"While I was in Winnipeg the National Council of Women was in session. On Sunday afternoon they held a service of intercession in a theater, and I attended it. The occasion was electric. There were no addresses. A program of printed prayers had been provided—prayers for the soldiers and sailors; for the prisoners and wounded and those who care for them; for victory and for a righteous peace; for the harvest and for the women at home. The hymns sung were all prayers. These women were of Canada's best and most progressive. They stood for club life, and for the modern conception of their sex's mission. Yet here they were, fashionably gowned (not a few in mourning garb), engaged in woman's old, old function of praying for the men whom they had sent forth to battle. After witnessing that service, no superficial observer could make me believe that the war has not sent Canada's women and parents to their knees. So I was not surprised to learn of the frequency of special services for intercession in private homes and in local churches.

"When Lady Aikins closed that solemn session of Canada's leading women, she simply said, 'Now we shall pray for our gracious King and for our splendid men.' The crowd arose, the pianist struck a chord, and the first stanza of the national anthem swelled forth. Then there followed, with a fervor that put many handkerchiefs to eyes, another stanza, written since the war began, and now sung all over Canada:

God save our splendid men,
Send them safe home again;
God save our men!
Keep them victorious, patient, and
chivalrous.
They are so dear to us,
God save our men!

"That amendment to 'God Save the King' is one of the most significant side-lights upon the war. It reveals the new and democratic mood of the people who are giving of their best to the great cause. In all the long years and generations that Britishers have been singing 'God Save the King,' it never occurred to anybody to add a prayer for the men who serve the King. Now it is done instinctively and fervently, with no thought of disloyalty to his Majesty, but only in the natural assumption that the welfare of the soldiers ranks equal with that of the King. All religious services in Canada, at least in the Protestant churches, include the singing of the national anthem; and all, except where the strain is too great upon the mothers, include 'God save our splendid men.' Who can trace all the wonderful ways in which democracy is doing its work in these changeful days?"

The new note that has been put into the churches of Canada by the war is described by Dr. Ellis as the "life-and-death interest in the front line of battle in France":

"The particular occasion I cite was in St. Stephen's Presbyterian church, Winnipeg, whose pastor is 'Ralph Connor,' the novelist, now Major Charles W. Gordon, chaplain on service. The associate pastor, Rev. Dr. Charles P. Paterson, was officiating. The congregation was large, with an almost total lack of young men.

"Small wonder. For on the 'roll of honor' in front of the pulpit—and every Canadian church now displays such a flag-draped 'roll of honor'—were the names of 264 men of the church who up to the end of the year had enlisted. A revised list would increase the number, as well as the toll of those killed, wounded, and in prison. In front of this particular honor-roll is a picture of a soldier dying on the battle-field, with the crucified Christ beside him in benediction—and that in a Presbyterian church, with a predominantly Scotch membership!

"One reason why the proportion of enlisted men from the churches is unusually high in Canada is that church-going young men, aside from all question of ideals, cannot withstand the pressure that comes upon them in these weekly services. I know of one young man, rejected from the Canadian Army because of varicose veins, who refuses to attend church; he cannot stand either the appeal for the service or the looks of the congregation, since to them he seems fit for enlistment. No man, be he never so craven, could continue in the fellowship of a Canadian church and in regular attendance without offering himself to the colors."

All sorts of unexpected side-lights upon the intensity and sacredness of the spirit of patriotism, we are told, are to be met with now in Canada:

"Authorities told me that there are now no volunteers for foreign mission work, because as one mission board secretary put it, 'young men who were volunteers for the missionary war are now where they ought to be, engaged in that other missionary enterprise to which the Allies are devoted.' It was another missionary secretary in Toronto who told me that fourteen of the missionaries in China of his board have left their work in the Orient to don his Majesty's uniform. Most of them act as officers of the detachments of Chinese artizans and laborers who have been brought over for labor behind the lines in France. As men speaking the Chinese language, and acquainted with the ways of the natives, this service is simply invaluable. Other missionaries, and sons of missionaries, have gone directly into the military service.

"Despite the tremendous drain upon the resources of the Canadian churches made by the war, missionary contributions either remain as great as formerly or else have been increased. Evidently the stay-at-home women and older men have deep convictions about the importance of Christian work and instruction in this time of universal change. Likewise, the departure of tens of thousands of church-workers for the front has greatly depleted the ranks of officers and teachers in the local congregations. This, too, is met by an excess of devotion and activity on the part of those left behind. Even the enlistment of many clergymen as chaplains and officers meets with nothing but approval from the people.

"While I found no signs of what is conventionally called a revival in the Canadian churches, there is undoubtedly manifest such a spirit of deep purpose and loyalty that it is a new vitalizing force in the religious life of the Empire. The war is a spiritual experience for Canada. Whether the organized Christian Church is equal to the unprecedented task of capitalizing this fervor and exaltation and resolute purpose, after the soldiers return, only time can tell. For one thing is sure, neither the nation nor the Church will ever again be the same after this transforming experience."

To Leave Lakes for Good.

At least 120 ships left the Great Lakes at the end of the season of navigation, never to return. The ships have been commandeered or purchased by the American Government for the Atlantic Ocean service. The vessels so far selected for removal from the lakes total about 350,000 tons. Forty-three of the ships are small enough to pass through the Welland Canal without alteration. Seventy-seven must be cut in two to pass the locks. The tonnage now on the lakes totals about 2,700,000.

The appropriation for purchase of lake boats is included in the American budget of $1,134,500,000 submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury by the Shipping Board. Of this amount about 140 million dollars is intended to pay for lake boats.

The vessels will not be returned to the lakes, because officials believe that, allowing for new vessels for lake service which can be built during the war, 350,000 tons can be spared from the lake trade without seriously crippling the necessary trade.

Dog poisoners are at work at Tweed.

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Discoverers of New Lands

IN the illustrious year of 1498, which witnessed Sebastian Cabot's westward discoveries along North America, and Columbus' sighting of South America, Vasco da Gama, pursuing his eastward navigations, crossed the Indian Ocean, dropped anchor off the city of Calicut, on the Madagar coast, and set up on shore a marble pillar as proof of his discovery of India by an ocean highway. Thus Portugal offset Spain's claim to the West Indies by priority of discovery, with a claim through first discovery to the East Indies, and stood ready to assert it, while England allowed her right, by the same token, in the North American continent to lapse.

Spain and Portugal continued in sharp rivalry during the half decade immediately following. In 1499, the coast of South America was touched at about Surinam by the Spaniard Alonzo Vespucci, sailing for Spain. The same year the coast of Brazil was discovered by a Portuguese navigator, Vincente Yarez Pinzon. He had been a companion of Columbus. The next year possession of Brazil was taken for the crown of Portugal by Pedro Alvarez Cabral, a Portuguese commander, who was driven to its coast by adverse winds when making a voyage to India by Vasco da Gama's course. Three years later a settlement was begun there by Amerigo Vespucci, now in the service of Portugal. In 1500, Gaspar de Cortereal, Portuguese, attempted to follow the Cabots' track of discovery opened in the North-West. Coming upon the coast of Labrador, he explored it for 600 miles. He discovered Nova Scotia, the St. Lawrence, and also Hudson's Strait. Then he returned to Lisbon, with his two caravans freighted with natives—men, women, and children—whom he had captured and brought home for slavery. . . . Upon the strength of Gaspar de Cortereal's voyages, Portugal attempted to establish a claim to the discovery of Newfoundland and the adjacent coast of North America. But in this she was not successful. Spain, however, held firmly to all of her American possessions, indefinitely defined.

England remained passive till 1501, when a new movement was started in the Cabots' home city of Bristol. Three Bristol merchants—Richard Ward, Thomas Ashehurst, and John Thomas—and three Portuguese mariners—John Fernandus, Francis Fernandus, and John Gundlur—came together for a venture in the track of the Cabots. A patent was obtained from King Henry, under date of March 19, 1501, which conferred upon them the same powers that had originally been given the Cabots, and was in terms similar to the Cabot patents. Whether they sent out an expedition that year is not known. The next year, however, the personnel of the company had changed, with the dropping of Ward and Thomas and the substitution of Hugh Eliot in their place; and under this organization, probably in 1503, a voyage was made which resulted in discovery at Newfoundland and along the Labrador coast. The only record of this voyage is given by Hakluyt, in the following excerpt from the merchant, Robert Thorne's "Booke" of 1527, addressed to the English ambassador at the court of Spain:

"A briefe extract concerning the discoverie of Newfound-land taken out of the booke of M. Robert Thorne, to Doctor Leigh, etc.

"I reason that . . . . this inclination or desire of this discovery I inherited from my father, which with another marchant of Bristol named Hugh Eliot, were the discoverers of the Newfoundlands; of the which there is no doubt (as nowe plainely appeareth) if the Mariners would then have bene ruled, and followed their Pilots minde, but the lands of the West Indies, from whence all the golde commeth, had been ours; for all is one coast as the Card appeareth and is aforesaid."

The "card" here referred to was a rude map of the world on which, along the line of the coast of Labrador, was written the inscription in Latin, "This land was first discovered by the English." A short time after this voyage, the fisheries about Newfoundland had become well known to Frenchmen, and were being frequented by the hardy fishermen of Brittany and Normandy. Hence the later name of the isle of Cape Breton.

The Vanishing Elk.

Next in importance to big-horn sheep, though least in numbers, among the Rocky Mountain big game, is the American elk or wapiti. It once ranged nearly the entire continent in millions. Its habitat was originally from Mexico to the Peace River, and from the Pacific to the Atlantic, between the St. Lawrence and the coast of South Carolina. To-day a few scattered bands along the Rockies between Colorado and the Brazeau River, and some isolated herds in the forests of northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, comprise the entire wild elk left in North America. Probably the total does not exceed 60,000 head, less than 5,000 of which are found in Canada. In the Rockies there are probably from 175 to 365, of which the insignificant remnant in the valley of the Brazeau is the last of the original elk herds of Alberta. Those now found in the south are British Columbian elk that have migrated to the East slope since the inauguration of a closed season on elk in Alberta some five or six years ago.

A Tip for the Ladies.

A firm of cleaners in Grinnell, Iowa, advertises as follows: "Notice—Ladies, why worry about your dirty kids when we clean them for 15 cents."

The session of the legislature this year will open considerably earlier than last session. March 29th is Good Friday and the House likes to finish its business the day before that.

MANY ACTIVITIES.

Some of the Duties Undertaken by Canadians in France.

Canada's part in the war is not confined by any means to the splendid troops under General Currie; now beleaguering Lens. There are scores of officers and men in various Imperial services fitting effectively into the British machine. In scores of places one would never suspect there are Canadian battalions—their numbers now are legion—which in the aggregate easily make up a large force. Smart young Canadians are naval officers in every port that feeds the front, keeping to the traditions of the British navy. Then, too, there are the flying men, in both services, their range perhaps the greatest of all, sometimes eyes of the Grand Fleet itself, and on this Western front a majority in many squadrons.

To-day the Colonel of Canadian Railway Troops invited me to accompany him to an exhibition he was giving to French, Belgian, and British engineers. He walked along a new main military line built with rails from Canada's Government railways. The ties had been cut in a miniature Canadian sawmill not many miles south, in woods where the Kaiser's Uhlans roamed early in the war. Out in the large yard there was a big steam shovel eating away the side of the hill, filling a truck a minute—the Belgian officer timed the great engine—to go forward where the light railway crews, Canadians there, too, were ballasting new lines. Fritz's airmen spotted it one day and for weeks afterwards his artillery searched far them, wasting hundreds of rounds of ammunition. The Germans thought it was some new mastodon of destruction. It used to work on a Canadian Pacific grade in Northern Ontario.

When the Huns broke back along the coast they left various bits of tangled machinery. The Canadian Colonel gathered these up, commandeered a big railway truck, and built a track-layer in his own blacksmith's shop.

At rail head there is a young Canadian railway transport officer who used to be train despatcher at a little place on the prairie. In the next yard another officer (in Canada he was general manager of a great electric railway company) is quartermaster for railway stores.

The dockmaster at the great port away back was in the stevedoring business on the Pacific coast. Under his command were more transporters and cranes than Vancouver and Victoria combined will ever see for years. In the dock was a tramp ship straight from his home on the Pacific coast.

A colonel from Nova Scotia with his Labor battalion, men from all parts of the Dominion who know the job, had trebled the port for unloading the rails. At another dock I found a colonel, an Ontario member of Parliament, handling a brigade of Chinese coolies piling lumber, and even the native interpreter claimed Canadian association—with sawmills on False Creek.—The Canadian Eye Witness.

A Clever Soldier Gone.

Among the young Toronto officers who died on the Passchendaele Ridge serving their country was Lieutenant Meyer Cohen of the Forty-second Battalion, who a few weeks earlier earned the praise of General Lipsett, his Divisional Commander, and Sir Arthur Currie, by one of the cleverest bits of patrol work done on the Lens front during the past season.

Cohen and five men under his command were out one misty night in No Man's Land, near Merecourt, when they discovered a hostile patrol of six men sheltering among some bushes. The Canadians stalked the enemy until they got within almost pointblank range and then rushed them, killing three and capturing the others. Having taken his prisoners back to the Canadian lines, Cohen decided to go out again with his patrol, reasoning that the sound of firing and the failure of the German patrol to return to the battalion by which it was sent out would be followed by investigation. His little group of men had scarcely been posted near the trap in which the first hostile patrol had been caught when three more Germans appeared. They were all captured and taken back to the Canadian trenches. Thus Lieut. Cohen and his patrol took or disposed of nine of the enemy without suffering any loss. Young officers such as he, with keen reasoning power and cool courage, do much to make the operations of the Canadian Corps the success they almost invariably are. That so many of them pass out after a brief period of service is one of the great tragedies of the war.

A Famous Walker.

There died at the hospital at Port Hope recently of bronchial asthma James Reynolds, who had gained considerable prominence for his feats of walking from Port Hope to Toronto and return in a limited time on wagers. He was in his 67th year.

On the last occasion when he attempted the round trip in 35 hours, on June 12th, 1911, he abandoned the undertaking at Newcastle, just eighteen miles remaining on the home stretch. In June, 1906, he walked from Port Hope to Toronto in a little over eighteen hours. In September, 1908, he walked from Port Hope to Toronto and return in 36 hours and 18 minutes. He had a great many successful shorter walks to his credit, and held records for sack racing.

$4,000 to Salve Conscience.

Four thousand dollars "conscience money" has been received by the Dominion Department of Finance, from St. John, N.B. The amount is in four $1,000 notes. This is an exceptionally large amount of money to be thus received at one time by the department.

Across Labrador.

There is a very large proportional area of North America yet to be mapped and charted—yet to be spied out as to possible coal deposits, gold, silver, copper, nickel, platinum, or stones, and as to whether there are subterranean oil lakes. An exploration party financed conjointly by the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, the National Geographical Society, and Alfred Marshall, of Chicago, has reached St. Johns, Newfoundland, homeward bound, and reports success in the attempt to cross Labrador from a point on the Gulf of St. Lawrence to a point on Ungava Bay. This survey has been before attempted, but not accomplished.

Labrador, when all the region lying between Hudson Bay and the Atlantic Ocean is included, is of huge dimensions. It would cut up into ten land tracts each as large as the State of Pennsylvania. Only a brief report has been received from the exploring party that travelled across from south to north, but even when the full report is in it will concern only a trail that was less than twenty miles wide in its side excursion reaches, while the region traversed is nearly a thousand miles wide, east and west, and fully a thousand miles across from the St. Lawrence to Ungava Bay.

None the less the report will be interestingly suggestive. There are rivers in Labrador—a good many of them. Forests, too, and doubtless a large variety of wild life. Enough is known of this Far North region to warrant the assumption that the climate is tragically inhospitable. And yet there may be large tracts where human life may be sustained and where there is stored wealth that will invite human enterprise.

The Paulist choir of boys, Chicago, are to go on tour to raise $100,000 for the rehabilitation of razed French and Belgian cities.

Henry Dalby, formerly of the Montreal Star, and well-known journalist, died on Wednesday morning.

The western coal situation has been relieved.

WHILE AT WAR

Women Suffer at Home

Toronto, Ont.—"I consider Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription the very best of woman's tonics. I suffered a severe nervous breakdown. I could not sleep, was weak and tired all the time. I took the 'Prescription' and just a few bottles completely built me up and relieved me of my nervous condition. It is a good medicine and I am glad to recommend it.—Mrs. Alfred Sheppard, 259 Seaton St.

Niagara Falls, Ont.—"I can safely say that 'Favorite Prescription' did me a lot of good. I at one time developed woman's trouble; my nerves were completely shattered, and I became weak. I had severe backache and pains in my side, extending down into my limbs. I doctored, but did not get relieved of my ailment and was down and out when I began taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, and it so completely cured me and restored me to health and strength that I was able to do all my own work and others besides. I do recommend 'Favorite Prescription' to weak and ailing women; they cannot get a better medicine."—Mrs. John Lockhart, 26 Terrace Ave.

Favorite Prescription is an invigorating, resterative tonic, a soothing and strengthening nervine and a positive remedy for the chronic weaknesses peculiar to women.

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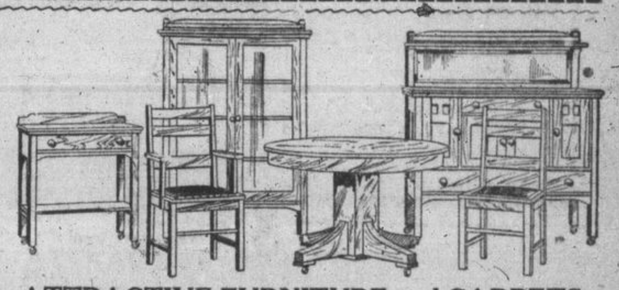

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A FINE RECORD.

50 Per Cent. of U-Boats Have Been Destroyed.

London, Jan. 3.—A semi-official submarine statement says: "During the first ten months of 1917 twice as many submarines were destroyed as during all 1916. The number destroyed in the third quarter of 1917 equals the total destroyed in 1916. The total destroyed was between 40 and 50 per cent. of all commissioned or ready for service. Over 40 per cent. of armed merchantmen, when attacked, have escaped."

It is reported that the Bolsheviki have arrested the members of the American Railway Mission at Irkutsk, Siberia.

The Italian Government has taken measures to intern all enemy subjects in Italy within four or five days.