

Rev. E. W. Cross "Did His Bit"

Any account of Grinnell's participation in the World War would be incomplete without a short statement of the contribution which Rev. E. W. Cross made toward the defeat of the German *toiles* and the triumph of democracy. Envious as his war record may be, it gains added force from the fact that, as a minister of the gospel, he was not required to go to the front and as a Y secretary he was not required to carry stretchers; and yet he did all of these and more too.

It was on August 31, 1917, that the pastor of the Congregational church announced his appointment to an overseas secretaryship in the Y. M. C. A. and his expected early departure for the western front. Not wishing to go counter to the convictions of their pastor, the members of the congregation granted him leave of absence and bade him farewell.

During the succeeding fall and winter, Rev. Mr. Cross was kept busy constructing his canteen and planning entertainment for both soldiers and civilians immediately in the rear of the fighting line. Lacking funds to put on the type of a Christmas party he wished, he used some of his own funds to buy presents for the dough-boys of his division.

The latter part of July, 1918, word was received here that Mr. Cross had been wounded while carrying stretchers in the Chateau Thierry sector, although this was entirely outside of his line of duty as a "Y" secretary. The wound proved to be a light one and he was soon back in the harness again.

His next attempt to act as a stretcher bearer was not destined to end so easily. On October 18, while carrying a litter in no man's land, he and a score of other Americans were caught in a German barrage and had to seek shelter in shell holes. When the bar-

rage had passed, it was found that three had been killed and twelve wounded, Mr. Cross among the latter.

On his return from southern France where he had been sent to recover from his wounds, Mr. Cross was commissioned a first lieutenant in the American army and during the rest of the war served as an army chaplain. As an officer in one of the divisions assigned to the Rhineland he was one of the first Americans to cross the bridgehead into German territory.

During the time that he was a member of the army of the occupation, Mr. Cross supplemented his regular duties by establishing a school for the instruction of some of the uneducated members of his regiment. It was not until March 1919 that he was discharged and able to return to his pastorate in Grinnell.

A notable tribute to Mr. Cross' bravery and devotion to duty is contained in the following passage from Katherine Mayo's book, "That Damn" Y. "In Villers — Turnelle — perhaps with Coullemelle, the hottest point in the Montdidier-Amiens advance front line, worked three good Y men. W. T. Howell of Detroit, E. W. Cross of Grinnell, and Murray Bartlett, clergy all.

"Made acting chaplains by the order of their regiment, they found the dead. They acted as stretcher bearers for the wounded. They hunted out the stranded in no man's land and brought them in. And still they ran their canteens and their welfare work besides. Real workers those three, single eyed for the moment's job."

EDWARD WEEKS CROSS

Dr. Edward W. Cross, whose ministry in the First Congregational Church, Springfield, Mass., began about two years ago, succumbed to a heart attack at his home on November 2 at the early age of 54.

Dr. Cross was born in Cannon Falls, Minn., the son of Rowland Stevenson Cross and Mary Elizabeth Cross. He graduated from Carleton College in 1907, and took his theological training in Union Theological Seminary and Oberlin College. He received the D. D. degree from Grinnell College in 1920. He was ordained in 1911 and served Congregational pastorates at Livingston, Mont., for four years; at Grinnell, Ia., 1915-1925 with the exception of months spent in war service in France; and in Union Church, Richmond Hill, Long Island, N. Y. from 1925 to 1937. Dr. Cross' war service was of distinction, first as a Y.M.C.A. secretary with the First Division, A.E.F., and later as chaplain with the Sixteenth Infantry, Army of Occupation. He was wounded in the battle of Soissons, and was cited for bravery.

Dr. Cross was a former chairman of the Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life, and in recent years was President of the Home Board of Missions. He had also served as moderator of the New York City Congregational Association and as moderator of the New York State Congregational Conference. His pastorates in the Middle West and East and his general denominational activities made him widely known in our fellowship, and he was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. The tributes to his memory from



WORLD WAR ONE MADE A DIFFERENCE

He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Sigma Rho fraternities.

He is survived by his wife, Bessie (Daugherty) Cross, one daughter, Elizabeth, a student in Carleton college, two sons, Robert and Rowland, both at home, his mother, Mrs. Mary E. Cross of Minnesota, two brothers, Rev. Rowland M. Cross of China and Willard Cross of Fairbault, Minn., and four sisters, Mrs. F. A. Burnquist of Minnesota, Miss Margaret Cross of Washington, D. C., Miss Helen Cross of San Francisco and Miss Lena Cross of China.

For some of the above information The Herald-Register is indebted to a clipping from The New York Times, kindly supplied by H. C. Morse.

Tributes by Fellow Ministers.

Tributes brought by fellow ministers on the occasion of the untimely death of Dr. Cross were eloquent and sincere. The following from Rev. Dr. Earl Vinemoderator of the Hampton Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers, is typical.

"A more happy spirited leader among the clergy one could hardly imagine. A more sympathetic pastor one could not find anywhere. A more sacrificing friend to all, big and little alike, one would not pray for. His genial heart and radiant face were an instant inspiration to all who knew him. His sound counsel and rich Christian experience were always at the disposal of all who sought them day or night.

"He was a tower of divine radiance to all whom he ministered to in the name of his Master among men. God must have some tremendous job for him to do elsewhere to take him away so soon. We are at a loss to know what to say. We just trust the judgment of his God and ours."

"This is a tribute to which all the Grinnell people who knew Dr. Cross during his residence here will respond with a fervent "Amen."

DR. EDWARD W. CROSS, EX-PASTOR IN QUEENS

Head of Board of Missions of Congregational Church Dies

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Nov. 2 (AP)—The Rev. Dr. Edward Weeks Cross, president of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Church and pastor of First Congregational Church, died tonight of a heart ailment. His age was 54.

He had served as the chairman of the National Commission on Evangelism and Devotional Life of the Congregational Christian Church from 1929 to 1934 and had acted as moderator of the New York City Congregational Association and moderator of the New York State Congregational Conference.

Dr. Cross served in France in the World War for eighteen months, first as a Y. M. C. A. secretary with the First Division, A. E. F., and later as chaplain with the Sixteenth Infantry, Army of Occupation. He was wounded in the battle of Soissons.

Surviving are his widow, his mother, three children, two brothers and four sisters.

Dr. Cross was pastor of the Union Congregational Church in Richmond Hill, Queens, from 1925 to 1937.

Born in Cannon Falls, Minn., the son of Rowland Stevenson Cross and Mary Elizabeth Cross, he received his A. B. from Carleton College in 1907, was graduated from the Union Theological Seminary in 1910 and from Oberlin College the next year. He received his D. D. from Grinnell College in 1920.

He was ordained to the clergy in 1911 and served in Livingston, Mont., 1911-15, and at Grinnell, Iowa, 1915-25. He was cited for bravery in France.

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