**6,000 Make Pilgrimage to Lebanon**

Side by side on the speakers’ platform on Barracks Field at Lebanon, Governor Marcus H. Holcomb, Connecticut’s third War governor, and Reverend G.B. Cabanel, chaplain in chief in the famous French Blue Devils, were that chief figures in the speaking programme at the patriotic pilgrimage to Lebanon on Sunday, arranged for by the state council of defense in connection with the celebration of Lafayette day. For each of these 2 speakers, it was his first visit to this historic shrine of Connecticut, and for each there was an enthusiastic greeting from the 6,000 to 7,000 pilgrims who were there from all parts of the state to participate in the exercises of the day.

Parked solidly all around Lebanon green, both North and South of the Congregational Church, were from 1100 to 1200 automobiles, it was estimated, everyone bearing the “Bound to Lebanon” sticker that gave them the license to travel on this second of the “save gasoline” Sundays.

Governor Holcomb told his audience that it was Connecticut boys were first to land in France and it was Connecticut boys were proving to the consternation of the Huns that they can and will fight, making the Germans say that these Wild cats don’t fight according to any rules. America is preparing as only America can prepare and will have an army of 4,000,000 overseas next year ready to fight until they cross the finish line in Berlin. We have got to crush the German army before we can reach the German people, and if it is necessary to kill the whole German army, then let us kill them. I wish, said the governor, I had nothing to do for the rest of the war but kill Germans. Anyhow, I’m going to do the best I can as long as I last, he continued when he could make himself heard about the applause that greeted his vigorous words.

Earlier in his address he sketched briefly what Connecticut had done in man-power in the revolution and the war of the rebellion, furnishing 13 per cent, or about 27,000 of the men in Washington’s army and again 13 per cent of the men in the armies of the Union. This means 54,600 men which was 6000 more than the state’s quota. Now Connecticut is credited by the government with a population of 1,719,000, which is 350,000 more people then there are in the state, but she is still responding nobly to the call and so far about 3 per cent of the population has been sent into the army.

Connecticut had been foremost in all measures for prosecuting the war, he said, taking the first and most complete military census, instituting the Home Guard from which 5,000 men had already gone into the army, and responding to every call, men as well as women.

The governor’s address came in the afternoon programme which opened at 1:45 after the interval at 1 o’clock for basket lunches. It was preceded by a spirited song service led by about 300 members of Liberty choruses who were present. J.S. Stevens of Hartford, musical director on the state council of defense, conducted the singing in a way that brought every voice into participation. Tubb’s band of this city, John M. Swahn, director, furnished the music, and the governor was introduced by Reverend Hollis A. Campbell, Pastor of the Lebanon Congregational Church, who also delivered the invocation. C.C. King, Lebanon Liberty chorus leader, assisted Mr. Stevens.

Immediately after the governor’s address, the American and the French flags were raised while the respective national anthems were sung.

Reverend W.A. Keefe of Plainfield made an eloquent introduction of Chaplin Cabanel, declaring that America was in the war to man the best flag in the world to the flagstaffs of old Berlin and that we were consecrating ourselves to follow as the war governor and President Wilson lead the way, and were ready to pay back with our last drop of treasure and of blood the debt we owe to Rochambeau and Lafayette.

Father Cabanel, who is the first priest to be decorated with the medal of the Legion of Honor, wore that medal with its red ribbon on his breast and alongside it the metal with palms.

As he rose to speak it was raining slightly and some at the rear of the crowd shouted “Down with the umbrellas!” The momentary interruption took the chaplain unawares and his unfamiliarity with the language made him look questioningly around, but at a reassuring word in French from someone on the platform he turned again to the crowd with a winning smile and a little gesture of his hand to speak.

He referred to the beautiful symbolism of the 2 sister flags in similar colors rising side by side, an act of faith and an act of friendship, to go on together to victory forever.

I have seen your soldiers he said, and I love them as I love my Blue Devils, the terrors of the German soldiers. The Germans are afraid of them and they are right to be afraid. The Germans have lied, they are lying and in the future they will lie, he continued with an expressive downward motion of his finger, which caught the crowd. They said France was crushed, but France is showing how she is crushed.

He told the story of the death of the last descendant of the Rochambeaus in his arms with the words “France Forever,” and he said this was the message he brought here. America and France Together in Victory Forever.

Charles D. Lockwood of Stamford and Mayor George Quigley of New Britain were the concluding speakers and the day ended with a 10 minute devotional service in the church.

In the morning program mare EE Rogers of New London had spoken at 11 o’clock at the Trumbull tomb, linking New London’s war activities with Lebanon in his inspiring remarks. At 11:45 Aubrey L Maddock of Hartford, secretary of the department of publicity, spoke at the war office along historical lines.

Mr. Maddock spoke in part as follows:

We have again turned to the shrine of our fathers in an hour of trial and need. Ever as the 13 English colonies in America turned, at the outbreak of the revolution, to Connecticut and to Lebanon for direction and aid, so we of today have come to this ancient town, have gathered beside this historic war office, in order that we may return to our tasks filled with a greater determination to contribute our maximum to the success of American arms. Here, at this old war office, or revolutionary governor, Jonathan Trumbull, and is council of safety, held their meetings and contributed their mighty share to the cause of American independence. Within the walls of this little war office, more than 1109 sessions of the council of safety were held, and it is recorded that governor Trumbull never missed a session.

Soon after the Lexington alarm, the Connecticut General Assembly, realizing that it must delegate its powers to provide for the sudden and imperative daily needs which would arise when it was not in session, passed an act at the May session in 1775 creating the council of safety, and this act, with subsequent additional legislation, continued the council of safety In this acct, with subsequent additional legislation, continue the council of safety in office throughout the entire war with Matthew Griswold, Eliphant Dryer, Jabez Huntington and Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Nathaniel Wales Jr. Jedidiah Edlerkin, Joshua West and Benjamin Huntington as its members.

It is evident that the General Assembly in creating this committee intended that it should meet at Lebanon, the home of Governor Trumbull, because 3 of its members were residents of this ancient town, and all of the other members, excepting deputy governor Griswold, lived in Norwich and Windham, then adjoining Lebanon.

The record of the state of Connecticut is written in letters of pure gold upon the pages of revolutionary history. Whatever was wanted, whenever help was asked, Connecticut responded “Ready,” and supplied the need. If this state, today, is to continue its leadership, among all the states of the union; if Connecticut is to meet its obligations to the fullest extent, then all Connecticut must rally to the support of the nation, the chief executive of the state, and the state council of defence, just as the colony of Connecticut rallied as a unit behind the cause of the American colonies, the Revolutionary war governor, and the council of safety in the long and weary months from Lexington to Yorktown. In those heroic days, every man and every woman, every farm and every forge, contributed its shared to American victory. So today, every person and every resource must be placed unreservedly behind our armed forces to help send the armies of the grand alliance across the Rhine and on to Berlin itself.

It is fitting, indeed, that we should honor this ancient structure today so my: for its threshold in years gone by was crossed and recrossed countless times by Washington and Sullivan and Knox, by Parsons and Spencer, by Benjamin Franklin and our Israel Putnam, by Lafayette and Rochambeau and the Duke du Lauzen and doubtless by other notable officers of the French army which was cantoned or camped here on Marches during 1780 and 1781.

When America broke diplomatic relations with Germany on February 3rd 1917, and seen Count Von Bernstoff and his crew on a much belated journey back to Germany, the first telegram of its kind received at Washington from the chief executive of a state was from the governor of Connecticut, who wired : “You can depend upon the loyal support of Connecticut.” This state was a unit behind the struggle for American independence. Today this state is a unit behind the struggle for world freedom. There have been individual cases of disloyalty and of enemy activities; doubtless there still are traitors within the state would sell out to the highest bidder, or who would give themselves to the enemy without a bit; yet their number is limited and is diminishing all the time. The loyalty of Connecticut as a state has never been question from the earliest fights for freedom to the present day, and,please God, it never shall be questioned as long as time goes on.

As soon as America enter the present war and the need of munitions and supplies begin to exist, Connecticut responded with her mills and factories speeded up to the limit. History was but repeating itself, for the same prompt response came from Connecticut in the hour of need at the opening of the revolution.

Our time does not permit a further discussion of the importance of this old war office to the winning of the revolution. Every task that had to be done by Connecticut was done properly and cheerfully, and the majority of the state’s war work was directed from this ancient building. So frequently did Washington use the expression, “we must consult Brother Jonathan,” when a knotty problem arose, that soon the words became a popular and universal phrase of the whole American army. Today we have come to Lebanon, have come to this historic old war office. We have turned here in an hour of trial and anxiety like those in which Washington turned to Lebanon. The day has gone when Brother Jonathan can be consulted. The hand that wrote orders and proclamations so vital to American success in the revolution has been stilled in death for more than a century and a quarter. The lips that advised other makers of history in his day have long been sealed. Yet we come here in reverence to the memory of our Revolutionary War governor and his associates. We come to this scene of their labors and their success, not to consult Brother Jonathan, but to gain from a day at the scene of his work the inspiration to meet the problems of the new war. Jonathan Trumbull is gone, the members of his consul of safety have long since passed to the great beyond, yet their spirit still lives, and from that spirit and from these scenes of their toil, we will gain today a determination that no sacrifice shall be too great and no service too severe if that service and sacrifice will contribute to the preservation of the liberties, which they struggled to establish.

Commander Henry Hovey of Sedgwick post, NO. 1 G.A.R. of this city gave a short address at 12:30 at the governor Buckingham house. Because of a sudden feeling of weakness commander Hovey had Adjutant Arthur L. Peale read the address after the commander had spoken a few opening sentences.

Commander Hovey’s address was as follows:

We are met here today to pay homage and loving tribute to the name and fame of our war governor, William Alfred Buckingham, who was a native of this far-famed town of Lebanon and who first saw the light of day on the 28th day of May, 1804. Amidst the surroundings of a typical New England home he grew manhood’s estate. His early year and training bore the imprints of a loving Christian parentage in deacon Samuel Buckingham and wife who in turn came from the earliest puritan ancestry dating back to the 17th century, therefore we are standing at the threshold of his early home and can we not call it sacred ground? His boy hood days were occupied on the farm and attending the common schools of the village with a finishing course at bacon Academy. This schooling terminated at the age of 18 after which he taught for a year or so.

He then left farm and home to engage as clerk in his uncle’s dry goods store at Norwich when at the age of 21 he established himself in the dry goods business, continuing with market success in that, and also manufacturing of ingrain carpets at Greenville until the year 1848. After this he devoted himself to his various manufacturing interests, chief of which was the Hayward rubber company of Colchester.

His successful business career brought to him his political friends urging him to accept the nomination for mayor of the city of Norwich, to which he was duly elected and reelected for 4 years until 1857. He was elected in 1858 as governor of the state of Connecticut and for 8 consecutive years he was reelected to the same high office until 1866 when he declined further honors. During the period of the civil war he showed his highest qualities as a Patriot and war governor, not only to our state, but extended his aid to our Noble president Lincoln, who was beset by traders all around him at the national Capital and its environments extending into Maryland. Our War governor saw the perilous situation at once and dispatched special aid in the person of his son in law, General Aiken. This afforded great relief to President Lincoln and ever afterwards during the war, there was a frequent interchange of messages passing between our governor and the president.

After his term as governor had expired he remained for 2 years in private life until 1868, when he was elected to the United States Senate and served nearly is full term until his death at his home in Norwich, February 5, 1875.

The short time allotted to the speaker on this occasion will not allow a more extended tribute to this Noble Christian gentleman. But let it be further said: “His courage was dauntless, his will inflexible, his devotion to duty Supreme, his faith in God absolute.”