BRUTAL,' MERCIER CALLS HERDING OF THE UNEMPLOYED BELGIANS Latest reports from Ukrainia are to the effect that Denikine's forces have been cut in two by the Ukrainian armies on the edge of the sea of Azof. One portion is scurrying to safety in the Caucasus mountains, and the other is controlled by the other in the Unique of the Persecuted," Cardinal Writes—"I Caucasus mountains, and the other is controlled by the Ukrainia are to the edge of the sea of Azof. One to surrender him to the Allies for trial would be to make him a martyr and the other is controlled.

Record This Request With Pride," He Tells Von Bissing in Additional Protest Against Deportations

Explanatory Comment

N HIS defense of Belgian workmen doomed to slavery in the German Empire, Cardinal Mercier was okesman for thousands of patriots whose spiritual armor was as strong as their material weapons were spokesman the burgomaster of Brussels, successor to the indomitable Max, who early in the war had mak. Lemond in Germany, refused to deliver to the invaders the lists of the unemployed, and this markable handbill appeared one morning on the boardings of the capital:

WE WILL NOT GO!

The people of Brussels understand. They do not obey the demands of the Germans. They are not going to allow themselves to be led as sheep to the slaughter. In a great number of communes many men have not presented themselves; they have not been disturbed. Those who have surrendered themselves have been led away.

Shame on those who present themselves because of selfishness or because they have a certificate of compliance or because they are certain of being placed at liberty.

All for each one! Each one for all!

A Belgian who works for Germany fights against his Fatherland Let them organize their man-hunt, we will hide ourselves.

Long live the Fatherland! Long live the King!

That many eventually did go is proof of the magnitude and madness of the German oppression. seels, however, the deportations were fewer than in certain of the smaller exclusively industrial centers. ess, even if exhibited by the helpless, was always an embarrassment to the Prussian system.

> devotedly, (Signed)

the expression of my sincere esteem, and I am yours

*F. Franch, in religion F. Servasius, Superior of the Franciscans at Malines, had been sentenced to a year's imprisonment on a charge of having had printed a poem offensive to the Germans. In a letter dated November 11 the Cardinal interceded in his favor.

the letter of November 29. He confined himself to informing the Cardinal, through Baron von der Lancken, that he could not accept the help offered by the priests

Pleas for Two Lives Refused

Political Department of the Government General of

His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of

the Governor General, after investigating the case,

has been unable to make use of his right of reprieve

in favor of the Engineer Uytebrock and the Railway-

man Mertens condemned to death for espionage. In

regard to Wanty, no definite decision can be taken

until it has been ascertained by medical examination

whether he is of sound mind and therefore responsible

your Eminence, in reply to your letter of November

29, that he is unfortunately unable to grant to priests

a kind of official co-operation in recruiting the unem-

ployed. But, taking into account the reasons as-

signed by your Eminence, the Governor General leaves

the priests free to attend the offices of the recruiting authorities and there impart their information and

express their wishes before the enrollment is begun.

I present to your Eminence the expression of my

*The Cardinal interceded on behalf of the condemned men in a letter addressed to Baron von der Lancken,

priests of his diocese the following instructions:

evil we are powerless to prevent.

Several days later the Cardinal sent the parish

In spite of the protests addressed to Germany

The moment that notices to assemble are

by the Sovereign Pontiff and several neutral states,

the deportation of our civil population still continues.

It is our duty to lessen to the best of our ability an

placarded in your parish, please warn persons who

do not depend on public assistance to provide them-

selves with a receipt for the payment of this year's

taxes, duly certified by the communal authorities.

The sick and delicate must ask their doctor for a

certificate of ill health; workmen who are employed

must ask their masters for a declaration, counter-

signed by the burgomaster, that they are in employ-

your parish, take specially to heart the interests of

those parishioners who, according to the instructions

of the German authorities, are exempt from deporta-

tion. Then take joint action with the communal

authorities, the national committee for relief and

food supplies and your well-to-do and devout

parishioners, in order to provide for the indigent,

whose departure is probable, clothes and other

invite those who are going off to come to confession.

Provide an adequate number of confessors for them,

celebrate mass for their intention, to which you will

be careful to summon their children, grandchildren

and interested adults, to the end that the communion

made by them, together with their whole family, may

prove a comfort to them and a memory which they

can carry away with them into exile. In a suitable

instruction, exhort them to remain steadfast in their

faith and their moral and religious practices during

the period of their absence. At home prayers will be recited for them. Give those who are going away

Help for Stricken Families

appeal to the best of your charitable parishioners,

both men and women, get into contact with the St.

Vincent de Paul Society, with the Ladies of Mercy,

the Third Order of St. Francis, the congregations

and confraternities, the manifold societies affiliated

with the diocesan Federation of Catholic Women, of

which the Abbe Halflants is the director, and form

with their help and under the direction of the parish

priest or his delegate a committee of moral assistance,

who will undertake to visit stricken families, to com-

fort, advise and help them. Give them moral support

and help them materially, if need be. A Christian

parish forms one family. When in a family one

member suffers, all suffer; when it enjoys prosperity,

every one shares therein. And so not one single home

in the parish should be left out, unknown or for-

gotten. If this were desirable in normal times, it

should be absolutely necessary in these distressing

days. Those who have leisure ought to place them-

selves at the disposal of those who have none. The

superfluity of some ought to minister to the wants of others. Mutual help so understood and practiced

is but the fulfillment of the law of Christ. "Bear ye

one another's burdens," says the Apostle Paul, "and

one to me for it, but I should like them to be good

enough to fix approximately the amount of help they

require. We must leave no stone unturned to effect

the repatriation of those who, according to the Ger-

man Government's declarations, ought to be immune

from deportation. To that end, a committee has been

organized in our Episcopal Curia to deal with cases

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

The parish priests who are in need of some help in their ministry of charity may come or send some

so you shall fulfill the law of Christ."

calling for redress.

The day following their departure make an

a rosary, a scapular and a New Testament.

On the eve of their departure, or the day before,

Acting in concert with influential persons of

The Governor General instructs me to inform

In reply to your esteemed letter of November 27 last, I have the honor to inform your Eminence that

in the work of enrolling the unemployed

Belgium, Brussels.

for his actions."

sincere esteem.

(Signed)

Von Bissing, in spite of his promise, did not answer

Cardinal Mercier's Story

Including his correspondence with the German suthorities in Belgium during the war, 1914 to 1918, edited by Professor Fernand Mayence of Louvain University and translated by the Bene-dictine Monks of St. Augustine's, Ramsgate,

[Continuation of Chapter XXX-The Deportation the Unemployed.]

N A fresh letter to Baron von Bissing, the Cardinal maintains that his arguments have been left unanred; he protests once more against the brutal way which the recruiting of the so-called unemployed erywhere takes place.

Archbishop's House, Malines. November 29, 1916.

To His Excellency Baron von Bissing, Governor General of Belgium.

The letter which your Excellency does me the oner to write me, dated November 23, is disappointing. In several circles that I had reason to believe li-informed it was asserted that your Excellency ad felt it your duty to lay a protest before the highest authorities of the empire against the regulations you were forced to apply to Belgium. I counted, erefore, on at least some delay in the application of these measures, pending a fresh examination and as mitigation in the method of executing them.

But lo and behold! without a word of answer to my one of the arguments by which I proved in my letters of October 19 and November 10 the illegal and anti-social nature of the condemnation of the Belgian workingmen to forced labor and deportation, your Excellency confines yourself to repeating in your etter of November 23 the very text of your letter of October 26. These two letters are, in fact, identical both in matter and form.

On the other hand the recruiting of the so-called memployed is carried out most of the time without any regard to the observations of the local authorities. Many reports I hold in my hands bear witness that the clergy are brutally kept at a distance, the mayors and local councilors silenced; the recruiting officers find themselves in the presence of individuals mknown to them and arbitrarily make their choice from among their number. Instances of this abound. will give you two recent examples from a crowd

of others which I hold at your Excellency's service. On November 21 the recruiting of forced labor took place in the village of Kersbeek-Miscom. Of the 1825 inhabitants of the commune, the recruiting offiters took away ninety-four in a body without distinction of social status or profession; farmers' sons, men who have to support aged and infirm parents, fathers of families who left wife and children in want; men who were as needful to their families as their daily bread. Two families, both of them, saw four sons carried off at the same time. Of the ninety-four thus

deported, only two were really unemployed. In the region of Aerschot the recruiting took place on November 23. At Rillaer, Gelrode and Rotselaer young men who supported their widowed mothers, farmers, the heads of numerous families-one of them more than fifty years of age with ten childrencultivating the land and owning several head of catle, who had never received a penny from public tharity, were taken away by force in spite of all their profests. In the little village of Rillaer, as many as wenty-five young lads of seventeen were taken away.

Your Excellency would have wished that the communal authorities be accomplices in these odious retruitings; neither their legal position nor their concience would allow them to do so. But they could have enlightened the "recruiters" and are specially qualified for that. Priests, who know the common people better than any one else, could render these officials valuable help. Why is their assistance re-

At the end of your letter your Excellency reminds he that professional men are not molested. If only he unemployed were taken away I could understand his exception. But if the able-bodied are enrolled indiscriminately that exception is unfair. It would be higuitous to throw the whole burden of deportation on the working classes. The middle classes ought also to share in the sacrifice imposed on the nation by the occupying power, however cruel this sacrifice may be, and justly so, because it is cruel. Numbers of my clergy have entreated me to demand for them place in the vanguard of the persecuted. I record

this request and submit it to you with pride. I still wish to believe that the authorities of the mpire have not said their last word, that they will not be unmindful of our undeserved sorrows, of the reprobation of the civilized world, of the verdict of history and of the chastisement of God.

Accept, Excellency, the expression of my sincere

D. J. CARDINAL MERCIER, -Archbishop of Malines.

The Governor General commissioned the chief of te political department to acknowledge receipt of the larginal's letter of November 29, reserving the right answering it himself later on.

Political Department of the Government General of Belgium, Brussels. To His Eminence Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of December 5, 1916.

I have the honor to inform your Eminence that the Governor General has noted with interest the rebarks anent the question of the unemployed, which was made in your latter of the 29th inst., nevertheless, a consequence of a brief absence, he will be unable to "ply for some days. To my great regret the pardon of P. Franch," of Malines, cannot be granted for the resent. But when he has served half his sentence, the if your Eminence wishes to present a request in behalf. I have reason to hope that it will be exercit with success. I present to your Eminence Cable Briefs

Caucasus mountains, and the other is trying to reach the eastern shores of the Black sea. This, it is said, has been accomplished by the minute men is under consideration by the Allies, ne-

called up by President Petlura, and the Ukrainians now have 300,000 men unfer arms.

German Socialists have now taken up the cudgels against the trial of former Kaiser Wilhelm. It is argued that to surrender him to the Allies for trial

der present circumstances it will be a less important body than the reparations commission or the interallied mission, headed by Marshal Foch.

Mme. Landru has confessed that she impersonated two of "Bluebeerd's" victims in order to permit him to get their savings. She gives as her excuse that she "loved her husband too well."

The auti-Socialist Bloc National, which swept France in the elections of November 16 last, won again in the

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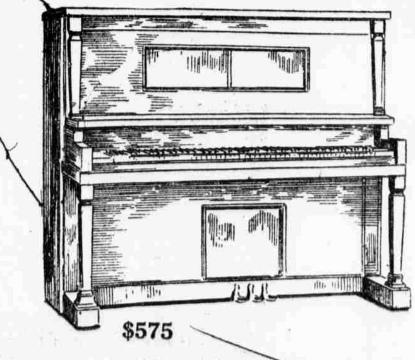
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