

MOTT DISCUSSES PERSONNEL OF 'Y' WORKERS ABROAD

(By John L. Mott, director general of the Y. M. C. A. work.) (Continued from Tuesday.)

Question No. 5
Is it true that ministers of religion in the service of Y. M. C. A. overseas refused to attend the material wants of soldiers until these soldiers had answered questions as to their spiritual attitude or condition?

I personally have never heard of such a case. Moreover, I have made diligent inquiry of my associates and of others who have inspected the Y. M. C. A. work overseas and they can recall no case of this kind which has been brought to their attention. I would add that the management of our organization stand ready to recall any one of its workers of whom it might be proved that he had followed such a course.

Question No. 6
Is it true that the typical attitude of the Y. M. C. A. workers has been that of holier-than-thou persons?

This question is of special interest because we have recently been taken to task for the very opposite of what is implied in this question. The charge has been earnestly pressed by not a few that the Y. M. C. A. has been untrue to its religious tradition and has not sufficiently set forth the claims of religion upon the soldiers. When an organization or an individual is criticized with equal strength by critics holding conflicting and directly opposing views, one comes to the conclusion that after all they must be holding a fairly straight course between extremes.

Question No. 7
Is it true that some of the overseas secretaries have been brusque and even impatient in their dealings with the soldiers?

Considering the fact that many Y. M. C. A. workers continued at their posts for eighteen hours at a stretch, sometimes without meals, it would be but natural that a few might have lost their self-control and have manifested a wrong disposition; but we are glad to believe, in the light of the great mass of testimony, that this has not been the characteristic attitude of the vast majority of the workers. I have heard the complaint made by a few soldiers that certain of the Y. M. C. A. workers have been prone to pay more attention to the officers than to the enlisted men and that they have at times treated men who have come into the canteens in an unsympathetic and inhospitable manner. Wherever our supervisory secretaries have learned of these complaints, they have acted promptly, and to my knowledge, where the charges have been substantiated have reprimanded the workers concerned and in a few cases where this has not been sufficient the workers were recalled and sent home.

Question No. 8
Is it true that the Y. M. C. A. has given so little thought to its selection of men for overseas service that it has sent men utterly unfit for the tasks they were called upon to perform and also that it has sent men whose only conception of their mission was that of a junkie?

It is not true in any sense that the Y. M. C. A. has given little thought to its selection of men for overseas service. It must be remembered that when the Y. M. C. A. began erecting the structure upon which to build its great work, it faced the condition where the young and physically fit men would necessarily look to the army and navy. The Y. M. C. A. had the choice of the physically unfit and the men beyond the draft age. It made the best possible selections from the available material. It erred in some instances. It was impossible for it to do otherwise. The men were needed at once. But where the Y. M. C. A. detected any error or mistakes of judgment, it recalled the men it had selected. One instance of this shows that a man never even set his foot in France. The decision to recall him was made before his transport had tied up at the pier. Every possible effort was made to prevent the enrollment of men whose only conception of their mission was that of a junkie. In this connection it will be interesting to note that the Y. M. C. A. have already sent overseas over seven thousand men, of whom fully five thousand are still there at work. When this large number is borne in mind, it should not be surprising that here and there, under the trying experiences of the work, there should be found men who are disqualified. It is our fixed practice to recall all such cases.

Question No. 9
We men chosen for the Y. M. C. A. work who were of draft age and fit for army service?

During the first months of the war, some men who were physically fit but had not yet been called for service were sent to France. Within a few months most of these men had volunteered for military service. The comparatively small number who remained as late as August of the present calendar year (practically all divinity students and thereby exempted) were then notified that they must enlist or leave the service of the Y. M. C. A.

Question No. 10
Is it true that the Y. M. C. A. has caused scores of men to be taken from gainful occupations and after promising them overseas service, turned them back without occupations?

It is true that the Y. M. C. A. called

ed scores of men from gainful occupations and after promising overseas service, turned them back without occupations. So did the government of the United States and other civilian organizations. And where the Y. M. C. A. has called scores, the army has called thousands to give up their gainful occupations. The Y. M. C. A. has expended its energy in bringing men to New York City to embark for overseas service when the war came to an end; and it was still expected by the Y. M. C. A. that those men who had been called from gainful occupations would serve the troops in France. The war department indicated its strong preference that men should not be sent from this side but wherever possible should be taken from the army overseas. It has recently announced that it will release officers and enlisted men who are especially qualified to assist in the educational program and other activities of the organization. This will mean that soldiers in France can enter Y. M. C. A. service immediately. Of course, it involves a large saving in transportation and affects an embarrassment to those men who were ready for overseas service. But they are in exactly the same position as officers and enlisted men discharged because the period of emergency, or the need for their services, no longer exist. It is unfortunate and the sympathy of the Y. M. C. A. goes out to these men; but they are just as much casualties of war as if they had been discharged from the enlisted army. Their plight is one for which the Y. M. C. A. is in no way responsible, altho it wishes to do all in its power to see that these men thru no fault of their own are not put in a false or unfavorable light before their acquaintances.

Question No. 11
Is it true that the Y. M. C. A. workers overseas did not go to the front lines but persistently dodged dangers?

Only today Mr. John Sherman Hoyt, the vice-chairman of the national war work council of the Y. M. C. A., who was with the troops in the St. Mihiel drive and in the Argonne, stated to me that in the Argonne fight there were seven hundred Y. M. C. A. secretaries, fifty of whom were women canteen workers, attached to the different fighting units, with which they remained in the danger zone and frequently under shell fire, during the entire offensive. The best answer to the question, however, is that since the Y. M. C. A. went overseas to serve the American Expeditionary Forces, nine of its workers have been killed by shell fire while on duty, twenty-nine were seriously gassed or wounded. In addition to this, thirty-one have died in the service, chiefly as a result of exposure and overwork. It will be of interest to add that ten have been cited for bravery or decorated.

Question No. 12
What is the Y. M. C. A. going to do with the \$100,000,000 or more which constituted its pro rata share of the fund subscribed in the recent United War Work Campaign?

The national war work council held its meeting only yesterday for the purpose of revising its budget in the light of the requirements of the period of demobilization. This is to be submitted to the war department within a few days, and an official statement will be issued covering this point to the entire satisfaction of the millions of generous and sacrificial givers of America.

ALFONSO RESENTS ENMITY SHOWN BY ALLIED NATIONS

PARIS, Feb. 21.—The role of the neutrals is at present far from an easy one, said King Alfonso of Spain in an interview which he gave Albert Londres of the Petit Journal recently and published today by that newspaper. "It seems to me," continued the king, "that the victorious countries are more inclined to remember the actions they consider unfriendly than the help they had from us, but that is human."

"With what are we in Spain reproached? We are made responsible for the propaganda that a belligerent nation carried on here, but the constitutional guarantees were not suspended. There were people of all nationalities here and I fail to see how Spain could be made to answer for acts to which she was not a party."

Speaking of the Franco-Spanish relations during the war, King Alfonso said: "If France attributed good intentions to me they were also the intentions of my people. One is the reflection of the other. I am the king, certainly, but the most constitutional of kings. Of all the kings still standing in Europe, I am of the latest creation. The English family is of the seventeenth century, and the Belgian of 1832. I spring from a monarchial revolution and my new contract with the people is younger than the republics. I am of a date scarcely 42 years back. The greatest liberty reigns in the kingdom under this absolutely-free regime and the king and the people are one."

LEONARD TO BOX RITCHIE TONIGHT

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 21.—That Benny Leonard, lightweight champion of the world from New York, figures he will have a regular fight on his hands when he meets Willie Ritchie of San Francisco here tonight in a scheduled four-round bout, as indicated by the statement made by the title-holder that he had trained as hard for tonight's event as for any important match in the past. Leonard and Ritchie have boxed in the past against each other. That was when Ritchie was the world's champion and Leonard an unknown who played the role of sparring partner.

As the men will enter the ring at catch weights, no official decision as to the result will be rendered by Referee Jim Griffin, so there will be no passing of the title in the event that Ritchie should receive the popular or "newspaper" verdict as the victor. Leonard is expected to weigh about 135 pounds while Ritchie will be from five to seven pounds heavier. The recognized lightweight poundage is 125 or under.

DUTCH HUMBLE GERMAN SLAYER OF EDITH CAVELL

THE HAGUE.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Baron Von der Lancken, formerly German civil governor of Belgium, sought refuge in Holland when the Germans retreated from Belgium. Von der Lancken was the man to whom the American Minister, Brand Whitlock, delivered his vain appeal to spare the life of Edith Cavell, the English nurse who was executed by the Germans in October, 1915, for aiding the British, French and Belgian soldiers to escape from Belgium. Von der Lancken then told Hugh Gibson, secretary of the American legation, that the sentence imposed by the military governor on Miss Cavell was final and that the civil governor could not overrule it.

When Von der Lancken arrived here he went to the German legation, but in order to obtain food cards, he had to apply to the police station where he failed miserably in his efforts to obtain preferential treatment as a "distinguished visitor." A chance caller there found him in line with a group of unwashed refugees, his well-groomed figure out of keeping with his surroundings. He was compelled to stand in line for two hours before his wants were attended to.

To one who remembers the time when to get a word from Von der Lancken in Brussels it was necessary to give two days' notice, after which one had to struggle through a body-guard of haughty suspicious underlings, the spectacle of this exquisite specimen of Prussian underdom waiting his turn in the file amid the grimy proletariat afforded an excellent illustration of "the times that are changed."

GERMAN CAPITALISTS GIVE BONDS FOR FOOD

BASEL, Feb. 21.—As a result of Mathias Erberger's appeal to capitalists for money to pay for food-stuffs to be bought from the entente powers, a number of persons have placed all their foreign securities at the disposal of the government, according to a Weimar dispatch to the General Anzeiger of Frankfurt.

JAPANESE SEEK RACIAL EQUALITY INNATIONS' LEAGUE

TOKIO, Feb. 21.—(By the Associated Press.)—In replying to an interpellation in the diet today Premier Hara said there was no reason why China should demand the return of Tsing-Tap.

To another interpellator the premier said that the race problem would never escape the utmost attention of the government.

With reference to Premier Hara's statement regarding the race problem, it may be recalled that in a Paris dispatch February 14 reporting the plenary session of the peace conference at which the covenant of the proposed League of Nations was read by President Wilson it was said that Baron Makino of Japan, after speaking in approval of the high purposes of the league added that a proposal would be submitted later by Japan which it was hoped would receive favorable attention. The dispatch added that he did not make known the nature of this proposal, but that it was supposed to refer to an amendment abolishing racial distinctions in international affairs.

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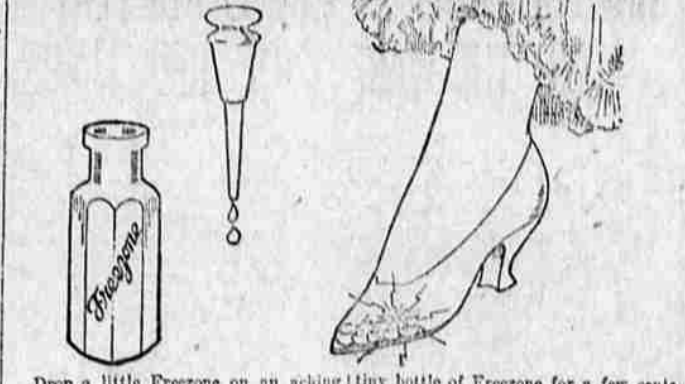
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(Signed) W. R. JOHNSON, Witnesses:

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- S. B. Holmes, Eagle Point
- Wm. Lewis, Eagle Point
- W. L. Childreth, Eagle Point
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