

# St. Dunstan's Red and White

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## Editorials

### Christmas

Over nineteen hundred years ago in the quiet little village of Bethlehem the greatest and most dramatic event in the world's history took place—the birth of Christ, the Son of God. Foretold by the prophets centuries before its realization, heralded by the Magi at the time of the event, and commemorated by Christians ever since, the birth of Christ was surely a momentous occasion in the history of mankind, and its anniversary should be for us a time of spiritual joy and thanksgiving.

The celebration of Christma is sometimes attended by manifestations of fellowships and joy which are not



wholly in keeping with the true spirit of Christmas. We as students should try to realize the significance of the day we celebrate, and return thanks to God for His greatest gift to mankind, Jesus Christ.

This year the Feast of Christmas will find a much troubled and disillusioned world. After the lapse of a few short years of peace we find some of the mightiest nations of the world again at war. No longer is the ideal, "Peace on earth to men of good will," recognised by nations. The spirit of mutual hatred and jealousy is substituted for one of good will and brotherhood. Let us hope and pray that this anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace may bring the world back to a realization of the futility of war and the value of permanent peace and prosperity.

The editors of Red and White express to all those connected with this publication their sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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#### Leadership Courses

A Course in Leadership, which is part of the Youth Training Program, sponsored by the Dominion and Provincial governments, has recently been completed at St. Dunstan's. This was the first of its kind to be held in this Province, and, although it lasted only four weeks, much was accomplished.

There is a great necessity for leaders to arouse a spirit of co-operation and of individual initiative in our rural communities. When we consider the problems caused by unemployment, and the decline of the farming and fishing industries during the recent years of depression, we are prone to place too much or all the blame on capitalism. Might not considerable blame be attached to the lack of initiative found among many farmers and fishermen, who adopt the attitude that what was good enough for our and grandfathers is good enough for us? They are content to follow year after year the same old methods of farming, of buying and selling, which might have been effective forty years ago but which are no longer satisfactory. Probably this attitude is partly explained by our geographic situation. People of an island, sociologists tell us, are, as a rule, conservative and insular in their outlook. They are slow in adopting new ideas and are often opposed to innovations of any kind.



During the past number of years much progress has been made in organizing Credit Unions, Fishermen's Unions and Study Clubs. The majority of farmers and fishermen, however, are still unorganized to any extent, while practically all other fields of economic activity are highly organized. How can the individual farmer or fisherman hope to deal advantageously with impersonal corporations, which have no sympathy or scruples of conscience, and whose sole aim is the enrichment of their members and not the welfare of society as a whole? The answer is for the farmers and fishermen to form associations such as Credit Unions, and Buying and Selling Clubs. In this way they should be able to show a united front in dealing with other economic organizations. Farmers and fishermen must solve their own difficulties, and that is why a course such as the one held at St. Dunstan's is so important.

The program followed was designed to help leaders to introduce a new attitude and spirit of leadership in the communities. Much valuable training in the organization and management of Credit Unions was given. Public speaking was stressed and practised. Lectures were given on education, use of libraries, public health, co-operation and many other things pertaining to community life. Throughout the course the need was stressed for a return to Christian principles and justice in the dealings of men with one another.

Although this course was of short duration many who attended went home with a renewed enthusiasm, and an interest in fields of activity, to which, perhaps, they had previously given but little thought. It seems a pity that such an excellent course is not open to our regular students; for will they not be looked upon as leaders in their communities? There are so many college graduates today, that all cannot hope to find a place in the professional world. Many must return to farming or other rural occupations. Their college education however will be of little benefit to others unless they have developed some qualities of leadership. Why, then, should not some of the time spent on other subjects be devoted to classes in leadership?

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### The War

At least one question was settled for Canadians at the outset of the present war, that of the extent to which



the people of Canada would join the colors to assist the Mother Country in the event of the latter's participation in a European War. Canadians, again given an opportunity to show their loyalty to Great Britain and their concern for the preservation of civilization, have given evidence of co-operation beyond the highest expectation. In their zeal for national unity they have forgotten political, racial and religious differences in order to present a consolidated effort against the enemies of peace.

The cause of the present conflict, the motives of the different national leaders and the ideals of the warring nations will probably be fully realized only after the war is brought to a finish. Peace, if and when it comes, must be based upon principles of justice and charity among all men if it is to be an enduring one. Another Versailles treaty will eventually spell the same disaster for Europe and perhaps the whole world.



Virtue alone can procure that independence which is the end of human wishes.

—*Petrarch.*

Avoid extremes and shun the fault of such who still are pleased too little or too much.

—*Alexander Pope.*

