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DIRECTOR GOES TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Our director, Harry Martens, has been called to Washington to attend the school for CPS directors. We were all reluctant to see him go after so short a time here but we feel that we as well as he will profit greatly by his attending.

Mr. Martens left the evening of January 27 after a very busy day welcoming new assignees, and getting everything arranged for his absence. Mrs. Martens and Duane Lee accompanied him as far as Hutchinson, Kansas where they are visiting with Mrs. Marten's folks. They will be gone for at least a month.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

On Sunday, January 24, our morning worship services were led by our director, Harry Martens. The group singing was led by John Friesen. Erwin Schrag sang a solo, "God Is Near". Mr. Martens spoke on "Nicodemus Came By Night." He stressed the fact that Nicodemus couldn't wait till morning to receive salvation.

Sunday morning, January 31, the services were led by Rev. Nervig of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Colorado Springs. Franklin Harms led the group singing. Rev. Nervig spoke on "Faith!" In the evening the C.E. met. The subject of the program was "The Bible".

BIBLE CLASS

Our "Bible Class" has had two meetings. It meets every Monday night in the lounge room, Rev. Nervig teaching. The subject is the "Gospel of Luke".

Twenty-seven attended the first meeting; and, at the second meeting the number was nearly doubled. Rev. Nervig has a very interesting and educational way of presenting the Gospel to us.

STCREROCMS WELL FILLED

Despite beautiful weather, our camp is now well stocked for a long hard winter. For the second time in recent months, the various Mennonite churches near Goessel, Hesston and Hillsboro, Kansas banded together to supply us with many much appreciated commodities.

Packed into the truck of F.D. Vogt of Hillsboro were items much too numerous to mention. Included were 1600 pounds of flour, 176 dozen fresh eggs, 40 pounds of butter, 45 pounds of dressed chicken, and almost 200 pounds of pork. We will remember with thanks for a long time the fine spirit of these people who have expressed their concern for us.

While we were happily receiving the foodstuff from Kansas, Edwin J. Schmitt and Franklin Harms were in Monte Vista, Colorado replenishing our potato supply. After a few minor mishaps, they returned with a load of 2000 pounds. At average consumption, this supply of potatoes should last a month.

GOVERNMENT STAFF CHANGES

Changes are common everywhere these days, even in our Soil Conservation staff. Mr. Caton, formerly the government foreman was transferred to the District SCS office as Assistant Engineer after the first of the year. His work here in camp has been taken over by Mr. George Spaulding who is Conservation Aide.

Very recently Mr. Louis Liedman Jr. joined the government staff as Junior Soil Conservationist. As yet we are not very well acquainted with Mr. Liedman, but it is safe to assume that he and Mr. Spaulding, Mr. Brown, the Engineer, and Mr. Titman, the Project Superintendent, will have a work program laid out that will keep us busy.

IN SPITE OF DIFFERENCE

What a peaceful place a C.P.S. camp must be. No conflict--everyone agreed--all joined together in a common cause.

But such is not quite the case. In all camps there are wide differences. Differences in interpretation of the Scriptures; differences in emphasis--some on works without faith and some on faith without works; some are distinctly unorthodox with a religion solely humanitarian, or so they think. There are political extremes, there are social extremes. Pacifists though they all are, no two are just alike. Yet, even this is one of the most valuable factors in the creation of a lasting effect for C.P.S.

People by nature choose friends who are of similar thought and interest, and as a result seriously narrow their world. Such exclusiveness is not so readily possible in a camp situation. We are beginning to learn what the whole world must some day learn before we will have world peace. Individual differences are inevitable. Difference in inherited characteristics and in environment, the unexplainable difference even between brothers raised in the same home--our own experiences proves to us conclusively that men will always differ. We know too well, thus will be the case though the whole world becomes Christian.

People, groups and nations will differ, in culture, in philosophy, and in ways of acting. Lasting peace does not depend upon the elimination of all difference but in the discovery of how to reconcile our personal and national differences and in the discovery of how to live in harmony in spite of differences. It is forgiveness, and understanding--it is the way of love. --R.H.

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WORK OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

When provision was made originally for the use of men conscientiously opposed to military service, it was concluded to put them at "work of national importance under civilian direction." Selective Service has had the responsibility for designating the type of work which could properly be classified as "of national importance." At the outset, areas were selected which would be without serious question as to importance. Work with the Forestry and Soil Conservation Services has been quite generally accepted by the men in all camps.

Now in the midst of labor shortages, food rationing, and similar consequences of a war program, other activity has assumed national importance in the eyes of the government. Naturally to those not pacifists, the job of winning the war is greatest in importance. It is inevitable that some new tasks, questionable in nature, may be designated as "work of national importance." The government cannot help but be influenced by its own sense of values. Already there is occasional conflict and that condition will continue.

Many of the men in C.P.S., and we presume the men who sponsored the program, feel that "importance" means of lasting importance. That it means something which would be important both in time of war or peace. Such a view applies to Forestry, Soil Conservation, to Hospitals, and Foreign Relief Work. But that view is much harder to apply to need which is solely the result of the war effort; when the need isn't sufficient to justify deferring men from the army; when the need is merely to sustain the government in the midst of its war manpower problems; when the effects of the work are without lasting quality.

This will be a serious concern for men in camp in numerous decisions in the remaining months. Though the government is charged with the responsibility of designating officially what is "work of national importance", each man has the responsibility of evaluating the work for himself and acting in accordance with his own conscience. --R.H.



An expedition of dark-faced adventurers pushed broad brimmed hats over their oily black hair and left Old Mexico in search for new country.

It was a gay expedition, I imagine, white teeth flashing as they sang and talked of the spoils to be theirs at the foot of the Spanish Peaks. Thin red blood coursed through these hardy pioneers. It made their faces glow. It made life real. And red blood made dusty paths thicken and turn crimson. Hot blood was spilled because of jealousy, and the leader of the group was murdered by the one second in command.

There were priests, staunch and staid, standing off a little from the other members. It was not right they said to follow their new leader, now a murderer. So they stayed behind, and were influential enough to get about half of the group to remain.

There were some though who were more calloused and who followed on in a grinding trek across the country. They were not to be cheated out of the wealth of this new ground. Fearless they were, and carefree. So were the Indians. Brave and dauntless they were too. But the Indians massacred them all!

There was no doubt about it. Their souls would be lost in Purgatory, for there were no priests to pray for them. The priests had all remained behind, afraid to follow a murderer. The men were massacred and their souls were

lost. The expedition perished.

The river that flows in this land of the massacre was named after these men: the river of the Souls Lost in Purgatory, or the Purgatoire River.

To farmers in this district or the man in the street, the name Purgatoire has distintegrated into Picket-Wire. The river, though, remains a real "Purgatory" river, terrible in its ruthlessness at flood time, unrelenting in its destruction. It is three times as steep as the Mississippi river. This river has been labeled one of the three worst rivers in the United States.

Tales are many of the heads of water that have come down from the canyons above. Bridges are considered sort of temporary necessities. Of course they will go out when a big rain comes. Crops were ruined all along the valley last year and farmers tried to make the best of cleaning up their ruined fields. It was hard to loose a crop needed so badly. Something must be done to control this river, to put in dams for irrigating that would not wash out. Thousands of acres will receive no water unless help is given. And no water means hungry people.....

Here we are working--on the river of the Souls Lost in Purgatoire. Here is our challenge to help save this land. This is a new expedition, a new field for pioneers.

HOSPITAL PROJECT NEWS

Mental

WORD FROM DENVER HOSPITAL

"January 15th and Denver at last. It was a thrill to board the Colorado Eagle for the 70 mile journey. Everyone of us was looking forward eagerly to opening our new project in connection with the Psychopathic Hospital at Colorado General.

"The hospital does not have facilities for housing employees; consequently the ten of us have been placed in pairs in single rooms in five different homes within the neighboring community. The rooms are comfortable, and much appreciated for the privacy and cleanliness not possible in camp dormitories. Our landlords are grand people to live with, showing a sincere interest in our welfare.

"Our second day was spent in instruction. There is much to learn but at first it will be mostly a matter of mastering routine duties. The third day saw us on the job. Four men work from 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., three from 2:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M., and the other three from 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. The work includes taking temperatures, feeding and dressing and other wise taking care of incompetent patients, helping with some of the treatments, making beds, subduing some of the disturbed patients, taking walks with the convalescing patients, and on and on.

"Our relations with the hospital staff have been fine. We have been well received with an expression of sincere appreciation for our help. We have heard that some of the pre-conceived notions concerning C.O.s have begun to change and that some of those who questioned the desirability of having us in this work are modifying their opinions. Our relations with the patients have also been good. It gives a person much satisfaction to see how appreciative the patients are when small courtesies are shown them. It is said that no matter how ill a patient may be, he soon can tell who treats him with kindness.

"Since coming here we realize how

General

EXERPTS OF LETTER FROM DUKE HOSPITAL

"I can tell you with assurance that I will like it here. The work is fascinating and there are opportunities for an endless number of desirable things here. There are seventeen CPS men here now and three more are coming. We are divided into two units, one for the Neuro-Psychiatric Ward and one for the Operation Rooms of the hospital. I am in the latter one.

"Our duties are more exacting than tedious or menial. We are working 8 hour days, six days a week, and our duties are not endless although they seem to be so when one attempts to put them on paper.

"Briefly, we call for patients in the wards, bring them to the operating room designated, fix them up on the operating table in the position and manner required for the particular operation, be on call in the operating room during the operation, return the patient to the ward, clean the room for the next operation, etc.

"We are training under old attendants now, and will be expected to take over completely in a couple of weeks. The only information we receive is the name of the operation, the name of the patient, his location in the hospital, and the time to call for him. From this we are expected to know how to set up the patient on the operating table with all the necessary gadgets.

"We wear a regular intern's uniform (distinguished by a green diamond on the sleeve) with white skull caps and masks--and helmets and goggles when the operation is under ultra violet rays as most of them are. The operations run from brain operations to gory ones like collapsing a lung where three ribs are removed through a long incision. I have been on the wards only two days and have seen 15 to 20 such operations....."

(Letter from Lowell Hershberger to
CPS #28, Medaryville, Indiana)

necessary this work is, and how much people can suffer unnecessarily when the work is neglected. We believe this is truly of national importance.

CANADIAN C.O.s
(From The Reporter)

There are now about 1,000 conscientious objectors in Canadian alternative service work camps. All camps, about 25 in number, are government operated and the men receive 50 cents a day in addition to board and housing. The staffs, foremen, cooks, etc., are all government appointed.

Mennonites are in the majority, but many other denominations are represented. Religiously they have the privilege of having a Spiritual Adviser in the camps and are able to carry out any program that they desire.

Camps fall generally into four different classifications. One, at Shalk River, Ontario, is working with a government forestry experiment station. Another, Camp Montreal, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, is working on unfinished sections of the trans-Canada Highway, Three more near Banff, Alberta are located in national parks and are engaged largely in cutting down and burning insect-infested white pines.

About 20 other camps are in British Columbia chiefly as forest fire fighters. In off seasons they plant trees, fell snags, build telephone lines and improve roads.

OUR MEN BELIEVE--

The Question: "Considering both out supporting constituency and public relations, do you think that men in C.P.S. should be paid?"

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Otto N. Pauls says: "No"

"Civilian Public Service men, if accepting payment from the government, might endanger their standing of separation from war efforts, and obligate themselves to participate in direct war work. As long as conscientious objectors are not paid by the government, they can more easily remain apart from military and war activities

to which they are conscientiously opposed.

"Payment by administrative church seems more reasonable, being a question of budgets, rather than of obligations to the government, or consideration for public relations."

Adolph Duerksen says: "No"

"Going to a Civilian Public Service camp was definitely a question of whether to obey God or the government. At the time of making the choice, we knew that we would serve without pay; therefore, we should not ask for pay now. Also in the eyes of those who question our stand, this fact of serving without pay seems to increase partially their faith in our sincerity!"

AND STILL THEY COME

Once upon a time we knew everyone in camp by name. We will again, but it is not an easy matter anymore. In recent months men have been moving to new projects, however it is not long that beds are left empty here.

Nineteen men have been received into our fellowship since January 19. The largest group, 16 in number, arrived on January 20.

Bocker, Galen L.....Galva, Kansas
Boese, Menno.....Galva, Kansas
Classen, Edward R.C.....Meade, Kansas
Classen, George L.....Meade, Kansas
Ediger, Frank J.....Hillsboro, Kansas
Ens, Gerhard K.....Hillsboro, Kansas
Grundman, Milton...Valley Center, Kan.
Hiebert, Otto.....Hillsboro, Kansas
Isaac, Edward F.....Durham, Kansas
Koehn, Walter H.....Galva, Kansas
Mullett, Enos E.....Choteau, Oklahoma
Omo, Clarence R.....Pratt, Kansas
Owens, Walter H.....Oklahoma City, Okla.
Reimer, John K.....Meade, Kansas
Shetter, Leroy C.....Abilene, Kansas
Smith, Johnny L.....Ringwood, Oklahoma
Unruh, Harvey.....Galva, Kansas
Voth, Paul D.....Newton, Kansas
Warkentin, Orlando...Hillsboro, Kansas

Section 562 P.L. & R.

From:

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"Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning."

--Cardinal Newman



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