

Waipapu Church Gazette

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WEIGHT INTO COMMON CAUSE

Finding under God's Guidance Task to be Done

BISHOP'S LETTER.

My Dear People,

A quarter of a century ago New Zealand was enlisting and training citizen-soldiers, who were soon to serve their country overseas, and with great distinction. Despite almost superhuman efforts on behalf of her leaders to preserve peace, our Empire is at war again, and upon an issue from which we believe it would have been both cowardly and disastrous to flinch.

Information which was to some degree overlooked, in the great struggle for peace, has now been widely circulated. And it is impossible for a reasonable mind to reject the cumulative evidence of official information, newspapers, radio, reviews, novels, returned travellers, refugees, and British residents in Europe. Clearly the Nazi regime has nullified the benefits given to a formerly distressed Germany, by irrevocably committing itself to such methods of cold-blooded and treacherous brutality as to challenge all the underlying principles of truth, loyalty, and honour upon which the structure of Christian civilisation has been slowly and painfully erected. Free citizenship is represented by the espionage of secret police and extinction in concentration camps; racial hatred inspires the young to a merciless intolerance to friends, relatives, and old people, thus destroying all family affection. Almost fiendish is the systematic persecution of Jewish

children in the schools, and of disastrous moral effect upon the Aryan children themselves.

A whole generation of one of the world's most virile people has been trained to a deadly but false philosophy of life, and it is with such that we and our allies are grappling in mortal combat.

Is New Zealand Asleep?

For some months there was a degree of uncertainty as to the part which New Zealand should be called upon to play. Lack of spectacular war news, and a false sense of distant security, rendered us unable to

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

**"Man with his burning soul
Has but an hour of breath
To build a ship of truth
In which his soul may sail—
Sail on the sea of death,
For death takes toll
Of beauty, courage, youth,
Of all but truth."**

"Truth," by John Maséfield.

appreciate the reality of this stupendous conflict. There are still some of us so fully engrossed in our normal work or play as to look upon the war as a tiresome irritation, which will however settle itself satisfactorily without any effort or sacrifice on our part.

Major-General Fréyberg, V.C., recently arrived in our midst, right from the heart of world affairs, to take charge of the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force. His coming brought realisation that we stand beside the people of the Homeland in a struggle, demanding our fullest resources, and involving the survival of all the ideals, social, political, and religious, which we hold dear.

Under such circumstances then, the attitude both of country and of

individual must surely be, not: "How little will suffice as my contribution to the cause?" But: "What more can we possibly do towards victory, and in preparation for subsequent peace?"

Time and Energy Upon Futilities

One cannot but feel that as compared with the people of Britain, many New Zealanders are still spending too much time and energy upon futilities, when bigger things might be taken in hand. Of course the normal industries of the country must be run at fullest efficiency, and sufficient recreations enjoyed as to keep the population fit, cheerful and efficient. Many are already engaged in Red Cross, Patriotic Fund, Church of England Military Affairs, and similar organisations, but it can hardly be contended that the Dominion as a whole is "straining every muscle" to do its bit.

Quite a lot is heard about "equality of sacrifice," "conscriptio of wealth," etc., and not always by people, who are themselves sacrificing anything.

Now there is of necessity a great contrast between the sacrifice of a man who enlists, and contributes to the cause the whole of his time, energy, freedom, and person, to serve in the Forces overseas or at home, and a man remaining a civilian, who may or may not go out of his way to do anything extra to help his country.

Disparity of Sacrifice.

Moreover as between individuals who enlist there are infinite varieties of difference between the jobs being left, family responsibilities, financial losses, or gains, making a disparity of sacrifice. These matters ought to present no difficulty to a Christian. For he should not be out to seek the vindication of his rights, or the recognition of his services, but merely to find under God's guidance the task that he should do, be it civilian or military, and to throw his whole weight into the common cause not seeking to avoid con-