

St. Dunstan's Red and White

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Editorials

CHRISTMAS

Once again the festive season rolls around bringing with it happy faces and the old familiar greetings. Old friends are once again reunited in the exchanging of gifts and salutations. A true Christian spirit pervades the air, a spirit of charity and love of fellowmen. Christmas brings back to us fond memories of childhood days, when we anxiously awaited the coming of good St. Nick. Indeed,

Christmas seems, somehow, to be a season especially dedicated to children, and rightly so for was not its founder a little child? Nevertheless, it is also a season of great rejoicing, for the old as well as for the young.

Yet in all this insuppressible air of happiness there is a note of sadness, for even as we look at the toys on the shelves and in the brightly decorated windows,—toy soldiers in khaki or in Air Force blue, miniature tanks—we are reminded of the terrible conflict raging in Europe. We wonder what Christmas will bring to children in these countries. To many it will be a day of sorrow rather than of rejoicing.

How different is the scene in Europe from that first Christmas morn when angels sang, "Peace on earth to men of good will". But the Prince of Peace is still with us, ready to come to the assistance of man as soon as they turn to Him for help. We must not lose faith in Him, Whose birth we celebrate; for he has promised always to remain with us. The fact that men have not remained with Him is responsible for the present turmoil in which the world finds itself.

We, in this country, have much to be thankful for during this season of rejoicing. Let us not, in our festivities, forget the real significance of Christmas, that we are celebrating the feast of the coming of the Messiah for whom the world looked so long. As we sit around our fireside let us not forget to say a prayer for those who have no longer a fireside, and also for our soldiers, for our enemies, and, above all, for peace.

DEMOCRACY

Although, during the past few years and especially since the outbreak of the war, democracy has been widely discussed in all classes of society, among the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned. How few there are who really know in what exactly democracy consists. It is true that democracy is difficult to define, nevertheless, we know its chief characteristics.

The essence of democracy consists in the fact that the state is governed by the will of the majority of the individuals of which the state is composed. The will of the majority of the citizens is expressed through the representatives, chosen by popular vote on election day, who form the governing body of the state. But a citizen's exercise of his

right to vote for whatever candidate he thinks will best manage the affairs of state is only a small part of democracy. Democracy might almost be called a way of life. It must enter into the daily lives of citizens in that they assume their responsibilities with the same spirit with which they accept their privileges. Roger W. Holmes in his essay on *Citizenship*, published in the November issue of *The Atlantic*, clearly expresses this idea when he says, "Two things are vital to democracy: that every man grant to every other the rights he claims for himself, and that every man accept the obligations he expects others to exercise. A good citizen concerns himself with the privileges of others and the responsibilities of himself."

Citizens, however, seldom look at democracy in this respect. They regard it only in respect to their privileges; if the other fellow's rights are trampled upon, they look on and say "Oh well, its none of my business". They fail to see that in working for others they are working for themselves. Democracy is inseparable from the Christian principle of charity, "Do unto others as you would have them do to you." Disregard of this principle has led to marked individualism in our economic, political and social life, with the majority of men each seeking to further his own interests no matter in what way it affects his fellowman. Democracy founded on such a concept of society cannot function properly.

But the fact that democracy is not functioning properly does not mean that it must be replaced by any substitute no matter how untried. There are some who think of democracy as an age-worn institution, dating from the time of the ancient Greeks, which has served its purpose, but which should now be replaced by something more modern. The Athenians, no doubt, had a certain form of democracy, but in the modern sense of the term democracy is a comparatively recent development, which acquired real significance only after the industrial and social revolutions. It has not yet been fully developed.

If democracy fails it will not be on account of Naziism, Communism, or Facism, but it will be because of internal corruption of our present society. In order that democracy survive, there must be a change in the life of the individual. He must be trained to shoulder his responsibilities as a citizen and to follow Christian principles in his dealings with his fellow citizens. Possibly, the present conflict may teach democratic peoples the value of self-sacrifice and how to live a truly democratic life.

C. O. T. C.

After the outbreak of the second world war the Department of National Defence, foreseeing the need for efficient army officers, decided to establish Officers' Training Corps in the universities throughout the Dominion. The purpose of this corps is to turn out men trained to fill the position of second lieutenant. The scheme proved very successful in many universities last year and it was continued in those and extended to include more universities this year.

This year a contingent of the Canadian Officers' Training Corps was organized at St. Dunstan's. The organization of the contingent was brought about mainly through the efforts of the Rector, Right Reverend J. A. Murphy. Foreseeing that many students may enlist in the army or be called up for army service after graduation, he had the corps organized to give them every opportunity of becoming capable army officers.

The corps is organized as a company of three platoons. The university students of St. Dunstan's form Platoons No. 1 and No. 2, while senior students of Prince of Wales College together with university graduates living in Charlottetown form Platoon No. 3. Reverend George MacDonald of the College staff has been appointed Company Commander, and Somerled Trainor, also of the College staff, has recently been promoted to Second-in-Command. Walter McGrath, Ronald J. MacDonald, and J. A. Haslam are Commanders of Platoons Nos. 1, 2, and 3 respectively. The non-commissioned officers have also been selected.

The contingent is favoured with two very capable instructors, Major D. F. Tierney and Sgt. J. C. Emslie. It is readily admitted by those students taking C.O.T.C. that each of them knows what he is doing. Major Tierney does the lecturing and Sgt. Emslie puts the platoons through their paces on the parade grounds. Platoons 1 and 2 drill in the College rink and Platoon 3 at the drill shed in Charlottetown.

There is also another division of the corps. It is divided into two groups, A, which includes those who will finish the course this year, and B, which includes those who will finish the course next year. All the students in Senior year at St. Dunstan's and those university graduates in Platoon 3 are included in group A while all the rest come in under B group.

This division is in connection with the lectures. Since some must complete the course this year while others have two years in which to complete it, it is necessary that the first group receive more lecturing than the second. Accordingly Group A has three lectures a week, while Group B has only one.

In conclusion it may be said that both officers and men take the greatest interest in the corps. This interest of the students is evidenced by the attention which they pay during lectures and by the excellent manner in which they can go through drill on parade. In fact it is almost assured that when the final test comes after camp next summer many will pass with honours.



Only imagine a man acting for one single day on the supposition that all his neighbors believe all that they profess, and act up to all that they believe!

—Macaulay.

To be instructed in the arts softens the manners and makes men gentle.