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.

"In the hope of stating the lines that will best guide us in their right solution the following pronouncement is issued by the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic War Council.

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. The most important single measure for meeting this situation that has yet been suggested is the placement of such men on farms. Several months ago Secretary Lane recommended to Congress that returning soldiers and sailors should be given the opportunity to work at good wages upon some part of the millions upon millions of acres of arid, swamp and cut-over timber lands in order to prepare them for cultivation. President Wilson, in his annual address to Congress, endorsed the proposal. As fast as this preliminary task has been performed the men should be assisted by government loans to establish themselves as farmers, either as owners or as tenants having long-time leases.

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. If 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 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 [illegible] tration of the insurance [illegible] be such as to interfere as l[illegible] with the individual fr[illegible] worker and his family.

A New Spirit a Vita

"'Society,' said Pope Le[illegible], '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 efficiency 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 for a fair wage and that conditions cannot be substantially improved until he roots out the desire to get a maximum of 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."

THEIR POWER IS GREAT

Accomplishments of Small Savings Is Remarkable.

Ninth District War Loan Organization Shows Some Astounding Examples.

"What is the power of small savings?"

Wrestling with the problem of how best to impress upon the people of the Ninth Federal Reserve district the surpassing importance of saving of every degree, great, small and medium, the central committee of the Ninth District War Loan organization has happened on an astounding case of what small savings can do.

This is, according to A. R. Rogers, central committee chairman, that if every one of the 110,000,000 citizens of the United States should buy just one Thrift stamp a day for a little more than two years they would have amassed a saving equal to the entire national debt of the United States on January 1, 1919, or $21,000,000,000.

That means that the American people, saving 25 cents a day for 25 months, or to be exact, 764 days, would have saved a sum equal to that spent for the following great undertakings:

The American army which turned the tide of victory in the world war on the fields of France.

Additions to the navy since April, 1917, and all the costs of maintaining the navy and paying its men for 21 months.

The merchant marine of the United States so far as it had been completed to January 1.

The Panama Canal.

A number of great dams and irrigation projects.

Scores of great army camps throughout the United States.

Payment to Spain for the Philippine Islands, etc.

Scores of items connected with the great war which could not possibly be tabulated.

Actually the savings would be a third greater than the sum spent for

these undertakings because a third of the money used by the United States government was loaned to her allies. This sum, about $7,000,000,000, will be returned by the allies at maturity of the loan. Meanwhile the United States will receive interest on the whole sum.

"And the startling fact remains," said Mr. Rogers, "that 25 cents a day saving by every person in the United States would pile up this amount of money in 25 months.

"This shows the overwhelming importance of saving in even the smallest degree. I do not believe there is anyone who can read these figures and not realize that small savings are important. Too many people feel that when they buy a Thrift Stamp or even a War Savings Stamp they are in child's play, doing the thing on too small a scale, not being really efficient.

"As a matter of fact just the reverse is true. If efficiency means anything it means utilizing all the pieces, saving little odds and ends of time, of material and of money. Redeeming and saving the litle bits—this is both efficiency and economy.

"Of course the United States government is never going to call on its people to raise such sums by purchase of Thrift stamps. Part of the money can be raised more rapidly by buying Liberty Bonds. That, however, does not change the facts we are giving, that saving just 25 cents a day, every day, by every American, would pile up in a little over two years, a sum equal to the national debt on January 1."

The total sum each citizen would have to save to equal the national debt is $190.91. If only one cent more were saved the sum would be $1,100,000 greater.

—THINK IN INTEREST—SAVE—

MUST MEET EVERY DEBT

The war will not be over until the United States Government has honorably met every commitment made in order to win the war.

CARTER GLASS,
Secretary of the Treasury.

—THINK IN INTEREST—SAVE—

U. S. WAR BILLS ARE LOWER

The Government's war bills seem high but they are immeasurably lower than expected a year ago.

—THINK IN INTEREST—SAVE—

BUILD YOUR PYRAMID FROM DAY TO DAY
WEALTH
INVESTMENT THRIFT WORK
BUY - W·S·S
NINTH DISTRICT WAR LOAN ORGANIZATION

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WHAT THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL IS DOING

Sending thousands of agents throughout the country—

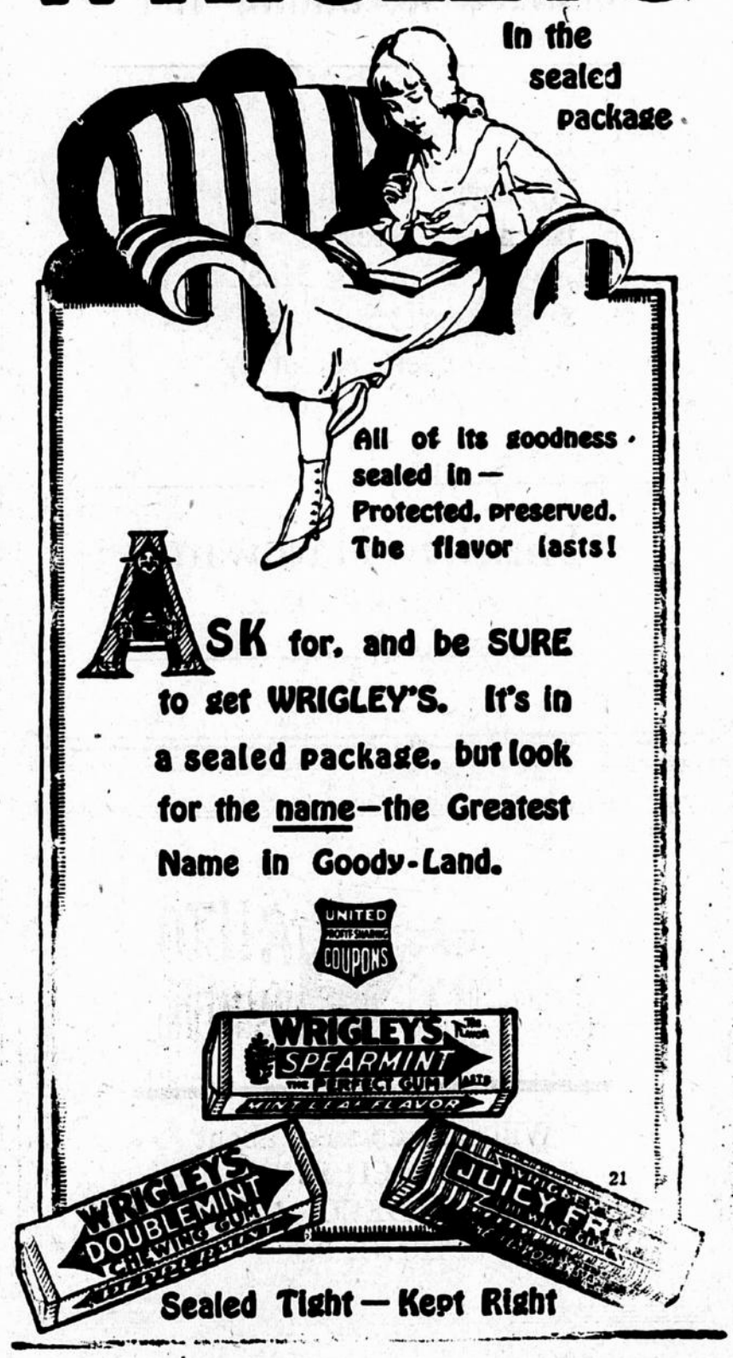
1—To help get jobs for returned fighters.
2—To give after-care to wounded fighters.
3—To train for fit work disabled fighters.

Establishing social stations throughout every city—

1—To help the families of fighters and war workers.
2—To tide over the sufferers from industrial shifts.
3—To reinstate in jobs and homes every man in uniform.
4—To build up the best community life.

Welcoming every man from France at scores of service clubs and visitors' houses.

Guiding home folks to their returning men.

Keeping the records of every one of their boys in service.

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