

GENERAL WILLIAM BOOTH



GEN. BOOTH ON EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY STARTS NEW PLAN

Veteran Founder of Salvation Army Launches Scheme for "University of Humanity" in the United States--All the World Celebrates Anniversary of His Birth.

New York.—Gen. William Booth, founder and commander-in-chief of the Salvation Army, celebrated his eightieth birthday on Saturday, April 10, and the event was made the occasion of rejoicing all over the civilized world. The Army itself held big meetings in every city and town where it is established, and these were participated in by hundreds of thousands of other citizens who were glad to do honor to the distinguished philanthropist.

Gen. Booth himself presided over several monster mass meetings in London. His advanced age and the fact that he was operated on recently for cataract did not deter him from taking part in the celebrations held by his devoted soldiers.

University of Humanity Launched.

In America the day was marked especially by the launching of another of Gen. Booth's original schemes for social reform in the United States. At every post of the army was announced the beginning of work to found a University of Humanity, a great institution for the training of workers in social service. The university will be divided between New York and Chicago, and it is expected to begin with a fund of \$1,000,000. The gathering of this fund is the work that the army now enters upon in commemoration of its famous leader's completion of his eightieth year.

As a much-needed stone in the great organizational structure that William Booth has been building during the past 47 years, this idea of a school for the systematic training of his workers has been in his mind for several years. On his last visit to the United States the general made his first tentative announcement of the plan. Since then he has worked out many of the details and he has just consented to the beginning of preliminary work in this country where the need for trained workers has been especially great.

Growth of Great System.

It is perhaps not generally realized that the whole intricate modern machinery of civilization for the uplifting of the submerged tenth, the vast system of charities now so essential a part of modern life, is to a very large extent an outgrowth of the Booth idea. He was the first to see that the unfortunate could best be reached by those who had suffered as they had, and that they must be reached by practical worldly help before they could be prepared to begin the cleaner life. It was the Salvation Army which first made a practical working success of this now familiar principle of so-called "missionary work."

This whole plan of campaign for raising the fallen began on a very simple scale in the poverty-stricken and crime-infested East end of London and under the impetus of William Booth's singular force of mind and personality and the momentum that it has gathered with almost miraculous rapidity it has developed into a truly astonishing organization.

Some of the departments of its work are: Prison-gate and Rescue, Inebriates' homes, Boys' and Girls' homes, Farm colonies, Emigration, Naval and Military homes, Maternity homes, nursing, Samaritan brigades, hospital and benevolent visitation, police court work and Indian school training.

No other religious organization in the world's history has branched out into so many departments of philanthropic effort and absorbed them as part of its religious duties.

Need of Trained Workers.

The scheme for a University of Humanity grew naturally out of the development of the 20 other departments. With a field as wide as the world itself the work of the Salvation Army is only limited by the number of workers that can be secured and its effectiveness by the understanding and earnestness of these workers. As uplift work has grown from local efforts to help a few into a great inclusive movement which must miss none, the problems of organization have grown greater. Charity has become a science and its application an art requiring the highest development of personal qualities of insight and altruism. There is thus pressing need for workers of quite exceptional qualification. These qualifications must first of all be inherent and must then be developed by experience and special training.

This is the new work planned by Gen. Booth. Those women, for instance, who are to go among the slums of the big cities must not only have the desire to help but must know how real helpfulness can best be secured. They must understand by a study of practical sociology something of the social forces that create this poverty and crime and wretchedness. They must understand the danger of the unwise charity that merely increases dependence and understand the value of better living conditions in raising the moral courage of those to whom fate has been unkind. They must be able not only to correct home conditions themselves but to impart their knowledge and to inspire with a desire for betterment.

Value of the Organization. This will be but a small part of the university's training in social service as planned by the patriarchal evangelist, but it serves to show of what value such an organization will be.

Of the general's plan for the university he himself said recently: "I want to train men and women to deal with misfortune. I want them instructed to combat with the weaknesses and sins of the drunkard, the criminal, the pauper and the would-be suicide."

At 80 years of age the head of the Salvation Army, after more than half a century of almost unceasing activity, is as vigorous and untiring as at any time in his career. The inexhaustible vitality and intellectual and physical activity of this social reformer, philanthropist, preacher, author and traveler are marvellous. At fourscore he is traveling many thousands of miles

over the world every year, controlling the destinies of his more than 7,000 corps of Salvation soldiery with their 18,000 commissioned officers, distributed among every civilized country, preaching constantly to vast audiences and doing an amount of literary work that would be a racer to many a professional author with no other occupation.

William Booth was born on April 10, 1829, in Nottingham, England, and was trained for the Methodist ministry which he entered and became one of the strongest evangelistic forces in that church. He grew dissatisfied, however, at reaching only those with some religious training and conviction. He felt that there were thousands whose need was far greater and he gravitated to the East end of London where wretchedness of all kinds was the rule.

In a disused burial ground on Mile End road he pitched an old tent and the first Salvationist meeting was held in that tent in 1851. The fiery eloquence of the earnest young preacher caught the attention of a crowd of poor Whitechapelers and before that first meeting was over he had made several conversions, a performance that he has been repeating throughout the world for 47 years.

How He Started the Army.

This first meeting resulted in the formation of the Christian mission, from which it was the evangelist's custom to send his converts to the existing churches of the locality, but finding that they were not welcomed and were in danger of slipping back from sheer want of comradeship and oversight, he set about forming societies of the converted. These he found to be a potent agency for bringing in more, as the heedless East ender could be impressed by the words of a former "pal" when he would not listen to a minister. So was created the central idea of the Salvation Army.

The need of organization becomes apparent, but several methods were tried with little success before Gen. Booth hit upon the military idea and named his organization the Salvation Army. From that time on the movement grew amazingly and it has continued to grow without ceasing to this day.

Spread Over the World.

The movement began spreading to other countries of the world in 1851 when it first reached the United States through the influence of a silk-weaver who had emigrated from Coventry, England, bringing with him the Salvation Army idea and a strong desire to continue in the work. It reached Australia in the same year through a milk dealer from Steyne, and soon afterwards the first Canadian corps was organized in a similar fashion.

Five years later, in 1856, the general made the first of many visits to the American branches of the army and he has seen them grow from a few small corps into a veritable army of tremendous influence and unsurpassed efficiency. His first great world-tour was made in 1891, when he visited South Africa, Australia and India. Since then he has visited the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India four times, South Africa twice and Japan and the Holy Land each once.

During all these travels the actual executive responsibility for the government of the army has never been lifted from his shoulders. Even on shipboard he is an indefatigable worker, planning and writing through the days.

Gen. Booth Honored.

One of the most remarkable of the many tributes paid to the general by the great of the world was that of the mikado of Japan during the visit to that country. The mikado personally received the general with great warmth and he was accorded remarkable ovations in Yokohama, Tokyo, Sendai and Kyoto, a circumstance of strange import when it is realized that Japan is not a Christian country.

Another interesting distinction given Gen. Booth was the conferring on him of the degree of doctor of civil law by Oxford university. The significance of this honor will be better understood when it is stated that those who received university honors with him at the time were Prince Arthur of Connaught, the prime minister of England, the lord chancellor, the speaker, Sir E. Grey, the archbishop of Armagh, Sir Evelyn Wood, the American ambassador, Mark Twain and Rudyard Kipling.

As a writer Gen. Booth is remarkable, both as a stylist, as a thinker and as a producer. He has written in all 21 volumes, besides innumerable articles for the army publications. His best known book is "In Darkest England and the Way Out," in which he outlined his scheme for social reform by means of colonization. "The Training of Children," "Love, Marriage and the Home," and his books on reform are among the others of the general's best known literary productions.

Writes of His Creed.

Of his creed the general has written very beautifully. He says:

"The simplicity of our creed has been, as I believe it will remain, one of the principal helps to our unity. We stand for the old truths. The faith which can be interpreted in terms of duty, of unselfishness, of purity, of love to God and man, is the only faith we really care about. Whatever may be the case with the select minority, the consciousness of sin, the force of evil habit and the consciousness of sin and the influence of passion, are all vivid realities with the great masses of the population. To them we bring the promise of deliverance by Jesus Christ."

SALVATION ARMY'S WORK IN THE UPLIFTING OF HUMANITY

How the Wonderful Organization Brings About the Moral and Physical Regeneration of Thousands of Men and Women Degraded by Crime and Misfortune.

Chicago—"The World for Christ," the war cry of the Salvation Army is uttered to-day by more men and women than ever before since that wonderful organization was formed by Gen. William Booth in the slums of London. In the United States alone there are nearly 900 corps and outposts where the "soldiers" are doing untiringly the two-fold work of the army—spiritual and social. Every day in the week, every hour in the day, they labor earnestly among the fallen, the degraded and the unfortunate. Not so many years ago these soldiers met with abuse and violence, or at the best with ridicule and contempt. Now they are everywhere accorded respect and assistance. Their methods have not changed, but the

hovel up dark and filthy alleys, the cheerful Salvation lassies carry food and coal and medicines; and, better yet, bring to the wretched and downcast the hope of better things and encouragement to struggle onward and upward. There are no harsh reproaches for past shortcomings, no threats, but gentle admonition, kindly advice and material assistance at the time when it is most needed.

Slum Angels to the Rescue.

In addition to the 21 stations in Chicago from which the willing workers help the poor, a sort of flying squadron of "slum angels" is at the beck and call of the commanding officer to carry swift relief to extreme cases in any part of the city. During the winter these slum sisters visited



CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE POOR.

and assisted in various ways 1,740 families, at a cost in cash, clothing, coal and medicines of \$2,642.36.

Varied Social Work.

While all Salvation Army operations have as the ultimate goal the saving of the whole man, body and soul, it is the social and industrial part of the work that attracts the most attention and awakens the broadest sympathy. The extent of this work is comprehended by few who see the sober-clad soldiers on their daily and nightly rounds. It comprises many and varied branches, such as workmen's hotels, industrial homes, rescue homes, children's homes, maternity hospitals, work in prisons and slums, farm colonies, summer outings and Christmas dinners. Some of its charities are more than self-supporting, but every cent that is made by them is used in other branches of the work, and for the rest the army depends on the contributions of philanthropic persons who believe that no other agency is so potent in reaching and elevating the "submerged tenth." The public is reached not only through personal solicitation, but by means of periodicals, of which the Army publishes 69, with a total of more than 1,913,000 copies issued. It operates in 54 countries and colonies and preaches the gospel in 28 languages.

The Army in Chicago.

Chicago is the headquarters for the western territory of the Army in the United States, with Commissioner Thomas Estill in command, and the operations of the army here are a fine example of its work throughout



FIRST AID TO THE INJURED.

the world. During the cold winter months the soldiers are especially busy, for in addition to providing shelter and food for countless destitute men and women in permanent and temporary lodging houses, they search unceasingly for cases of suffering where the victims are too proud or too ignorant to apply for relief. To such people, in rickety tenements and in

where they are given out to the poor. Many of the baskets, destined for families in which there are little children, contain also a few toys and games.

In summer time the Army does a fine work in taking mothers and children for outings in the country. It owns a big house and farm in one of the city's prettiest suburbs and there the tired women and puny children

Christmas Dinners for Thousands.

The spectacular side of the Salvation Army's work reaches its climax at Christmas time. For many days before the festival there may be seen on every prominent corner in the business district a Salvation lass, who, despite snow, wind, sleet and cold cheerfully stands with tambourine in hand, appealing to the passer-by for the wherewithal to provide a happy Christmas for more than 12,000 of Chicago's poor. These people have no one to plan pleasant Christmas surprises for them, and the knowledge that the Salvation Army has not forgotten them on the day of universal rejoicing is one of the brightest spots in their dreary lives.

The thousands of Christmas dinners are purchased, packed in baskets and taken to the 21 distributing points,

from the slums are restored to health and vigor.

Children's Industrial Farm.

In California, 20 miles from Santa Rosa, is one of the Army's greatest institutions—the Lytton Springs Children's Industrial farm of 630 acres. Once it was a sanitarium and summer retreat. People went there to get the benefits of the mineral waters, the balmy air, the glorious vistas below and fern-carpeted canyons behind. On it there was a big hotel and ten cottages, and these erstwhile abodes of the sick and weary are now the haunts and homes of happy children.

About five years ago the Salvation Army, working on the principle that the country is the right place to bring up children, founded the home. It was the outgrowth of a small home maintained by the order in San Francisco. Maj. C. W. Bourne and his wife were installed as superintendents, and the useful career of a marvellously useful institution was begun. It is now the home of about 200 happy, healthy and most useful children. The boys are learning to be skillful farmers and dairymen and the girls to be model housekeepers—and all of them to be good citizens. Much of the produce of the farm is sold in San Francisco.

Rescue and Maternity Home.

Of all its institutions, the Salvation Army in Chicago is perhaps proudest of the Rescue and Maternity Home. Of this the present matron, Mrs. Esign Smith, writes:

"Our social operations and colonization schemes met the hearty approval of the socialist-minded. Our children's homes and even slum posts excited the admiration of philanthropists, but just depict a poor girl strayed from the path of virtue and rectitude, or one steeped in vileness, and the majority of your listeners would either ridicule or turn their offended moral nostrils away in disgust. Whence shall the poor, fallen girl turn when the whole world is against her? It was the practical answer to this momentous question from the myriads of submerged daughters that opened the rescue home, and the western metropolis was not one whit behind her sister cities, for in 1895 our institution was formally opened."

Five times the home was moved to more commodious quarters, and its work has increased steadily. Last year 63 children were born there. The total number of girls received during the year was 135. About 50 of the girls who have been in the home return regularly for the monthly meetings. Scores of them are now happily married and settled down in good homes and with loving husbands. What sociologists find to praise most in the Salvation Army's maternity homes is the fact that every effort is made to induce the unfortunate young mothers to keep their children. This is admittedly the most potent factor in their moral regeneration.

"Surely," says Matron Smith, "God alone can comprehend the inestimable



Coal for Slum Dwellers.

value of such an institution, where thousands of poor, outcast girls, swiftly drifting on the dark current to perdition, are rescued and find a peaceful haven."

Vast Business System.

The executive work of the army that falls upon the shoulders of its octogenarian leader is enormous. Besides its multitudinous charitable institutions, for all of which the most efficient business management is required, there are dozens of other departments of its work that are almost unknown to the general public. For instance, there is the management of the great properties of the army and its building operations. It does all its own planning and building, even training its own architects, builders and workmen. Then it has large printing and engraving plants and the management of its publications is in itself a great business.

The army's profits from its extensive trading operations are devoted entirely to the furtherance of its reform propaganda, the extension and development of its mission field. A special point is rightly made of the fact that no officer profits to the extent of a single cent from the financial success of its business enterprises.

The funds of the army are administered by a central board in London and every account is subjected to rigid inspection. A regular audit of the books is also made by accountants of standing engaged from outside the army roll. A board also consults with the general on each detail of army policy as it arises. Day and night ceaselessly—for the strain is never off—this central committee, keenly alert, watches every development affecting the good of men the world over. Every section of the army is linked with this central committee by the cable.