APR 5 - 1943 HAMILTON SPECTATOR

REAL PRESSURE OF WAR COMING FOR CANADIANS

Greater Denials Required, Principal Protestant Chaplain Says

FACE SERIOUS JOB

When the Allied invasion takes place "in a very short time" the Canadian army will have a prominent part, and as mounting casualty lists are received Canadians will feel the real pressure of war, Brig. G. A. Wells, C.M.G., principal Protestant chaplain of the Canadian Forces, told a capacity congregation in James Street Baptist Church Sunday morning. Most Canadians had not yet sacrificed anything, for they had more money to spend on luxury and pleasure than ever before; the nation was enjoying a period of prosperity unequalled in its history; people were well clothed and nourished and "amused to death," and they were not giving anything when they loaned their money to the Government at three per cent. interest, declared Brigadier Wells. Persons who patronized card parties and similar functions to aid the war effort were sacrificing nothing, he added, and stern warning was given of the dark days ahead.

Scoring the entertainment features for those "in uniform and out," Brigadier Wells said people were "amused to death," and suggested there would be an upheaval if minds are fed much longer on "that sort of stuff."

Sacrifice Involved

"We will begin to feel this war a little bit when the casualty lists come," said the speaker. "The casualty list of the air force is growing, and our hearts go out in sympathy to those who mourn. Many brave lives were given at Hong Kong and Dieppe, but this is nothing compared to what is to happen in a short time, a very short time.

"When an invasion takes place the Canadian army will be prominent, and the first steps will be costly ones. There is not the slightest doubt in my mind that our men will prove worthy of the best traditions of the past. When these casualty lists are received then we will feel the pressure of war. Let us be ready for it; let us prepare for the sacrifice and accept it without complaint, with heads up and chins up. We must be ready to assume total responsibility."

Commenting on "war effort" as it appealed to certain individuals, Brigadier Wells told of visiting a card party where a brightly-painted sign was prominently displayed bearing the words: "We are all in the front line now." "The most comfortable front line I have ever seen," he observed, adding that it was a tragedy to think that such effort involved sacrifice. He went on to tell of what the people of bombed England had endured, the complete rationing they had accepted cheerfully and the real sacrifices they were making to save the world.

Must Win War First

Brigadier Wells was critical of those who were too greatly concerned about the world of the future and emphasized that the important issue now was the winning of the war.

"I am convinced that there is one thing to do now and one thing only and that is to win the war," he continued. "You must catch the rabbit before you can skin it and there's a lot of catching to do yet." In the new world after the war the same loyalty, devotion to duty and willingness to sacrifice would be needed and the present younger generation in its time would just begin to get rid of some of the effects of war, he said. Their children and their children's children after them would still be paying for the war.

Promises of better things in post-war days would act as a boomerang when the struggle ended to those responsible for them, predicted Brigadier Wells, who said people should be inspired by service and duty, not by hope of what they might get in the future. Don't serve expecting something in return; "we are fighting to save our skins," he declared.

Brigadier Wells was the preacher at the morning service in Christ's Church Cathedral Sunday and another large congregation heard his inspiring message.

Church Will Serve

There were three marks of a good soldier, remarked Brigadier Wells—loyalty, devotion to duty and willingness to sacrifice. Never in the history of the British Empire was there greater reason to thank God for the man occupying the highest office in the British Empire than to-day. God had raised him up, said the speaker in reference to the King. In a democracy the individual felt that he had certain rights, which was so, but individual rights must be forgotten at times and the individual work for the greatest good of the greatest number. In war many men had to be sacrificed so others could carry on and as it was the achievement of the whole that was important the country should be prepared for that sort of devotion to-day. There should be the same loyalty to Christ, for never was there a time when civilization needed the Christian church more; for young and old to cling to the foundation and principles of Christian ethics and traditions of the Christian church.

Brigadier Wells said it had been suggested that in this day when highly-trained men were so necessary to their country's effort that captains should not go down at sea on the bridge of their ships, observing the traditions of the past. "I disagree with them," he said. "I would be sorry to see a change; I don't believe there can be. It is this spirit which made the navy great. As long as there are men who will sacrifice their lives by going down with their ships we shall never lack brave men. It is the thing that makes the navy great; that makes the army invincible."

Bishop Wells addressed members of the McMaster University Canadian Officers' Training Corps, the University Air Training Corps of McMaster, and the Canadian Red Cross Corps of the university. The groups paraded to and from the church, their smart appearance impressing several hundred Hamiltonians along the route of march. Prof. C. H. Stearn, of McMaster University, chaplain, assisted in the service, which was conducted by the Rev. Dr. P. P. W. Ziemann, minister of James Street Baptist Church.

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WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
ARMY
CHAPLAINS

Anglican