

as many of the refugees as could give assurances that homes in their native provinces were available. But upwards of 700,000 still remain in Shanghai, of which only 100,000 so far are to be found in the registered camps. These are the care of the Refugees Relief Committee under Father R. Jacquinet.

Daily records of the numbers admitted and the numbers evacuated are submitted by the officers of each camp, so that a current picture of the situation is constantly before the responsible authorities. For the time being, the support of these camps is entirely at the expense of those sponsoring them. But the time will come when the number will become so large, or the exchequer of the supporting societies so depleted that assistance of some sort will have to be extended to the sponsors of some of the camps. Furthermore, because of the dislocation of business and the presence of a large number of professional men and women in Shanghai who cannot get to their posts in the interior, a large number of volunteers are available for particular services to camps. In order to prepare for the time of subsidy and to assign to duty these available volunteers, a Board of Visitors under the direction of Mr. N. B. Doodha has been created which calls at the camps, observes conditions and makes reports to Father Jacquinet with recommendations.

One of the great needs for the coming winter is clothing. Certain societies have been able to furnish sufficient materials to clothe practically all of the inmates of their camps; others are not so fortunate. Mrs. W. S. New, with the help of the Ginling Alumnae Association, is receiving clothing which, upon application from camps either direct or on the recommendation of the Visitors, is distributed where most needed.

But in addition to physical needs, the refugees, like all other human beings, have spiritual needs. Occupation

for the mind and for the hands is almost as important to intelligent people as food in the stomach or clothes to the back. Furthermore, the preservation of manual skill is of prime importance to artisans and craftsmen. Nor to be overlooked is the fact that in many respects the refugees can help themselves to a very considerable extent if they are given the opportunity to do so. For this purpose, one of the most interesting committees in the process of formation is that on Labor Projects, or Camp Activities, as some prefer to call it. Under the chairmanship of Dr. H. C. Chen, primary education is to be organized among the children of the camps so far as teachers can be found. Already this subject has had the attention of the managers of some of the more prominent camps. The camps not so fortunate will now have attention.

The making of shoes is being provided for. Certain materials have been donated and others will be bought as needed. An attempt is being made to enumerate all the skills possessed by all of the adult inmates of different camps so that if labor under various crafts is needed it can be made available without delay.

Some consideration is being given to the possibility of cultivating vacant lots so as to raise the more speedily growing vegetables necessary to supplement the diet of rice and beans which now is practically all that is available in most of the camps.

This work of co-ordination requires the use of many hands and feet, telephone wires and typewriters, much inquiry, much looking ahead and discussion. The office staff required for this work is being furnished principally by the China International Famine Relief Commission, assisted by volunteers and certain other staff serving the Executive Committee, and by the chairmen of various committees, who normally are engaged upon professional work in their respective lines.

In A Refugee Camp

An Interview with Father R. P. Jacquinet

By V. T. BANG CHOU (彭望荃)

IT was chow time for the refugees. As the bell rang, hundreds of refugees sat in the huts, family by family, their earthen jars in front of them and their bowls in hand. Soon the food-carriers came in with big bamboo baskets filled with hot steaming rice and large tin containers holding vegetables, potatoes and soya beans. Then one by one the earthen jars were filled with the stew, and the bowls with rice. A happy smile came over the faces of these refugees as they munched eagerly their evening meal....

Such was the scene presented to the reporter of the Shanghai International Red Cross as she trudged from one hut to another in the refugee camp at Aurora University, Shanghai. The day was fine, one of the loveliest days that Shanghai had known since a fortnight of rain and wind. But through the tranquil air guns roared and bombs thundered, as if reminding the reporter that all was not well in spite of the weather!

So we watched the refugees eating—2,624 in all, some men, but mostly women and children. Perhaps the food

was not as tempting as what they used to have at home—but home? where was it? Then their smile would vanish and they seemed to recall the night when under pale moonlight they left their lodgings in breathless hurry, turning back only to see bombs and shells rain on the roofs of their houses. They ran without pausing until they reached the south side of Soochow Creek and then they beheld their homes a blaze of fire!

Today they are living in matsheds with only the clothes they have on. What they eat depends upon charity; and, what is worse, they have no folks to go to. "I worked in a factory in Yangtsepoo before the fighting broke out", said a fifteen-year old girl. "I earned 30 cents a day. My mother also helped in the same factory, and we managed to live fairly comfortably—my mother, two brothers, a sister and myself. Then one night we heard the bombs roar, and our house caught fire. We ran, leaving everything behind!"

In the Aurora University camp there are altogether seven huts, one of which is set aside for single men and another one for unmarried women. Families are kept together as far as possible. There is a room for a dispensary and another for a sort of infirmary. Doctors come daily to treat the sick while those who are severely ill are segregated from the rest and confined in this "infirmary." The camp has an administration hut where refugees are registered as they come in, and a provision and supply "depot" for storing rice, cotton and other necessities. For the whole camp consumes no less than 15 piculs of rice a day!*

All refugees are examined before they are admitted into the camp. No matches or undesirable articles are allowed to be taken in. Good behavior is expected of every one of the inmates. Within their power and means the camp authorities are doing their best to keep their charges contented and in good health; all have been inoculated against cholera.

Babies are given milk three times a day, and it was feeding time when the reporter visited the camp. A long queue of mothers holding babies in their arms was seen outside a hut window with milk bowls in their hands. The infants whined; the mothers petted them; and the sisters sang improvised lullabies to keep the fretting youngsters quiet.

Women and older girls in the camp are given work to do, such as knitting, sewing and other handicrafts. Not only will this keep the refugees from being idle but it will also help to produce padded garments and blankets so badly needed in the winter. Oftentimes contributions come in the form of raw materials, such as cotton, cloth, yarn.

Men and boys, too, have a share in the upkeep of the camp. They sweep the floor, clean the yards, wash the bowls, carry the food and do other odd jobs.

Once in a while volunteer workers or students visit the camp and hold classes. When weather permits, refugees come out in the open to take physical exercise. The idea is to keep these people fit and alert so that they will not sink into despondency and lethargy as a result of poverty and misfortune.

The few lights given to each of the huts are quite sufficient, for ere it is pitch dark, every one will have retired, silence reigning supreme over the thousands of destitute women and children.

According to Father R. Jacquinot who supervises the camp, it took eight days to build the seven huts and a big staff of voluntary workers is required to keep the camp going.

"At present we are taking care of 25,284 war refugees in the French Concession and 62,425 in the International Settlement, making a total of 87,709", remarked the benevolent Father.

"These represent the number of persons who are absolutely destitute. There are probably 100,000 more who have nothing at all and must be fed. But within one and one-half months, 80,000 more will be equally destitute, and in another three months, a third 100,000". "So you see", added Father Jacquinot, "the outlook is not too bright."

"The question now is not the question of evacuation", continued the speaker. "Those who could be evacuated have been evacuated. Some 200,000, if not more, have already left Shanghai. Those who remain have the right to be considered as permanent residents of Shanghai. They are entitled to some consideration by this community. These people have lived in Shanghai for generations, and have no kinsfolk in other cities or villages.

"Besides, it is desirable to keep these refugees in Shanghai, since they are skilled labourers. Their presence here will hasten industrial recovery once the political situation becomes normal. These people were all employed before the hostilities broke out, some 143,258 in the Settlement proper, 32,389 in the Extra-Settlement areas, approximately 100,000 in the Chinese-controlled areas and about 57,000 in the French Concession. Of these only 11,000 are now employed in the Settlement and Extra-Settlement areas."

Just then a cool evening breeze blew as the sun began to set. The air became chilly, and we drew our wraps closer about us. We turned our heads towards the huts where the refugees lay contented after the evening meal, looking, however, very pathetic. "Winter is coming", sighed the Father, "and a very hard one to face for these people. There is the question of warm clothing, heavy coverings, stockings and shoes. These are absolutely essential. Unless philanthropic persons here and abroad rise to this occasion, I do not see how these men, women and children can survive."

Father Jacquinot's camp is but one of the 167 camps organized in the International Settlement and the French Concession in Shanghai for the care of war refugees. The needs of this camp are also the needs of the other camps. The Aurora refugee camp is perhaps one of the better-equipped ones. There are others where not even sufficient food can be secured for the refugees, let alone warm clothes and bedding. Yes, a bleak winter is coming, shall we not all help?

Shanghai's Unprecedented Refugee Problem

By LOWE CHUAN-HUA (駱傳華)

SHANGHAI today is confronted with an unprecedented refugee problem, the social and economic implications of which are just beginning to be felt. Twelve weeks of continuous gunfire and aerial bombardment have rendered thousands of residents homeless. Although it is estimated that at least 200,000 to 250,000 people have been evacuated

*At the official price fixed by the Rice Merchants' Guild, the rice consumed each day costs \$202.50.—Editor.

into the interior districts of China since August 13, there are still 700,000 to 750,000 refugees in Shanghai. Of this total, between 100,000 and 125,000 are registered in organized refugee camps. According to the figures given by the Shanghai Municipal Council on November 11, there are 130 camps with about 71,000 refugees in the International Settlement. In the French Concession there are 45 camps with at least 27,000 refugees. In addition to these organized