

sequent material losses, and readjustments to his habits and manner of life.

I believe that the time is near when our national leaders will be able to confront our home population with more definite ways of national service. Half-hearted patriotism will never enable us to prevail against fanatical and highly organised foes. Church people should be among the first to set an example, as their sons have done by enlistment.

Meanwhile the Church of God must make every effort to ensure that the rising generation shall grow up conscious of the Gospel Message and set upon following the Christian Way of Life. With depletions in the ranks of the clergy this will demand a wider effort on the part of the laity to accept responsibility for teaching the faith to the young.

Church Congress at Hastings.

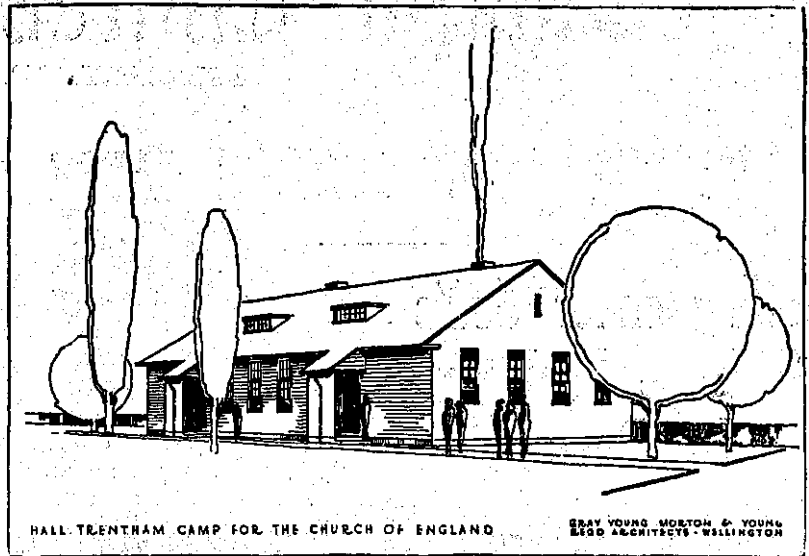
At our Church Congress in Hastings at the beginning of April two aspects of this will be emphasised. Firstly the direction of a "Big Brother and Sister" movement, whereby young men and women accept responsibility for the instruction of children, and secondly a "Religion in the Home" campaign to persuade Church parents to show the courage of their convictions so that Grace at meals, simple prayers, and brief Scripture reading, have a normal place in the household where children are reared. Especially in remote country districts Divine truth is often overlooked except when the parson pays a monthly visit to take a service. More than this is needed if the Faith is to hold civilisation together in these troublous times, and to lay the foundation for a sounder human order.

During the next two months I propose to visit at least our larger centres and to speak of the aims and objects of our Congress.

Your sincere friend and Bishop,

G. VINCENT WAIAPU.

It's better to fail in doing something than to succeed in doing nothing.



Architect's drawing of the "base" to be erected at the Trentham Military Mobilisation Camp for the Church of England. It is to be used for religious and entertainment purposes.

The Church in the Camps

Last month we announced that the Diocese had so far given just over £300 for Church work in the camps. There has been some increase and the figures now stand:

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	306	9	1
Given in January	62	1	2
	£368	10	3

It is earnestly to be hoped that the next issue will show a large advance.

Notes on the Calendar

The Purification, also called the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, is our yearly remembrance of the visit of the baby Christ to the Temple, narrated in St. Luke chapter II. An old name for the day is Candlemas Day. It is an ancient custom to decorate the Church with candles on that day, to commemorate the Light to lighten the Gentiles.

Saturday, 24th, is kept in memory of St. Matthias, who took the place of the traitor in the ranks of the Apostles.

But the most important date in this month's calendar is the beginning of

Lent on Ash Wednesday. This has a very long history, and, it is to be feared, is very seldom observed as the Prayer Book directs, with forty days of fastings. By the way, the six Sundays in Lent are not days of fasting. That makes forty-six days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The observance seems to have begun in the very earliest times with a very strict fast from the beginning of Good Friday up to the hours of the Resurrection.

To that was added a period of forty days in fuller preparation for the Easter Festival. These forty days have naturally called to mind our Lord's fast of forty days in the wilderness. See the Collect and Gospel for the first Sunday in Lent. In these days of slackness and general neglect of the obligations of religion, what is good practical advice about the observance of Lent? There is no space here to give a full answer to that question, but a few very simple suggestions: (1) Do without something you really like, and spend the money so saved in a more unselfish way; (2) take the trouble (it will need pains) to improve your own prayers both in quality and in quantity; (3) try to understand your religion better. Very few people do understand the ways and teachings of their Church. Your Vicar will be delighted to lend or recommend you books.