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Editorial

Christmas Spirit

"Merry Christmas!" An age-old salutation, over-worked, trite, perhaps, but still retaining the freshness of the holly which is the symbol of that glorious season, Christmas. These words seem to express most adequately the spirit of good will and comradeship which unfailingly permeates the hearts of men during the Christmas season.

Hand in hand with this old form of greeting go the other Yuletide customs, all hoary with age but still possessing their old appeal and still religiously adhered to by all Christian peoples; the decorating of dwellings with ever-green, placing lights in doors and windows, gift giving, and withal, a more lively expression of the devotion which fills the hearts of all the faithful during the anniversary of the birth of the God Man.

Gift giving, that custom so accordant with Christmas spirit, has been linked with the Yule season, ever since the beginning of the Christian era. In fact, before the birth of Christ, far, far back, even to the dawn of history, there are evidences that the ancients observed certain days known as "gift days" by the presentation of gifts. These days were, of course, celebrated at different times by different peoples, but after the birth of Christ there seems to have been a gravitation of "gift days" towards December 25, so that now it is an almost universal custom to celebrate Christmas in this manner. Very slight reflection shows us the appropriateness of such a custom, for what is more fitting than that Christmas should be celebrated by gift giving? Christmas, the anniversary of the birth of Christ, when He Himself was the recipient of the first Christmas gifts, those of the venerable Magi. The anniversary of the beginning of a life which was the exemplar of Christianity, and which culminated in the greatest gift ever received by man, the gift of Christ Himself for the redemption of mankind.

These customs attendant upon the Christmas season are all beautiful, all significant, even the simplest and least ostentatious of them all, the "Merry Christmas," which carries us back in spirit to the first Christmas wish, chanted by God's angels over the lowly cave of Bethlehem: "Glory be to God on high, and peace on earth to men of good will."

This Depression

The history of depressions has been that, with rare exceptions, they last from six to eighteen months. If, then, history *does* repeat itself, the depression which began with the collapse of the stockmarket in 1929, should have terminated about six months ago. Yet, we still find in the current issues of our daily newspapers numerous articles dealing with *this* depression, professing to analyze its causes, also, on the whole, professing to be very optimistic of the future, and then demonstrating their optimism by enumerating those *evil* aspects of the depression which in the same breath, so to speak, they declare should be "taboo" as only tending to pessimism.

If our optimism is real, if we have a strong faith in the ability of the world to recover eventually from even

the most severe depressions, we will strive to pass lightly over the darker side of the picture and to stress the light and the brighter colors.

The depression is over. This is clearly indicated by recent news items: "Increase in savings-bank deposits," "Increase in income tax collections," "Re-opening of the C. P. R. Angus shops with some eight thousand men re-employed," "Detroit manufacturers get orders for \$120,000,000 worth of automobiles," "Western Canada, due to rise in wheat prices, richer by one hundred million dollars." Such events must be, to those who have faith in Canada and the world at large, "the trumpet of a prophecy," the prophecy that prosperity will soon be with us once more; so that now, the winter of depression being over we may face the future with courage and confidence.

"O Wind,

If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?"

It is true that of the various classes of producers some are, at the present day, receiving a very low price for their product. This is particularly so here on our own Island. But it is a purely local condition and has existed before, even when prosperity was very general throughout other regions. We would point out that at no time, not even at the height of world prosperity immediately preceding the autumn of 1929, were there perfect conditions everywhere. If we go back in history to a consideration of the standards of living, per capita wealth, prices, etc. in, say, the eighties and then compare those conditions even with the depression period of 1930, we shall readily see that the so-called depression was, relatively, a period of great wealth.

Canada has been, in the past, particularly fortunate. Her natural resources are almost inexhaustible, and her material wealth is to-day greater than ever. Temporary depressions of the past have in no way impeded her march of progress. Her people believe in her with a strong, enduring faith. What more is necessary? Let us hear no more "Jeremiads." The depression is dead and buried, and "happy days" are here again.

The Sino-Japanese Dispute

During the last few weeks the eyes of the world have been focussed upon the Chinese province of Manchuria,

the scene of the most serious threat to world peace since 1918. That this embroilment might develop into a war of serious proportions is not doubted, nor are the causes of dispute to be regarded as too insignificant to bring on a real war when we remember the trifling point which was attributed as the immediate cause of the maelstrom of 1914-18. Is it then any wonder that the League of Nations, made up of representatives of countries which are scarcely recovered from the injuries of the Great War, is doing its utmost to avert a repetition of such a calamity? Let us examine briefly the points in dispute.

In 1895 China and Japan fought a war, and at its close Japan had obtained possession of Korea. She would also have annexed the Liaotung Peninsula in South Manchuria but for the interference of Russia and other European powers. Russia then built the Chinese Eastern Railway through Manchuria, with a branch running through the Peninsula to the south, and finally occupied South Manchuria on the strength of a lease obtained from China. Continued wrangling led to the Russo-Japanese war, and to Russia's giving up to Japan, with Chinese consent, her lease of South Manchuria with its railway.

Japan, having obtained the Peninsula, made wonderful progress in its economic development, but her colonization of her newly acquired territory was not so successful, while Chinese immigration increased proportionally as Japan developed the country.

Matters continued thus until 1915, when Japan imposed upon China her famous twenty-one demands, one of which was that the life of the Japanese lease of South Manchuria be extended to ninety-nine years. China, engrossed in the World War, agreed, but unwillingly, and she has been protesting ever since. Her favorite form of protest is the boycott, and this weapon she has used against Japan several times in the last few years. But the treaty was signed. Japan has secured the desired extension and intends to see that that treaty is kept, while China, on the other hand, contending that she was *forced* to agree to the twenty-one demands, is determined not to recognize the validity of the treaty.

The immediate cause of the present situation in Manchuria was the bombing of a section of the South Manchurian Railway on the night of September 18. Who did the bombing is not clear. Japan throws the blame on

China, and China is equally insistent that the Japanese committed the deed. Whatever the explanation may be, the fact remains that within the hour Japanese and Chinese troops were on the scene and fighting ensued. The Chinese assert that the presence of Japanese troops along the railway would indicate that Japan had some knowledge of the approaching crisis, but Japan explains this point by displaying a treaty with Russia in which the Japanese agree to police and protect the railway. Since then fighting has taken place at several points in South Manchuria, with considerable destruction of life and property on both sides.

Peace negotiations were begun and both countries appealed to the League of Nations. Japan put forward five principles covering pretty thoroughly the disputed matters. To these China agreed, with the exception of one which she was willing to submit to the League. To the four counter-proposals of China, Japan would not agree. Her refusal, however, may seem more reasonable when we look at the first of these proposals: "No negotiations until the Japanese troops are withdrawn." Japan contended that she could not withdraw her troops and leave her citizens in South Manchuria unprotected, hence her refusal to obey the order of the League of Nations to evacuate. Since that, she has reconsidered and signified her willingness to evacuate the country under certain terms.

The seriousness of the matter is aggravated by the fact that other countries, notably Russia, might become involved. Russia, as previously stated, owns and operates the Chinese Eastern Railway, running through Manchuria. This railway is an important artery of Russian commerce, and any violation of Russian rights in connection with that railway would necessarily bring speedy reprisals.

The League is working whole-heartedly to effect an amicable settlement and there are many indications that it will be successful, and that the peace machinery so painstakingly manufactured during the last twelve years will prove efficient, and adequate to cope with the greatest crisis in its history.

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Red and White extends to all its advertisers, contributors, subscribers, and to the faculty and students of St. Dunstan's sincere wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.