

SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR

GENERAL.

The Jesuit Order has 564 of its members under arms. Thirty-five have been killed, sixty wounded, and seventeen made prisoners. Seven are missing; five have been made Chevaliers of the Legion of Honor; five have received the military medal; one the Cross of St. George (Russian); one the medal for infirmarians; and twenty-seven have been cited in the Orders of the Day.

The secretary of the Birmingham organisation which provides accommodation and assistance to Belgian refugees reports that practically every able-bodied Belgian (except those who are in military service) is now in employment. Many of them are capable artisans and are engaged in factories which are producing munitions and other war equipment. It is estimated that between 800 and 900 men are engaged in this kind of work in the Birmingham district. The bulk of the men are married, with families, and those who are bachelors and engaged in works are over the age at which they are eligible for service in the Belgian Army. Nearly every available man eligible for such duty has joined or is about to join the Belgian Army in the field.



TROOPER COLIN COWAN, DUNEDIN
(Wounded in action at the Dardanelles).

CATHOLICS AND PATRIOTISM.

The Roll of Honor at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle-on-Tyne (says the *Catholic Herald*), numbers over 600, and many names are to be added. Several members of the congregation have given their lives, many are home from the front wounded, and many more are still in the fighting line. A Roll of Honor, comprising over 400 names of members of the congregation of St. Joseph's Church, West Hartlepool, who are serving their country in the army and navy, has been put up in the church. Already six of this number have sacrificed their lives in their country's cause.

PRIESTS IN THE FIRING LINE.

An Irish Catholic soldier convalescing at Exeter, on being asked for his opinion as to the facilities for Catholic soldiers at the front, stated that the only minister of religion he ever saw in the fighting line was a Catholic priest. This soldier was in the Battle of Mons, and continued in active service right up to the Neuve Chapelle affair, when he was wounded. He added that the same appeared to be the case in the German lines. One day a young German was shot down near a trench. He was dying, and another sol-

dier came out of the trench to minister to him. The latter proved to be a Bavarian Catholic priest, who there and then administered to the dying soldier the consolation of the Sacraments.

THE SHEER SAVAGERY OF GAS POISONING.

Mr. Perceval Landon, the *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent in Northern France, gives an account of a talk with a doctor at one of our clearing hospitals:— 'I have seen many thousands of wounded men during this war, and the wards have sometimes been filled almost from wall to wall, with desperate cases, but never in my life have I seen so terrible a sight as that of the poisoned men who were brought in the other day.' He showed me a photograph. 'You see this photograph of them, but'—he paused—'you would want a cinematograph to make you realise.' It was a simple phrase, but it flashed up before one's eyes in a second of time the awful fighting for air and life of the writhing men. Hour after hour the agony was prolonged. A rising tide of suffocation was turning their lungs into a mesh of water. After all, to drown is but a matter of four or five minutes at the most, and the actual struggle is short. Sometimes these men fought for life for fourteen hours. Even Nero is not credited with so foul a horror. Yet our men remained at their posts in the trenches, and faced out the danger till the sure hand of science touched them, and gave them an antidote which is at least as efficacious as that which was served to the terrified Germans who were ordered to commit this atrocity. It is not necessary to repeat here the chemical and medical facts which have been freely described in the English press, the grey, greenish, searching of chlorine, the physical effect upon the lungs, the constitution of antidotes or the actual means employed to diffuse the gas. But as one comes into the region of the war-line, one thanks God as one notices that every tree is faintly—if ever so faintly—bent by the prevailing wind in the enemy's direction. It was a double-edged weapon indeed that the German Emperor devised.

THE "GASSED" CANADIANS.

Similar testimony is borne in a message from a correspondent at the British Headquarters in France:— 'During the six months that I have been out here I have seen many thousands of wounded, but never have I seen a more hideous sight than the sufferings of the Canadians who were "gassed" at Ypres. To see all those brave fellows lying gasping in the sunshine outside the hospital, struggling with heaving chest to get their breath, was a heartrending spectacle and one which aroused feelings of the deepest resentment against those responsible for such an outrage.' In these words did the medical officer of a casualty clearing station express his opinion of the latest method of warfare adopted by the Germans. In order to demonstrate to me clearly the exact effect of the vapor on the lungs the doctor showed me the lungs which had been removed from one of the victims. The whole organ was soddened and weighed about four times its normal weight. It had all the appearance of the lungs of an old man, and in many places, as a result of the efforts of the sufferer to gain breath, the whole lung had been torn away from the surrounding tissue.

GERMAN OUTRAGES IN BELGIUM.

We gave last week (says the *London Tablet*) the general conclusions arrived at by Lord Bryce's Committee of Inquiry into the outrages committed by German troops in Belgium. The evidence on which the report is based consists of carefully sifted depositions of Belgian refugees and soldiers and of the diaries of German soldiers. Of the countless outrages on women and girls, so horrible were they, we can give no instances in these columns but we append some extracts from the report which will prove the murder of priests, the systematic firing of buildings, and massacre of the people.

W. P. SHORT

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