

Junk Bay Apostolate

IT IS EASY TO SHED A BRIEF TEAR OVER HUMAN TRAGEDIES BUT IF THAT IS ALL IT COUNTS FOR NOTHING . . .

The Question is what can we do?

There are round about 7,000 persons in the Junk Bay Refugee Camp — and approximately 400 children. It is to speak for the children that this article is written.

These children have suffered fear, weariness, hunger and thirst with their parents, in their retreat from Red China. They are the children of Nationalist soldiers, of Government officials, of intellectuals, of small land-owners . . . Circumstances have forced them to leave their native places — to stop their education, to seek refuge among us.

We are Christians — followers of Christ, who was born a poor child in a Manger. Perhaps now is the time for us to learn all over again that every child is wonderful, is an image of the Child in the Manger. Perhaps we have to learn all over again that somehow somewhere deep in all HUMAN beings is at least a dim reflection of the infinitely appealing, infinitely heroic, infinitely lovable goodness of the Child of Bethlehem. Having

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees the needs of the children were discussed, and for recreation purposes they require one or two basket-ball courts, some ping pong tables and equipment. Old tennis balls and racquets could provide games too. The children spend much time swimming in the sea, and balls for water polo would give them good fun. Owing to the hilly nature of the ground it is almost impossible to lay out a

One of the Brothers of St. John the Baptist stays all the time at the Camp, and Father Alexander Ts'au spends several days of the week there. Father Ts'au helps the refugees with gifts of clothing, soap, medicines, tinned milk and other food supplies, which readers of the "Sunday Examiner" send in. After the recent fire in the Camp when 30 huts were destroyed and many people lost all their small possessions, Father Ts'au and his helpers assisted the sufferers. This work was very much appreciated by the Officer in Charge of the Camp. At present clothes for babies and tiny children are lacking.

CAN YOU HELP WITH BABIES' CLOTHES, TINNED MILK, OR OTHER FOODS?

The Church-School Matshed is full to capacity for Sunday Mass. Every evening at six o'clock there is Religious Instruction for all — mothers, fathers, children. One hundred and twenty catechumens attend this class. The Catechism is taught by one of the refugees who formerly was a Catechist in North China. The seed has been planted — we can help it to grow and bear fruit.

CAN YOU HELP WITH PRAYERS TO CALL DOWN GOD'S BLESSING ON THIS WORK?

The answer to all these questions is for each individual to give, who reads this appeal. "You never gave me food, you did not bring me drink, you did not bring me home . . . there is sorrow in the world; if we want to be with Christ we have to share it, we have to be part of it in order to help and to heal. We have to learn to love, as St. John tells us, not in word only, but in deed and in truth . . ."

The Board of Trustees of the Junk Bay School



On Monday, 4th September, the above members of the Board of Trustees of the Junk Bay Mission School, met at the Camp. The Chairman, Rev. J. Foley, S.J., School Manager, Rev. Alexander Ts'au, Members of the Board, Mr. Fong, (Officer in Charge of the Camp), Mr. Chue (Ass. Officer in Charge of the Camp), Miss Luk and Miss Tam, Child Welfare Officers, and the School teachers. Other priest-visitors are also in the picture.

thought about these facts we should be in a receptive mood to think about what WE CAN DO for the children of Junk Bay.

Hong Kong Catholics have already provided over five and a half thousand dollars to build a Church-school, and a home for the Priest. Four men from among the refugees who have previously done university studies have volunteered to be the teachers. They will do this without any salary.

200 children have asked to be allowed to attend the school. With the present accommodation only half that number can be enrolled. The Officials at the Camp are most anxious that the school should be enlarged by putting up a second matshed. They assured the board of trustees of the school that they will always be full of pupils, even though later some other schools should be erected in the Camp. The pupils, the teachers, the books are there, but the matshed is lacking.

CAN YOU HELP TO PUT UP A SECOND MATSHED SCHOOL?

Football field, but a piece of land is being levelled to make a basket-ball court, and another piece has been prepared as a badminton court.

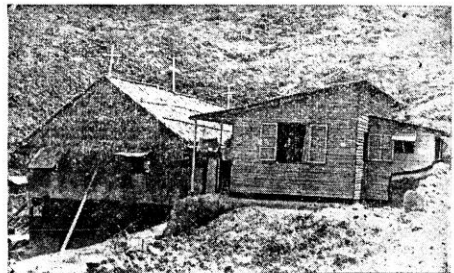
CAN YOU HELP WITH THE SPORTS EQUIPMENT?

Teachers and Pastor

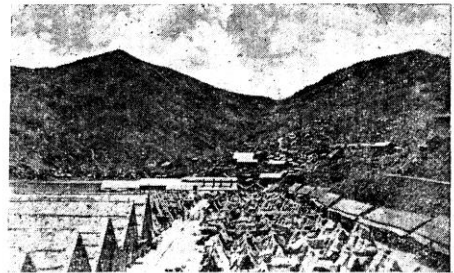


Reverend Alexander Ts'au of the Little Brothers of John the Baptist, the School Manager, with the School teachers.

The Church School and Priest's House



General View of the Camp



A community may rightly accumulate riches in a way which would be improper for individuals. It is good that a state should be prosperous, but the essence of such prosperity is not that goods should superabound—rather that they should be so distributed and so used that the citizens of the state may reach their proper development as persons. It is possible for a nation as for an individual to set its aim on material wealth unconditionally and as an end in itself, as something to be achieved no matter how. Such a nation is inescapably condemned. "I will take away out of the midst of thee thy proud boasters. . . . And I will leave in the midst of thee a poor and needy people, and they shall praise the name of the Lord."

WALTER SHEWRING.

"Our people no longer come to Holy Mass because they don't understand sacrifice. Our people no longer understand sacrifice because they don't know penance; and they don't know penance because they have lost the consciousness of sin!" — A Parish Priest.