

## FROM WEEK TO WEEK

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

THE turmoil and tumult in Russia, Poland and many other European countries are causing our imperial statesmen untold anxiety. One cannot but feel that our old enemy stands like an evil spectre behind all this. The Teutonic mind seems to be constituted on the lines of that of a bad boy. If he cannot win out himself, he must inflict all the injury he possibly can on those who have thwarted his will. Germany has manifested this disposition throughout the war, and is still pursuing its devious and desperate course. If she cannot be victor she will direct her energies to the overthrow of everybody else. What satisfaction, full-grown men can find in this, is extremely hard to see. Utter poverty and ruin is her plea when indemnity for the damages she inflicted upon the world is suggested, but she has millions to sustain an army of agents throughout the world, to set nation against nation and citizen against citizen. She complains that she has no money to revive her industries, but it requires all the pressure of the Allies to keep her from maintaining an enormous standing army at an enormous cost. It may safely be assumed that her agents are at this moment working not only in Russia but in Poland, not only in Ireland but in England, not only in the United States but in France, not only among statesmen but among workmen, not only among the advocates of war but the apostles of peace and brotherhood. A whole fleet of trains and motor cars is about to carry thousands of "Christian men" to Washington, from all parts of this continent, to discuss the subject of brotherhood in the world. Here is a field plainly marked out for their first operations. Germany needs them, needs them in the worst possible way. Will they hear and obey this manifest call to a duty that they feel to be paramount at the moment? It is said to be a foolish expenditure of energy to carry coal to Newcastle. Isn't it a similar folly to go up and down a country convincing people of what they already believe, while another country steeped in militancy is strangely avoided? We send delegations to England to teach Englishmen how to be sober. "It is a part of our world responsibility to do so," it is said. Can our apostles of peace and goodwill see no responsibility resting upon them to send missionaries of their gospel to Germany to heal the waters of strife at their very source? It is surely folly to spend time teaching the lamb to be kindly and affectionate while the lion goes ramping and roaring about. There are many simple-minded, well-meaning people on this continent doing this very thing. After all said and done the seat of war, and strife, and hatred, and tyranny, doesn't lie on this continent, nor in the Anglo-Saxon race. Let us recognize this frankly, and if we have not the courage to meet the trouble we deplore where it really exists—well, the reader can express his own opinions.

There are strange currents of thought floating through the Christian atmosphere to-day. Just as ecclesiastical opinion had almost finally set aside the miraculous in the operations of the things of earth past and present, we are challenged with a bold call to a revival of the miraculous in the way of spiritual healing. What the Master did His

Church can do, aye and greater things than these. The gospel narrative of our Lord's birth is practically declared impossible by men of learning and integrity of thought, but the gospel narrative of His words must be regarded as unimpeachable. The teaching of our Lord was for all men, everywhere, but the presentation of that teaching must be modified as the intellectual and moral development of humanity can best receive it. One day our duty to God is all in all. Another day demands the supremacy of our thought for our neighbour. The opinions, judgments and affirmations of the authors of the Gospels may be challenged or even set aside, but what they give as the very words of Christ must be accepted. In other words, you may challenge the accuracy of reporters save on one subject. We seem to be in a state of spiritual flux. We affirm and deny. We travel a path bravely until some barrier is reached and then we turn back or slip round it unseen. The theology of to-day seems to be conceived on the lines of to-day only. Yet no sound handling of eternal truth can have such a limited vision. Those who are thinking and are worth convincing must see clearly where our exegesis is leading us. Unquestionably, we all desire our faith to square with our intellectual requirements. We don't want to reason in one way about the ordinary things of life and then apply loose reasoning to higher things. If we cannot reach finality we ought to say so frankly. Unitarianism long ago met quite frankly most of the intellectual difficulties that were supposed to beset the path of the Christian disciple, but its spiritual sovereignty has not been attained. People have not said: "Here is what we have been yearning for." Those who set out to satisfy people to-day only, are chasing a rainbow. Our consideration of spiritual things must begin, continue and end in truth.

"Spectator."

### DIocese RUPERT'S LAND NEWS.

A city-wide mission to be held in every Anglican church in Winnipeg during Lent is a proposal which will be placed before a combined meeting of the Deaneries of Winnipeg and St. John's in the near future. The matter has been under the consideration of a special committee for some time, and a report has now been made strongly endorsing the idea.

The original proposal that the mission should be held during Advent was not favoured, owing to the fact that it would not leave sufficient time for preparation. As a preparatory step it has been urged that the two Deaneries should meet for a "Quiet Time" early in the autumn, the place suggested being Fava. The last event of this character in the Anglican Church in Winnipeg was the "Mission of Help," which was held in 1912.

To the query, "Will you be glad to get back?" Archdeacon Faries, on the eve of his return to the north, answered: "Yes, for I know the Indians need me. I like the North for its solitude and its quiet, but above all, is the call that some men feel to minister to the wants and needs of those who are less fortunate than ourselves."

## The General Board of Religious Education ANNUAL MEETING

Preliminary Notice

The Annual Meeting of the General Board of Religious Education will be held in Winnipeg on Tuesday, October 19th, 1920, the week following the Centenary Celebration.

Members of the Board requiring hospitality are requested to make application to Canon Jeffery, Synod Office, 901 Somerset Building, Winnipeg, as soon as possible, and not later than September 15th.

R. A. HILTZ, General Secretary

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