

THE CHURCH ARMY IN NEW ZEALAND.

To anyone who follows up the details relating to New Zealand Church organisation and development, it is evident that the Waiapu Diocese in particular is not minus the spirit of adventure—sure evidence of faith. I wish to particularise in one respect as to a new departure of the Diocese.

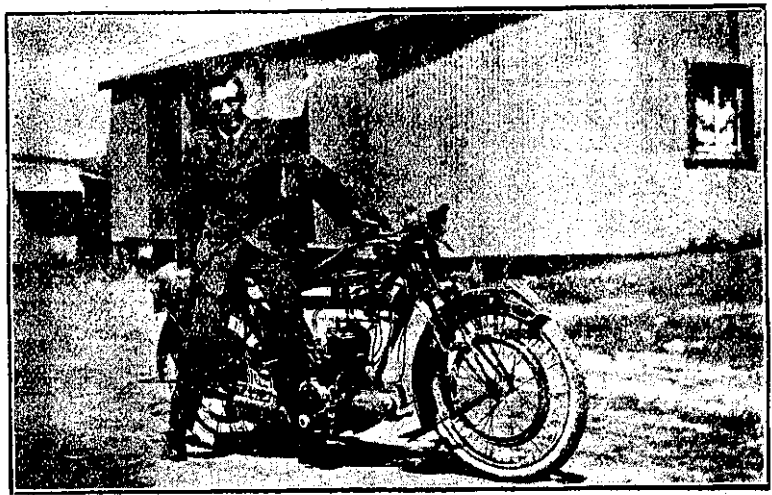
In England for practically half a century our Church has fully utilised a trained army of lay-Evangelists, under the leadership of a wonderful man of God—the Rev. Wilson Carlile, D.D.C.H., Prebendary of St. Paul's. One of our most prominent Bishop's summarises the Church Army briefly as the "Spearhead of the Church of England" and its bold leader as "The Archbishop of the Gutter", for in all the practical developments of our Church's Ministry to the lowest and most important classes of humanity this department of our Church leads the way.

In the year 1926 the first Church Army officer was secured for work in the Diocese of Waiapu, N.Z. Landing here in September of that year, he was soon appointed to the sphere of work which wise leaders assigned him—field untilled, of great promise, and scope.

Our Bishops and Clergy had long felt that a specially trained type of Evangelist was needed to work among and prove the "True Comrade" to our brother-man engaged on construction work in camps throughout our country. In war and peace time the Church Army Officer seemed to be of the right type to get the backing of those most excellent men who through unfortunate circumstance and misunderstanding have lost touch with Divine realities. Often the Church ministrations have seemed to cloud the vision to those who would perceive.

With sincere earnestness, humility, and brotherly love, the C.A. representative commenced work at the large P.W.D. hydro Electric Extension scheme camp at Tuai, Waikaremoana. His field of service also included the Railway Construction Camps between Wairoa and Napier, and several smaller road construction camps and groups of Transmission line workers over beyond Lake Waikaremoana. His chief point of concentration has been Tuai.

The P.W.D. Officials gave this enterprise their support by supplying personal accommodation of a temporary type, and also in building a hall (now



known as the C.A. Social Centre) to be used as our officer considers best for the community.

One is naturally diffident in speaking of ones own work, though we ought to each consider our own job as one of the most important in the world. Constantly in life's journeyings we put emphasis on the wrong things. Like the farmer who warned the druggist: "Now be sure and write plain on them bottles which is for the Jersey cow and which is for the wife, I wouldn't like anything to 'appen to that Jersey cow",—I hope my emphasis on the development of C.A. work here will not be wrongly placed.

During two and a half years of work in camp communities I have fallen in love with the objective of the "Great Lover of Souls", these people are so splendid in so many respects and townmen, etc., should be slow to judge many signs of weakness they have seen, "we must look for the best to ever find it." Often within these restricted limits of contacts with other things and peoples, and unideal environment, we are naturally confronted with certain narrowness of vision and moderate principal. Yet other facts are fully compensative, for there is remarkable evidence of abounding generosity, sympathy and brotherly love, one towards another among these friends. God grants one the privilege of fanning smouldering fires of goodness frequently, and the way such effort is finally appreciated and scope for greater service provided, the more convinced one becomes of reflex blessings attending all deeds of service. Letters come to me quite often from those whom it has

been my privilege to assist in their "wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers—against spiritual wickedness in high places," etc. Help both spiritually and physically is often needed, and our Church has been pleased to fulfil such service.

In the time of accident, sickness, and sorrow, I am sought and it is hoped that through my humble efforts souls and bodies receive comfort from Him whose "touch has still its ancient power". I think of my wrestles with the works of the great adversary, when endeavouring to defend the weak or raise the fallen.

Previously I have made some mention of the two free libraries here, one for the children and the other for the men and women, also reference has been made to the contacts possible through our united interests at the "Social Centre" at nights generally. Sunday School and Church Services are held regularly here, and as often as possible at some of the other camps. Opportunities abound all around me for the advancement of my endeavours, the men welcome me in real fellowship to their huts individually, and my little home is the place of many confidential talks. Personally I have gained many lessons from men within the walls of the letter building and have grown to understand many men much better.

There is one regret attached to all this, owing to the demand over balancing the supply, one Evangelist alone cannot do anything like the amount of possible work there is to do. We love to hear of the openings for the ministrations of the Gospel of service but it is disappointing not to be able to