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"RECRUIT WEEK"

By WALTER G. C. OTTO

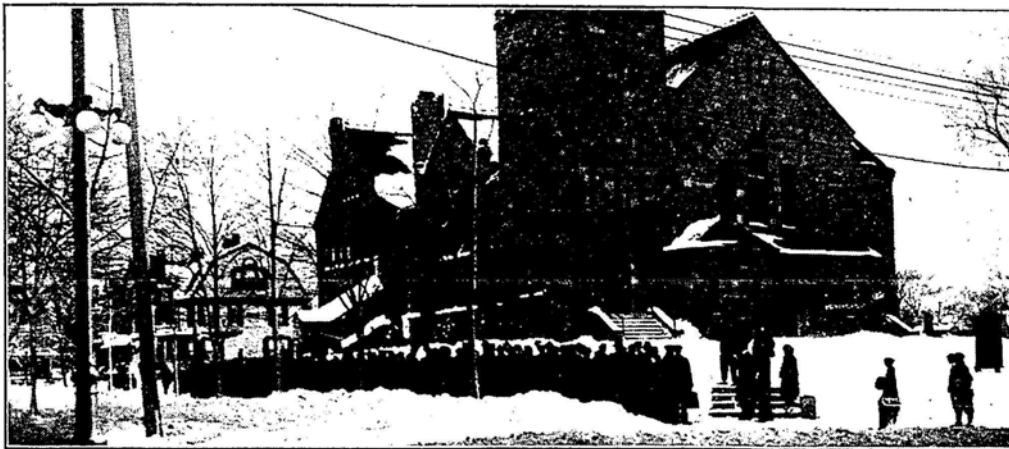
IN the opening days of December, 1917, New Rochelle was under a cloud. For about a month previous all the newspapers of the United States had been carrying a story to the effect that moral conditions in New Rochelle were bad and that the danger to the soldiers was great. One of the largest recruiting stations in the East, Fort Slocum, is located in New Rochelle, and it had been reported to the Federal authorities that, in violation of law, liquor was being sold to enlisted men at the various saloons and halls in the city. Later developments proved that these stories were almost without exception untrue, and always exaggerated, but at the time a sensational raid in New Rochelle was made by United States Marshal McCarthy, and one of the proprietors of one of the larger saloons was arrested, charged with the violation of the law in having allowed the sale of intoxicants to men in uniform. The raid was made under sensational circumstances, and by direct accusation and innuendo it was generally made to appear that New Rochelle was, indeed, in a bad way.

Then came New Rochelle's chance to vindicate herself, and the manner in which she did so will always form one of the most interesting chapters in her history.

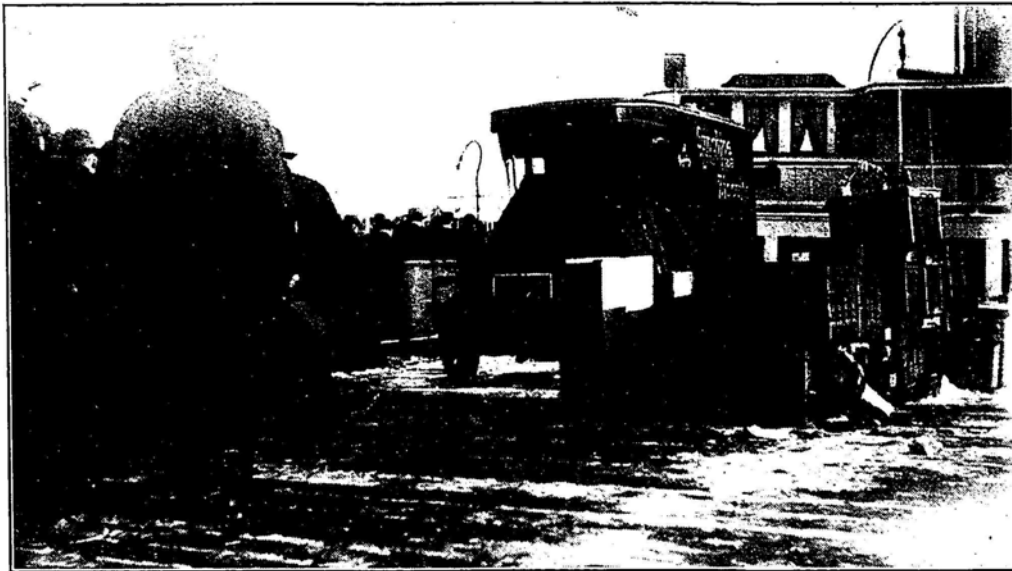
The second week in December, 1917, was cold—unusually cold—and the harbor opposite the Glen Island dock where the boat leaves for Fort Slocum, which is



Recruits Arriving at the Knights of Columbus Hall



Recruits Leaving St. Johns Methodist Church



Recruits Embarking at Fort Slocum Dock



1. Recruits at The Masonic Temple
2. Recruits Leaving Knights of Columbus Hall
3. Recruits Parading to Fort Slocum Dock
4. Recruits in Trinity School

situated on an island in Long Island Sound, was already beginning to choke up with ice. For quite a time the recruiting for the Regular Army at Fort Slocum had been increasing and men from various parts of the East were being sent there from other depots. The reason for this was simple. The Selective Service Act, generally known as the Draft Law, had gone into effect early in the summer of that year and the regulations of the War Department from Washington had been issued, under which young men eligible for service in the draft were given the alternative of voluntarily enlisting up to the 20th of December. While this, of course, was generally known to young men, it had not become a matter of general knowledge in New Rochelle, and apparently the officials of the War Department had made no adequate provision for the reception of the great numbers of men who sought to enlist in the last few days before the opportunity of voluntary service was ended forever.

The first intimation that the general public of New Rochelle received that vast numbers of men were about to come to the city was on Monday, December 10th, at about four o'clock in the afternoon, when Mr. William B. Wheeler, Superintendent of the Westchester Electric Railroad Company, received a telegram from the United States Recruiting Station in Boston, saying that a special train with five hundred applicants was on its way to New Rochelle, and asking that proper facilities be arranged to transport these men from the railroad station to the Glen Island dock, and also saying that the train would arrive about an hour later. That train, however, did not arrive, but every north and south bound train arriving at the New Rochelle station dropped off groups of from forty to one hundred and fifty men, who were immediately carried to the dock.

At about 7 P.M. Inspector George McGaffin came from the dock and informed Mr. Wheeler that there were about seven hundred men down at the water who could not get over to the Fort because the small boats were unable to make the trip and the large government boat was temporarily laid up.

The thermometer was about ten degrees above zero and the wind was blowing a gale. Many of the men were poorly clad, and fully half were without overcoats, because they had been told at their recruiting offices that the fewer civilian clothes they carried the better, since they would soon be wearing army uniforms.

Mr. Wheeler telephoned to Colonel Kingsbury, in command at Fort Slocum, informing him what the conditions were. The Colonel said that he had no knowledge as to the number of men who were coming, that he had not been instructed to make any special provisions, and that he did not know how he could provide the necessary accommodations. It was clear that something must be done to take care of these men. Mr. Wheeler returned from the dock, where he had been to personally see what the conditions were, but before doing so had advised Colonel Kingsbury that the large barn of the Westchester Electric Railroad Company, which would provide shelter for some five hundred men, would be thrown open for their use. Mr. Wheeler then went to a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Republican Club, of which he was a member, and there found President Irving Camp and others. It was decided to throw open the hall at once and to take in as many men as it could accommodate. All the men in the club volunteered to help, and Mr. Walter Coffin went over to the waiting-room on Mechanic Street and directed the men to the Club. Applicants continued to arrive from time to time, although the special

train had still not put in any appearance, and in fact did not arrive that night at all.

It was clear that before the night was over there would be more than a thousand men in New Rochelle—cold, hungry, and friendless, and shelterless. It was then that the community spirit, which thereafter so wonderfully developed in New Rochelle, saw its birth.

By nine o'clock at night the news of conditions had spread throughout the town. Mr. Camp had called up Dr. Johnson of the Baptist Church, and Mrs. Lee Lash of the War Camp Community Service, and Mr. Sidney Magnus took up a subscription and secured sufficient money to buy food for the men who had found shelter at the Republican Club. Shortly after this, Dr. Johnson threw open his church to the men, and with Mr. McKenna as a guide, groups of recruits were gathered up at the waiting-room of the railroad station and the others were brought up from the Glen Island dock, where they had been waiting for the Fort Slocum boat, and were made comfortable either at the Club or one of the churches, for by this time the Methodist Church had been also opened by Dr. Beattys.

At about the same time Mr. Marmaduke Clark, the Y. M. C. A. Director at Fort Slocum, arrived, having been directed by Colonel Kingsbury to do what he could to look after the comfort of the men.

Dr. Miller, Mrs. Lee Lash, Mrs. Harry Childs, Mrs. Robert A. Osborn, and many others threw open their homes to take in the boys. The storekeepers were aroused out of bed and the bakeries were emptied of their wares, and the Red Cross Canteen, with Miss McDowell and the other wonderful women workers, toiled all that night, making coffee and sandwiches for the hungry recruits.

The City Council had been in executive session, but

when they heard of the peaceful invasion they adjourned their meeting and with other citizens aided in the work of relief.

The proprietor of the dance hall which had come in for such opprobrium during the preceding month, Mr. Jacob Grab, threw open his hall and provided food and lodging for some 250 men.

The Knights of Columbus Hall was opened, as were the various Fire Houses, the Elks' Club House, the meeting room of the Naval Militia in the Masonic Hall, the Police Station, and various other public halls in the city.

By the morning of Tuesday, December 11th, the whole city was awake to the situation. It was seen at once that something must be done to organize and centralize the work of distributing the recruits as they arrived. A meeting was, therefore, called of those who had been active in the work of the night before, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon in the basement of St. John's Methodist Church, with representatives from the various organizations in the city. Rev. Harry H. Beattys presided at the meeting, and Mr. Marmaduke Clark of Fort Slocum stated that he was present representing Colonel Kingsbury. There were also representatives present from the Red Cross, the Woman's Club, the Knights of Columbus, the Republican Club, the Citizens' Protective Committee, the Y. M. C. A., and the various churches. The meeting was informal in character but it was soon seen that some more formal organization was necessary if any effective work was to be accomplished. It was finally decided that the hall of the Knights of Columbus on Center Avenue would be used as a sort of clearing house for all the arriving recruits, and that from there they would be distributed throughout the other halls and places in the city.

It was also apparent at once from the greatly increased

numbers of recruits who arrived during the morning that the conditions on Tuesday night would be much worse than on the night previous. The weather was still bitterly cold and the men arriving were chilled to the bone. During the day some four thousand men arrived in New Rochelle. Volunteer workers sprung up on every hand to assist in the work.

By common consent Mr. Marmaduke Clark was placed in control and in general charge of affairs at the Knights of Columbus Hall, with the writer as his assistant.

It is almost impossible to exaggerate the spirit of enthusiasm, of altruism, and of the desire to help one another that immediately manifested itself on every side throughout the city. Scores and scores of people came to the Knights of Columbus Hall, asking what they could do to aid in the work of taking care of the men who were about to become members of the army and to go overseas to fight for the safety of the homes in this country. Generous citizens came with baskets of food, and the kitchen at the Knights of Columbus Hall worked to its fullest capacity, preparing coffee and stews and roasts to satisfy the famished and shivering youngsters.

No words can begin to tell the efforts, the work, and the sacrifice which was made in those first two or three days of the week by Mrs. Bedros Kazanjian, head of the local chapter of the Red Cross, and Mrs. Horace F. Howland, who was head of the Canteen Division. To name the women who aided in this noble work would be to name each member of the organization—for of shirkers there were none—and yet withal the work was so heavy that it never seemed to be quite done.

At the Knights of Columbus Hall, where the men first arrived, it was not an infrequent scene to have four hundred or five hundred cold but happy boys sitting

down together at one time, while Miss Henshaw, Miss Fletcher, Mrs. Christie, and the other able and conscientious women, under the able direction of Mrs. Charles W. Campbell, helped to fill and refill their plates with steaming stews and their cups with boiling coffee.

By the late afternoon of Tuesday, the 11th of December, every church and public hall in New Rochelle had been pressed into service. The Rev. Charles F. Canedy had opened the Parish House at Trinity Church, and Dr. Beattys of the Methodist Church had sent for and received extra cushions from out of town, which were used for beds by the tired visitors. The First Presbyterian Church was thrown open by Dr. Reynolds, and the Young Men's Hebrew Association, under the able direction of Mr. L. K. Goldman, was receiving scores and scores of men, and Rabbi Stern at the Temple Israel saw that none lacked attention.

In accordance with the desire of the authorities at Fort Slocum, it was planned to keep the men together as much as possible at night, much to the disappointment of hundreds of patriotic citizens who flocked to the Knights of Columbus Hall, asking that they might be given what they considered the privilege of housing these young Americans over the night.

By Wednesday morning, the 12th of December, Fort Slocum was so crowded that word was sent over that no more men could be received at the Fort after ten o'clock in the morning, although they were being shipped out from Fort Slocum to other points as fast as they could be handled through the Medical Department, and as fast as uniforms and other equipment could be rationed out.

By Wednesday the public schools had all been pressed into service and the classes dismissed. New Rochelle was a new city. All business seemed to be at a standstill, and

by common consent the only interest of the citizens was the comfort and the welfare of the boys who had descended upon them, anxious to do their bit.

All day long groups of young men and boys marched about the city singly and in groups, and sometimes in impromptu parades, thrilling the residents with their eagerness in a way that nothing can ever equal. Realizing the danger that might happen if these crowds of boys became unruly, all proprietors of liquor saloons had been asked not to serve strong drink to the recruits, and almost without exception the saloonkeepers of the city complied with the request.

The weather up to the night of the 13th had continued cold and clear, but in the early evening of the 13th snow began to fall heavily. By ten o'clock the trolley system of the city had to be abandoned because the tracks were choked with snow. All the night of the 13th the storm continued, and for almost the whole following day the city was without transportation facilities.

The change in the Knights of Columbus Hall was, of course, at once apparent. The boys came in—no longer dry and cheerful—but wet and gloomy. Something had to be done at once to arouse their spirits. As in every critical moment, the circumstances mold the men, and there at once arose good and willing workers who led the men in song and cheering, which brightened their minds and aroused their flagging spirits as nothing else could have done.

The writer will never forget the inspiring scenes he witnessed as hundreds and hundreds of men would troop in through the front door of the Knights of Columbus Hall and march into the rear hall in columns of twos and fours, dripping wet and cold—almost to the point of numbness—but smiling and cheerful the minute the music rang out

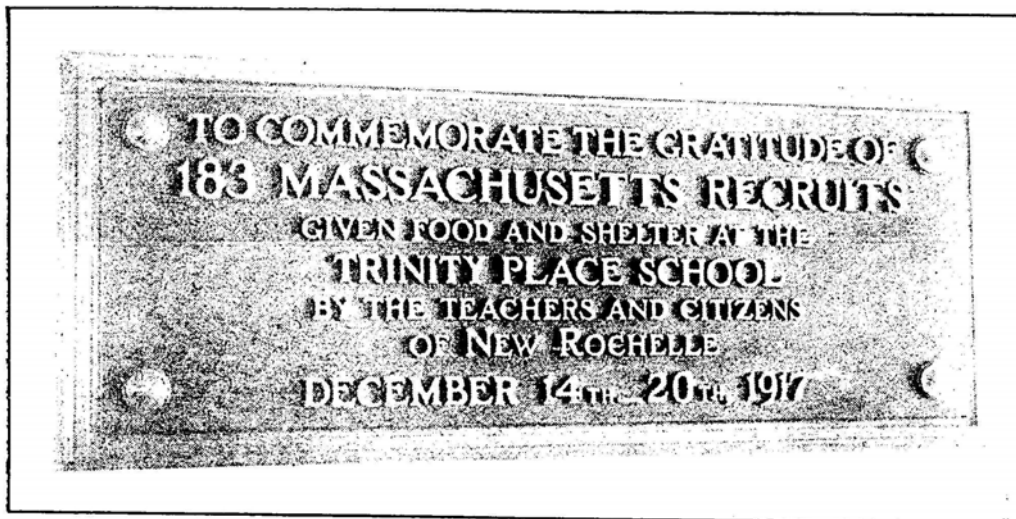
and the songs started, usually commencing with *Over There*, which was sung with a gusto, that spoke well for the spirit which was later to be translated into action on the bloody fields of France.

At all the halls, provision was made for the furnishing of free writing material and stamps to the men so that they might write home. Mr. W. H. Mahoney donated fifteen thousand postals. Wherever possible, groups of young women banded themselves together into impromptu entertainment committees, and danced and sang with the boys so that they might forget the temporary hardships which they were undergoing while waiting until they should become part of the great army in the process of upbuilding.

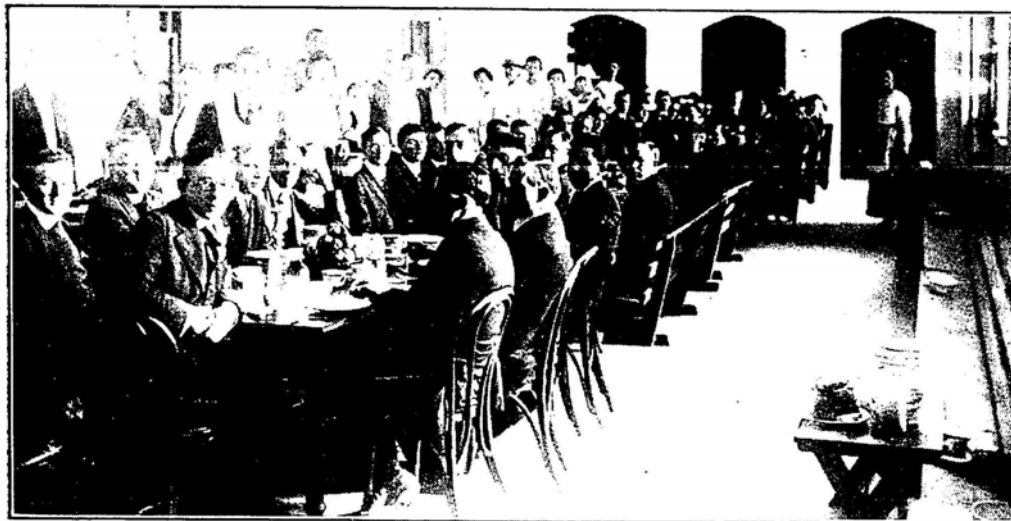
Mr. Jule Delmar, Mrs. Lee Lash, and others secured from the New York City theatrical booking offices, professional vaudeville artists, who came to New Rochelle and went from hall to hall where the boys were congregated to furnish them with amusement and keep their minds occupied with pure and wholesome entertainment.

There never was a time during the first three or four days when there were less than three thousand or four thousand visiting young men in our midst, and that there were no disorders of any kind during the entire stay of the recruits, speaks not only well of the kind of material then going into the army and for the boys themselves, but also for the loyalty and faithfulness of the people of New Rochelle who were anxious to forget themselves and work only for these young men during the time they spent with us. While the voluntary bodies of the Police Auxiliary and the Minutemen were in attendance, their services were never required to quell trouble.

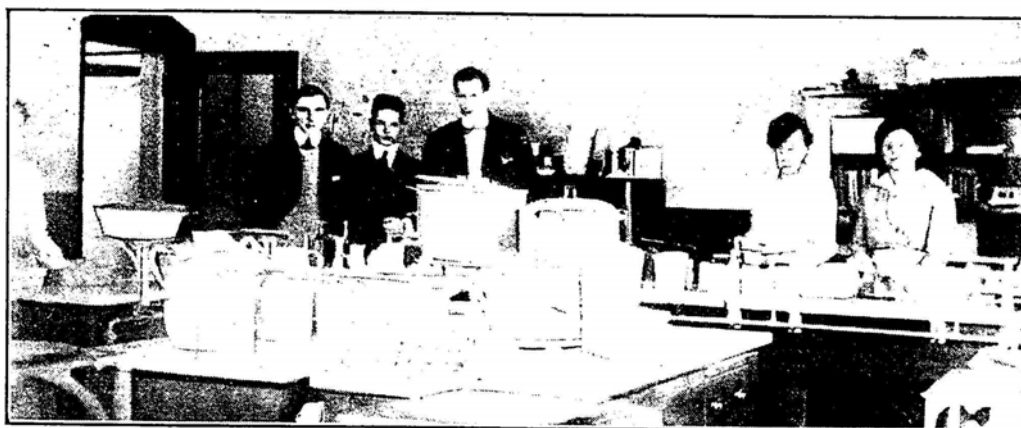
A crisis arrived on Friday, the 14th, that made it look for a time as if the situation would quite get out of hand



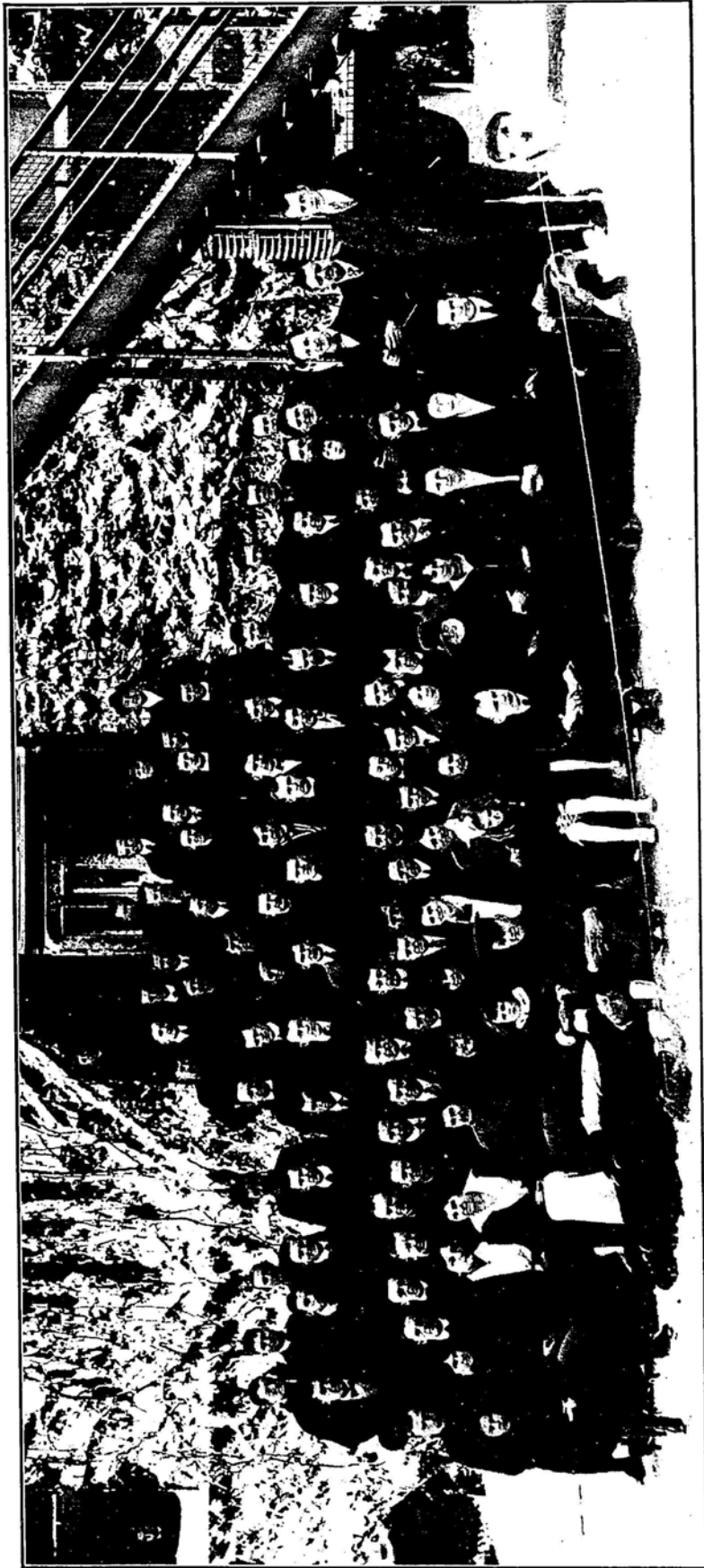
Tablet Presented to Trinity School by the Volunteer Recruits



Some of the 183 Having Dinner



Preparing the Meal



The Recruits at the Union Avenue School

and beyond the control of the citizens of the city. Word was received in the late afternoon that all men in the city of New Rochelle who were not then actually at Fort Slocum would be returned to their homes to await their entry into the army under the Selective Service Act. Consternation reigned in the ranks of the men as well as in the minds of the citizens who were in charge of the housing of the recruits, because no one knew what spark might kindle the dissatisfaction of the boys into a great and glowing conflagration. They were led to believe that they had until the 15th of December to voluntarily enlist. Many of them were absolutely penniless, having left all their goods and money at home, except for just enough car fare to bring them to New Rochelle. Most of them had no clothes other than the few on their backs, and many of them were tired, hungry, disappointed, and, perhaps, a little homesick. It was realized at once that four thousand or five thousand young men in a city like New Rochelle, with a population of thirty-five thousand, could not be controlled if they should become unruly.

A committee of citizens, consisting of Mr. William B. Greeley, President of the Citizens' Protective Committee, Rev. Dr. Beattys, Mr. Columbus O'D. Iselin, and the writer, journeyed over to Fort Slocum to see Colonel Kingsbury to ascertain what could be done to secure the countermanding of the order.

The trolley was not running, so this little committee commandeered a sleigh that was going by, and were driven down to the dock. The writer will never forget the impression made upon him as we neared the dock and were both thrilled and dismayed to see approaching us a column of soldiers, marching with fixed bayonets and acting as an escort to a number of civilian army clerks carrying bags of money with which to repay such necessary expenses as

might be incurred in connection with the return of the boys, and several typists who were to prepare the necessary vouchers to be given to the men as they were ordered home. While we asked the command to wait until we had seen Colonel Kingsbury, they, of course, declined to do so and continued up to the Knights of Columbus Hall to begin their work, while we journeyed across to the Fort.

Colonel Kingsbury received us politely, and told us that he as well as we realized the gravity of the situation, and that he was doing everything in his power by long-distance telephone and wire with Washington to have the order countermanded, but in the meantime preparations must go ahead.

There were over five thousand men in New Rochelle that night—and to say that they were dispirited and the Citizens' Committee in charge of arrangements downhearted and fearful, is to but mildly express the actual feelings of all those concerned.

The Mayor of the city, Mr. Edward Stetson Griffing, of course, had realized the danger of the situation and had gotten into communication with Governor Whitman at Albany on the long-distance telephone, as a result of which an order was made closing all the saloons in the city of New Rochelle.

When the little committee of citizens, who had waited on Colonel Kingsbury, returned to the Knights of Columbus Hall, they were both astonished and delighted to learn that a message had just been received from Adjutant-General McCann to Mayor Griffing and to Colonel Kingsbury that the order had been rescinded, and that all those men who were actually in New Rochelle would be allowed to be voluntarily incorporated into the Army. Thus one of the tensest moments during the week passed off with-

out trouble and to the satisfaction of both the men, the citizens, and the government.

The presence of the recruits had now become almost a matter of course, and the city had become used to the new way of living. How the conditions of war alter the usual mode of life was at once brought home to all.

The writer will never forget going down to the First Presbyterian Church with Mr. William B. Greeley on the evening of Friday, the 14th. We walked together first into the church rooms. On benches and chairs in every conceivable position were groups of boys and men—reading, talking, and some sleeping. The air was full of smoke, and here and there a card game was in progress. We walked through the rooms and into the church proper, which was ablaze with lights, and sprawling on the cushions on the right hand and on the left were recumbent forms, sleeping or reading, and many of the boys smoking either cigarettes or pipes. It occurred to the writer then that if some of the members of that church of other days could have returned and seen such use of their church edifice, they would, indeed, have been struck with a holy horror, and yet at that moment it seemed to us in no way incongruous, but a proper and right use of the building. These men were homeless and they were comforted. These men were cold and they were warmed. These men were sorrowful and they were cheered. In what better way could the spirit of Christ have been exemplified! And what was seen in that church on that occasion was but a duplication of what was to be seen in every place of worship in the city. Protestant, Catholic, and Jew knew no distinction one from the other.

The Jewish Synagogue on Bank Street had its quota of men, and Father Andrew Roche's Church of the Holy Family on Mayflower Avenue was the scene of many a

cheerful gathering during the week. No one wanted to know what a man's religion was. All that anybody wanted to know was—did the recruit need anything for his mind or his body, and if he did it was immediately supplied.

The Sunday services of December the 16th in all the churches were crowded to full capacity.

By Monday, the 17th, the fame of what New Rochelle had been doing had spread throughout the United States. Telegrams and letters were received from the governors of all the New England States and from the mayors of many of the New England cities, and Pennsylvania citizens, thanking the people of New Rochelle for what they had done and were doing for their sons.

The boys themselves were grateful, and in many of the churches they insisted upon taking up contributions, although these were discouraged, in order to present little testimonials of gratitude to the various organizations. A watch was presented to Dr. MacGregor of the North Avenue Presbyterian Church by the young men who had spent some time with him. To Dr. Beattys and his church was presented a flag; to Father Roche, a loving cup, and the boys who had spent some time at the Naval Militia headquarters and in the Masonic Hall, and whose interests were so thoroughly and carefully looked after by the Masons of New Rochelle, presented a loving cup to the city. It was here that a committee of energetic young women, including the Misses Floyd, Carter, Lambden, and many others had been especially active.

A young man by the name of Richard R. Pavlick of Boston, Mass., then conceived the idea of taking up a collection from all the recruits still in town, not to exceed ten cents each, so as to make it easy for all to join, for the purpose of procuring a fund for which a permanent

memorial of what the citizens of New Rochelle had done might be procured. Young Pavlick really worked himself sick, with his ceaseless energy and boundless activity. By the 17th he had collected nearly \$500, and it was then decided to hold a parade and to make a presentation of the gift to the citizens of New Rochelle. The parade in which over four thousand participated took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 18th of December. Mr. Pavlick made the presentation on behalf of the recruits, and his gift was accepted on behalf of the citizens by the Rev. Dr. Beattys. At the same time the following set of resolutions which had been adopted were read:

“1. RESOLVED that a tablet of gratitude to the kind people of the City of New Rochelle, N. Y., who at a time when conditions were most unsettled gave up their churches, homes, schools, clubs, and halls to house recruits who were thrust upon them by Uncle Sam in his endeavor to defeat the aims of the German militarism, be erected in the City of New Rochelle.

“2. RESOLVED that the matter of placing this tablet be left to the discussion of the Citizens’ Protective Committee or any other committee appointed by them to carry out our aim.

“3. RESOLVED that the formal presentation take place at the Public Library Building on December 18, 1917, at 2 P.M.

“4. RESOLVED that Chairman Pavlick deliver the presentation address; and be it

“FURTHER RESOLVED that the public be invited, and that these minutes be published through the Associated Press.

“JOHN E. KELLY,
“*Secretary.*”

In order that the memorial might take some proper form, a committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. Albert Leonard, Superintendent of Schools, John A. Offord, Orson Lowell, Mrs. Lee Lash, and William B. Greeley. Many designs for a memorial were submitted to this committee, which finally accepted one especially designed by a former resident of New Rochelle, Mr. Frank Tolles Chamberlin. A bronze tablet was struck off, which was dedicated on March 15, 1919, and now adorns the walls of the Public Library where the presentation had originally been made. The inscription on the tablet reads:

“This tablet is erected by the volunteers of the National Army in grateful appreciation of the kindly welcome and warm hospitality extended to them by the people of New Rochelle from December 10th to 20th, 1917.

“Coming in such numbers that the Recruiting Station at Fort Slocum could not provide accommodations for them, these thousands of men found food and shelter in the homes and public buildings of the city while awaiting reception into the service of the nation.”

By the morning of Thursday, the 20th of December, the last of the recruits had left New Rochelle and the city settled back into the humdrum of its usual existence.

Looking back now after almost two years, it is almost impossible to single out any one of those active in the service from that of another during those trying but wonderful days. New Rochelle had, indeed, vindicated itself. The women were especially marvelous in the care and attention they gave to the boys.

The precision and uniformity with which the assignment of the various men from the headquarters at Knights of

Columbus Hall to the various other halls and churches could not have been possible had it not been for the devotion to duty not only of Mr. Marmaduke Clark, but of Mr. Charles O. King no longer a resident of New Rochelle, and to Mr. Charles Wernig, Jr., who has since passed to his great reward. Without the careful tabulation of these two men confusion would have been inevitable. During that week the writer often saw them on duty twenty and twenty-two hours at a stretch without rest, snatching a bite here and there when possible and stealing a few moment's sleep on a bundle of blankets or overcoats in some corner of the room while the noise of tramping feet, of singing, of cheering, and of tingling telephone bells, made a constant bedlam.

To begin to enumerate all those who participated in the work is quite impossible. There was no church in the city—from the Christian Science Church to the foreign language churches, such as the Swedish and the German churches, which did not do its share and its bit in the colossal task. The Boy Scouts were ever present, and without the essential aid of the Red Cross, which generously provided blankets and food wherever necessary, the whole work would have been hopeless.

All that was done was done without hope of reward, without the expectation of compensation, but generously from an open heart and with a free hand. The Government, however, woke up tardily to a realization of the task it had imposed upon New Rochelle and later made an allotment of forty cents per man per day as a ration allowance for what the citizens had contributed. This money when received was disbursed among the various organizations in an equitable way under the guidance of Mr. E. G. Reynolds, Jr., and Mr. Jere Milleman, to the satisfaction of all.

New Rochelle had indicated itself! New Rochelle had more than indicated itself—New Rochelle had come out gloriously from a period of trial. The country at large was mindful of what the little community had done; and it became a stirring example for the rest of the country, to show what it could do in the days of stress and in the various war drives which afterwards followed.

Of course the boys themselves were mindful of what had been done. On December 14th, a memorial, a copy of which is given below, was forwarded to Representative James Husted to be laid before Congress. There were more than four thousand actual signatures to the document.

“We, the undersigned, citizens of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, in meeting assembled, unanimously request that there be spread upon the public records of Congress the heartfelt thanks and appreciation that we feel for the self-sacrifice and unselfish spirit shown by the citizens of New Rochelle, N. Y., who have opened their houses, institutions, churches, schools, fraternal organizations, public buildings, and private homes, and denied themselves the use thereof that we, strangers, 4000 strong, answering the call to arms, who through unavoidable circumstances have been placed in their midst might enjoy the ordinary comforts of home life. Our appreciation is much greater by reason of the fact of the citizens, numbering only 35,000, have fed and sheltered on short notice and with great inconvenience a body of men at one time equalling in number about one-ninth of the population.”

In a lighter vein, but none the less appreciative, was the postal which the writer happened to see before it was gathered in the mail. Though meant for no stranger's eye, it had the ring of sincerity:

“MY DEAR PERCY:

“Pretty girls, dancing, the best food in the land, ice cream, cigars, cigarettes—anything you can think of. If this is war, then why, oh why, was I not born in the trenches?

“SAM.”

The Government at Washington was also appreciative, and under date of December 17th Mayor Griffing received the following telegram:

“The Secretary of War desires me to convey to you and the citizens of New Rochelle his grateful appreciation for the handsome assistance rendered by New Rochelle to the military authorities in caring for the unprecedented numbers of applicants for enlistment at Fort Slocum which crowded that post beyond its capacity.

“(Signed) HENRY P. McCANN,
“Adjutant-General.”

On December 17th the following editorial appeared in the New York *World*:

“THE INVASION OF NEW ROCHELLE

“When the history of the American war preparations is written, it must certainly include an account of the invasion of New Rochelle and the prompt and resolute arising of that suburban community to meet the emer-

gency. It was, to be sure, only a peaceful invasion. It merely happened that an army division of raw recruits, volunteering to escape the draft, had swamped the accommodations at Fort Slocum and been turned back on the town. Even so, they had to be housed and fed and kept warm, and the amount of destruction ten thousand appetites can wreak on bacon and eggs and coffee and rolls, the amount of cubic space required for sleeping quarters for this number of boys, and their demands in the way of entertainment, are readily understandable.

“That New Rochelle was able on the spur of the moment to take care of the human indentation speaks well for the power of organization and administration of its people. They opened their churches and halls and homes and kitchens to the stranded soldiers, put their motor cars at their disposal, took them to the theater, and treated them altogether as guests. They arose to the occasion, indeed, in a way to compel admiration, and turned what might have proved an awkward situation into a practical demonstration of what intelligent public spirit and coöperation can do in solving problems of preparedness. It was only a local problem, it is true, but the example is none the less important.”

On the same day a glowing editorial appeared in the New York *Evening Mail*, and the following day there appeared a long editorial in the New York *Evening Journal* entitled “New Rochelle Teaches the Enemies of the U. S. a Lesson,” that was copied throughout the land.

It is written (Heb. xiii., 2): “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” And so New Rochelle fulfilled the biblical

injunction. If it entertained no angels it at least did entertain real men, and it emerged from its ten days of service, a cleaner, a better, and a happier community with a memory to be forever cherished and an example to be thereafter emulated by all.