Refugee Problem in China Father Jacquinot's Work in Camps

In the current issue of the China Critic (published in Shanghai) there is an interesting account of an interview with Fr. R. Jacquinot, S.J., concerning the registered refugee camps, which are in the care of the Relief and Comfort Committee, organized by Fr. Jacquinot.

At present we are taking care of 25,284 war refugees in the French Concession and 62,425 in the International Settlement, he stated, adding, "These are the numbers of people who are absolutely destitute. There are probably 100,000 more who must be fed. If within one to one and a half months, 80,000 more will be equally destitute, and in another three months another 100,000. So you see the outlook is not bright.*

There are 167 of these registered camps in Shanghai but in addition to these there are able to care for there and at least 60,000 other refugees in that city.

It is estimated that about 250,000 Chinese owed their safety to Fr. Jacquinot's scheme. When Nanpo had been occupied, the Japanese made no attempt to enter the zone, but the Chinese police lent, and the Supervisory Committee had to improve measures for maintaining order within the area. Within a short time, ample food supplies were available, and donations towards the maintenance of the 100,000 destitute Chinese in the zone were flowing in. These gifts came not only from Chinese but also from Japanese. Gramsci Malou.

How are they to keep alive?

Fr. Jacquinot considers it desirable to keep the refugees in Shanghai as so many of them are skilled mechanics and their presence will hasten industrial recovery once the political situation becomes normal, but he believes that it is going to be a very hard one for these people," he told the interviewer for the China Critic.

* There is a question of warm clothing, heavy coverings, stockings and shoes. These are absolutely essential. Unless philanthropic persons here and abroad step in to this occasion, I do not see how these men, women and children can stand.*

The Clothing and Comforts Committee of the Lord Mayor's Fund for the Relief of Distress in China working at 171, Wimpole Place, London, W1, are sending out parcels of clothing each week and have already despatched over 12,000 garments and 9,000 blankets. The Fund has sent £40,000 in money and £10,000 worth of drugs and hospital requisites. It will be remembered that Cardinal Hinsley was one of the co-signatories of the Lord Mayor's appeal.

Contributions to the Fund will be gratefully received at the above address.