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FROM WEEK TO WEEK

"Spectator's" Discussion of Topics of Interest to Churchmen

THE Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Montreal recently voted down a proposal to unite social service with its missionary activities. In other words, it determined to continue in that work, and that work alone, for which it was founded thirty years ago. In this resolve it, no doubt, will be accused in some quarters of being ultra-conservative and failing to move with the times. In the opinion of the writer, the Montreal Auxiliary is to be congratulated in resisting a temptation to place itself more in the public eye, and continuing in that one special service that has no attraction for any but the devout and consecrated residuum of Churchwomen. It has been doing the spade work of the Church, and to that essential and fundamental calling it has determined to devote itself unto the end. The dream of transforming the Woman's Auxiliary into a holding company for every form of activity among women—religious, social and philanthropic—is but a modified form of the almost universal craze for world-power. The advocates of world-power, whether in Church or State, whether civil or military, whether commercial or industrial, have yet to prove the soundness and success of their visions. It is all still a dream, and in many cases a disastrous dream. That one organization can control and promote all kinds of diverse activities is a thesis that has yet to be proven. You can get endless arguments on paper, but when that subtle thing, human nature, is introduced into a problem of this kind, it somehow generally upsets our logic. The less experience one has of the world and the inhabitants thereof, the more ready he is to leap into an experiment that lends itself to the manipulation of hemispheres, races, millions, and every other kind of superlative. It is a rare thing now-a-days to have the courage to do one thing, and do it well. Yet who will say that the extension of the Kingdom of God in those aspects for which the Woman's Auxiliary has so long and splendidly laboured is an undertaking unworthy of the resources of the most gifted?

It has been officially announced that \$1,300,000 of the total sum of three and a quarter millions in connection with the A.F.M. has already been paid in to the treasury. Not only that, but a distribution of this amount has been made. The Indian and Eskimo endowment has received \$300,000, and if the writer caught the announcement aright, the shares of the various dioceses have been paid in full. It would not appear to "Spectator" that the order of precedence should place diocesan claims first, but rather should they come last. Shall the pension funds humbly wait for two years until the last subscription is paid in before prospective beneficiaries can participate in their benefits? It may be all very well to say that actuaries and others have to work out a basis on which these funds can be applied, but surely they are entitled to their capital sum in due proportion, and entitled to the accumulated interest until such times as it is available. It is not very edifying to have diocesan authorities scramble for their allowances, thus throwing the risk of possible loss in unpaid subscriptions upon the funds that, more than any other, called forth the generosity of the people. Is it possible that this early partition of the sum allocated to the dioceses is intended to make the refusal of the C.M.S. gift of a quarter million

dollars impossible? If the dioceses have the money, they are not liable to hand it back, and the rules of division may be invoked to eat up all the rest. "Spectator" had hoped that the very first act of the M.S.C.C. would be to decline that more than generous offer by a financially embarrassed society in England, in view of the splendid response of our people. It has to be done sooner or later, and delay only spoils the graciousness of the act. "Spectator" cannot believe that our Anglican leaders will plead technical rules to defend the plea of inability to decline. There isn't a Diocesan Synod from one end of this country to the other but would stand aside in its claims to make way for that act of justice and decency. Why cannot we do it now?

A few days ago "Spectator" picked up an appeal for a Jewish relief fund, and the title in large letters ran thus: "Humanity Knows No Creed." It struck the writer as an extraordinary statement issuing from a Jewish source. One felt instinctively that an expert propagandist and campaign manager must have been engaged for this work. If there is a people on the face of earth that possesses a creed, asserts its creed, lives by its creed, it is the Jewish people. It is not very complimentary to the Christian world to assume that, when Jews desire Christian money, they must appeal to a creedless humanity. An editorial recently appeared in one of the Toronto evening journals that showed signs of issuing from the same source. It waived aside all creeds as useless, and then, with naive inconsistency, advanced its own creed, which amounted to this, "I believe in humanity." This is mere surface nonsense. There is no solid or satisfying assurance in any such faith to inspire or edify the world. The human heart has from the beginning sought a deeper foundation on which to rest its spiritual aspirations, and it will continue so to do until the end. Not so very long ago the Knights of Columbus carried on a campaign for funds, and embraced their "separated brethren" in an apparently creedless effusion of love. Certain people tumbled over one another to participate in this new drawing together, but anyone of common sense could see that a financial campaign has no permanent cohesive properties. Let not men of truth stultify themselves by pouring contempt for the time being on their inner convictions to catch the unthinking and undiscerning. Let us lend a hand to those that need, but in doing so, please do not ask us to deny the deep and final inspiration of our good-will.

"Spectator."

The annual dinner of the Montreal Chapter of the Ridley College Old Boys' Association was held at the University Club, Montreal, April 9th, when Carl Riordon presided, having on his right and left H. G. Williams, Vice-Principal, and H. C. Griffith, Headmaster of the College. The latter announced that there are now 197 boys in attendance at Ridley, and in order to provide increased accommodation, an extension to the upper school building, estimated to cost \$150,000, will be begun next month. The construction of the new chapel building, which is being erected as a memorial to the Old Boys who fell in the war, will be started at the same time.



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