

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1943

## Relief Notes

### Observation from Paraguay

Letters from Bro. Vernon Schmidt dated December 7 and 13 indicate that Bro. Schmidt is spending time in the Chaco with the Menno and Fernheim colonies as well as giving time to the Primavera and Friesland colonies.

Following are observations which Bro. Schmidt records:

The Friesland colony has a very good cotton crop this year. Other crops are also good. . . The hospital in the Primavera (Hutterite) colony may be finished by the end of March. . . Clothing needs for the colonies are chiefly for boys and girls between the ages of 6 to 12.

### For the Fernheim Hospital

For the support of hospital in the Fernheim colony, the Western District Tidings announces, young people

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## Religious Settlers Building New Homes In Paraguay Progress Despite Hardships

BY HAROLD BUTCHER

Fresh news is at hand of the progress being made by the hardy band of religious men and women of the Society of Brothers, whose flight from Germany to England, and subsequent migration to Paraguay, raised much interest a year ago. A letter written by one of their number, E. Guy Johnson, who took a leading part in the plans that led to over 300 men, women, and children comprising the religious farming community crossing the Atlantic to the New World, states that besides the original settlement at Primavera, Alto Paraguay, a second settlement has now been established a few miles away. Moreover, the Society has been able to send brothers into neighboring South American countries "to make contact with the people and to tell about the life of the community, and, above all, to bear a Christian witness."

Seven children have died since the community started over a year ago. The latest baby succumbed to bad colds following the impact of wild sub-tropical storms on the hastily improvised buildings which the settlers had erected. "It is a real fight," writes Johnson. "One house has collapsed. Fortunately, it was not completely finished and so was unoccupied."

Latest developments in the community life include the building of brick-works. Good bricks, roof tiles, floor tiles, and water coolers are now being made. The next step is to be the making of pottery as soon as materials for glazing are obtained. This industry may have quite an influence upon the cultural standards in the locality, which has stayed primitive too long because of transport conditions.

Medical work is important both for battling disease among the brothers and to aid the many Paraguayans who come to visit the Society doctors. The general health of the community has improved, and the children are cared for more adequately. The second settlement is to have a hospital very soon to take the place of the present temporary building. A publishing house is to be established with printing presses brought from England. The manufacture of toys and other articles from turned wood has started, and orders have been received from Asuncion and Buenos Aires. "We have extracted and sold oil from orange leaves," Johnson writes, "and we are experimenting with other oil extracts. We are also making soap, but so far only for our use."

Visitors from the United States have shown great interest in what is going on in this pioneer community, and the Society has been cheered by their readiness to help. "Financially we are still in great need," Guy Johnson concludes. "We require more equipment for the hospital and we are very short of tools both for agricul-

tural work and for carpentry. Because of war many very necessary things such as nails, tools, some drugs, are nearly unobtainable, and the price is exorbitant. But donations from America, because of the favorable exchange rate, go a long way." (World-over Press.)