

# St. Dunstan's Red and White

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## Editorials

### CHRISTMAS

Christmas is once again just around the corner. The air has had a frosty bite since the first snowfall, students



burn the midnight oil, and radio programs feature Christmas Carols. The happiest season of the year is at hand.

Christmas is a time of joy. And it is rightly so. It is the anniversary of that starlight night centuries ago on which the God-man breathed His first breath. In his boundless Mercy God sent His Own Divine Son to redeem man. Shepherds were the only adorers on that first Christmas Night.

Once again on this anniversary the Prince of Peace brings happiness to the people of a war-torn world. Not while shepherds watch their flocks does he come, but while soldiers man their guns and death and destruction reign supreme. But He brings the same joy to the hearts of the people as He brought to the shepherds who adored Him.

At Christmas time we should praise and thank God. We must not offend Him by taking advantage of the occasion to satisfy sensual appetites. This does not make a happy Christmas, nor a merry Christmas. Let us then make our Christmas a happy one, thanking God for His deliverance of Mankind from the bondage of Satan and beseeching Him to deliver us now from the bondage of war.

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#### UNITY: AUSTERITY

The strength of a giant cable comes from the combined strength of millions of little strands that are united in a common purpose. Alone, these strands are weak, but when they support and help each other they can bear a tremendous strain, for they all pull together.

That is what is needed in Canada; the pull together. That is what will give us strength to make our war effort fully effective, and courage to face and conquer post-war problems. We must all pull together for one common purpose—a greater war-effort and a Better Canada.



We, the citizens of Canada, are the strands that make up the national cable. We, as individuals, have little strength by ourselves but, when we pull together, we have strength far beyond our comprehension. We are all interdependent and must work together. Anything that blocks co-operation and united effort must be removed. We must each, as individuals, adapt ourselves to those around us, realizing that our neighbors, too, have a part to play, and that it is only by unity that results will be obtained.

Race, creed, political opinions and personal interests must be subordinated to the national interest. All have parts to play. There is room for all. But all must have a common purpose and must pull one way, so that the cable of national resolve shall be strong and flawless to bear the strain that the coming years will bring.

Let us forget our differences and disagreements; let us put aside sectionalism, class and self-interest. Let us concentrate upon those many things we have in common and gird on the armour of determination to go forward in war and peace as a united nation seeking to make Democracy a living vital thing.

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The immediate, pressing need is to increase our war effort. To do this we must deflect men, money and machines from peace-time production to the output of war materials. Every man, every dollar and every machine that is not needed to provide the basic necessities of living must be dedicated to our war effort.

There is a limit to the productive capacity of the country. There is no limit to the need for war material and money to pay for it. Men, money, machines and material can be made available for war work only by limitation of civilian consumption. We, as civilians, must be



prepared to restrict our expenditures and to simplify our mode of living so that these essential "Four M's" can be released to drive forward production of war materials. This is a national need that must take precedence over self-interest, self-indulgence, and comfortable living.

( ) We must learn to live simply, and austere. We ought to forego luxuries and all need less expenditures. Our whole outlook on life and living must be "What can I do, what can I give up, to help Canada?"

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The Editor received the preceding article from Mr. I. D. Willis, of Port Hope, Ontario, with the request for its publication in "Red and White." We hope that by creed he means not religion, but bigotry. Religion should not be subordinated to anything; bigotry should never exist.

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### MARITIME INTERCOLLEGIATE SPORTS

At a recent conference of the representatives of the various Maritime colleges and universities a decision on the matter of Intercollegiate sports was reached. This decision, the culmination of much discussion and argument during the past two years, consists in the banning of Intercollegiate trophy competition in the field of sports for the duration of the war, but permits the playing of exhibition games.

Why has this type of competition been rejected by our universities. The reason advanced is that such activities are detrimental to the war effort. Let us analyse. We are engaged, although as yet rather indirectly, in the bitter struggle on the European continent. Britain has turned to us for all-out aid and we have not been slow in responding. In almost every avenue of life sacrifice and assistance



have been forthcoming. One of these avenues is the universities of the country, and in many ways these seats of education are attempting to further the effort of the nation. Thus Intercollegiate sports, judged detrimental to this effort, have been banned almost throughout Canada.

Two main reasons are advanced for the move: (1) The sports interfere with C. O. T. C. Units established in the universities at the outset of the conflict. This corps demands a considerable portion of the student's time. Two afternoons and evenings each week must be devoted to drill and lecture, and, for institutions possessing two separate units, the total time spent is doubled. Such being the situation, there is certainly very little leisure time for extra-curricular activities. When, then, will sports practices be conducted? How can students, with as many as four afternoons each week occupied with C. O. T. C., be expected to turn out a team of university calibre without suffering in some other fields? And no satisfactory solution has as yet been given. Sports then *must* suffer. Without doubt they, placed alongside studies and the war effort, must be relegated to a minor position. (2). Intercollegiate competition, sometimes involving trip of several hundreds of miles, results in too great an expenditure of money in time of national sacrifice. Without doubt the expense of the ordinary sports year amounts to a considerable sum which if diverted to the war coffers would be a welcome contribution. This type of competition then, from a financial point of view, might well be eliminated for the remainder of the war.

Considering the above, there indeed seem to be justification for the banning of Intercollegiate sports. But the point at hand is not specifically the elimination of this type of sports. Rather the "bone" which we desire to pick can be found in the recent ruling which removed trophy competition yet sanctioned exhibition games. Wherein lies



the difference between these two except in the word "trophy"? Colleges compete when no title is at stake with practically as much expense and preparation as in trophy competition.

Referring to the reasons for abolishing the sports let us first consider C. O. T. C. What constitutes the difference between a training schedule for exhibition games and one for a cup series? Certainly no team will whip into shape faster or more easily just because of the absence of a cup. How then will C. O. T. C. and studies suffer less under the new ruling?

Title competition was banned also because of the expense involved. Then its substitute, exhibition games, must logically be less costly. True, the cost of a cup is eliminated but certainly no other expenditure is removed. No team can travel with any less cost at present than under the former arrangement. An exhibition schedule however would *probably* provide for fewer trips, since semi-finals would be eliminated. Therein lies the only advantage of the new ruling, one which is minimized if we consider a *curtailed* schedule of title play.

After considering the advantage gained by the change together with reasons advanced in opposition to Intercollegiate competition the modifications made certainly seem of little value. This exhibition angle is such that it offers nothing in the way of titles in return for time and effort on the part of teams, yet it does little to improve the situation at hand. Either Intercollegiate competition should be entirely abolished and studies and C. O. T. C. be allowed to monopolize the field, or a curtailed schedule of cup play should be adopted.