

OXFORD GROUP IS TRACED TO CHINA

Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman
Tells of Original Efforts
in Orient

CRUSADERS ARRIVE HERE

Converted Scottish Com-
munist Is Member of Party
Largely of Academic
Character

The main body of spiritual crusaders, known as the Oxford Group, who have already proved themselves in other cities to have a programme of evangelism, as interesting as it is novel, arrived aboard the Canadian Pacific liner, Duchess of Bedford, on Saturday night.

Anyone expecting to find this gathering of some three dozen men and women, who profess to have found a message vibrant with a power such as was seen in the first century of the Christian Church, fairly exuding the atmosphere of what, in the slang of the University that has given them a name, would be termed "pie," received a surprise. From their leader, the founder of this movement, Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, who accompanies the party on this tour, to the latest joined member of it, there was nothing outwardly to distinguish them from the remainder of the travellers, except perhaps, a genial good humor that pervaded the Group which even the drag end of a trip across the ocean can not destroy.

"Frank," as the galvanic battery of the Group from the human standpoint is apparently known, appealed to The Gazette representative to be well named in the few moments of an informal chat waiting for the word for passengers to have their baggage checked. Utter frankness and good humor were the characteristics which stood out most prominently in the man who has found his ideas in a few years carried into six countries, with the result that there has been formed a nucleus in those countries of groups like the parent organization. But the Oxford Group is not an organization in the ordinary sense of the word, Dr. Buchman declared. That is, it does not expect to depend on the ordinary methods of expansion, having little interest in the usual financial programme which accompanies organized efforts of growth today.

GENESIS IN CHINA.

It was a surprise to The Gazette to learn from Dr. Buchman that the Group Movement, which has been making such strides at Oxford University, had its beginning in China, where the founder was able to get together influential, as well as ordinary, professional and businessmen to model their lives on a Christian scheme of life that cuts across the ordinary divisions of class and denomination, although introducing no principles not already proved most successful by certain Christians in all ages.

In the somewhat kaleidoscopic interview of the "Group" allowed the reporter, "Jimmy" Watts, with his rather colorful background, proved an attraction. His reputation as a former fiery communist agitator had led to a picture of an aggressive man of commanding physical proportions. Stories of his having been thrown into prison twice for leadership in outbreaks in the Old Country in the past and his redoubtable efforts during the great strike of 1925 prompted a picture which made the quiet, amiable and unassuming little Scotch miner rather a surprise.

"From political communism to Christian communism" seems to sum up the spiritual Odyssey of Mr. Watts and his separation from the old tenets of militant class war has evidently been complete, for, of all the former associates of days when he stumped the country for communism only three will now allow him inside their homes, he informed The Gazette. What Mr. Watts had hoped to do through class war in the days of the general strike he now hopes to accomplish through the technique of a spiritual revival which forms the objective of the Oxford Group.