

# Canadian Churchman

Toronto, June 28, 1917.

## The Christian Year

The Fifth Sunday After Trinity, July 8th.

There are two messages in the Collect and Gospel for to-day which blend together into one.

1. The Collect tells of the preparation of the world for the work of the Church. It is an inspiration to remember how wonderfully God has always been preparing the world for the Gospel. Before Christ's first Advent there had been going on a remarkable preparation in the world for the spread of the Gospel, and when the first messengers of the Church went forth into the world they found the world prepared for them. The great Roman roads and the Roman rule had made travelling from country to country possible, the breakdown of the Pagan religions, the desire of men for a new light—these were some of the things which were signs of God's preparation for His Gospel. So even now in the midst of difficult circumstances we must remember that the Great Worker is at work, that even in the midst of War He is preparing a great opportunity for His Church.

This Sunday three years ago was the Sunday before the War. War threatened the Empire. How appropriate the words of this Collect seemed on that day! "Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Thy governance, that Thy Church may joyfully serve Thee in all godly quietness." How earnestly that simple prayer was offered! It was not answered in the way we had hoped, but it is being answered. God is giving the Church an opportunity in this War, which She must seize. It is for the Church to go forward in faith and hope to do the work which comes to Her out of the new circumstances brought about by the War.

2. The Gospel tells of the place where the work is to be done. The disciples had toiled all night on the familiar waters of the lake, and in the morning they came to shore with their empty ships. Into one of these the Master came "and He sat down and taught the people out of the ship." As the disciples listened to His words it must have seemed as if last night's toil was very long ago. He was calling them to a new work far different from the old, a work greater and nobler than ever they had done. Then come the words: "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." Go back to the old place, to the old work, back to the straining at the oars, to the dragging at the nets. "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing." We know the hard ways of the old work. And so He says to us: "Go back to the old work, the place of common duty is the place of miracle and power."

We are to go back to the same work and the same prayers, and if we go in faith and obedience we shall find that in the old familiar waters God has been preparing a miracle. "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing; nevertheless, at Thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes."

The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world, next to the might of God.—Blaise Pascal.

## Editorial

### FIFTY YEARS OF CHURCH ACTIVITY.

On July 1st, the Dominion of Canada will celebrate its fiftieth birthday. During these fifty years it has grown from an infant with a very uncertain future to a fairly well developed nation, taking its place side by side with sister nations in upholding the principles of liberty and righteousness of the Empire of which it forms an important part.

To the four original provinces lying east of Lakes Superior and Huron, there have been added five in Western Canada besides a vast unorganized territory to the north. There has been an increase in area from 540,000 square miles to 3,729,665 square miles, an increase in population from 3,600,000 to about 7,600,000, and an increase in total trade from \$114,107,674 to \$1,996,706,671. From 2,278 miles, confined to the eastern portion of the Dominion, the railway mileage has increased to 35,582 miles including three great transcontinental lines with branches running in every direction. Electric railways, telephones, motor cars, flying machines and submarines were either unthought of or regarded by the vast majority as beyond the realm of possibility. To have lived during the past fifty years has in reality meant to have lived during the period of greatest material development and invention that the world has known.

So much for material progress. What has taken place in the Church? Beginning with the grant made in 1727 by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to the Rev. Richard Watts for teaching poor children at Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia, the Church had gradually extended its operations over the whole of what was known as British North America. By the year 1867, seven dioceses had been established in the Maritime Provinces, and in Upper and Lower Canada (now Ontario and Quebec), with two more in the vast regions of the West, Rupert's Land and British Columbia, or nine in all. To-day, we have twenty-five in place of these nine, ten in place of the seven in Eastern Canada, ten in place of the one in Rupert's Land, and five in British Columbia. The first Diocesan Synod was held in Toronto, on May 1st, 1851; the first Provincial Synod, in Montreal on September 10th, 1861, and the first Pan-Anglican Synod in 1867. To-day every diocese in Canada, except two or three of our Missionary Dioceses, has its Synod, while four Provincial Synods, and the General Synod for the whole of Canada, meet at regular intervals. In 1867, the Church in Canada was mainly a vast mission field for the Mother Church in England, its first definite Mission field, being the Diocese of Algoma, which was set apart in 1873. Its first Missionary Society, which was confined in its membership to Eastern Canada, was formed in 1883. To-day, the whole Church in Canada, from Atlantic to Pacific, is organized for Missionary work both in Canada and Overseas, and we have, in addition, Dominion-wide organizations for Sunday School and Social Service work.

Such in brief are a few indications of the development that has taken place. Strong foundations have been laid by men whose clearness and breadth of vision was able to penetrate the distant future and to see beyond diocesan and provincial, yes, and even Dominion, boundaries. The study of the achieve-

ments of these fifty years gives one courage to face the problems of the future if only we remain true to the fundamental principles of our faith. Canada is as yet only on the threshold, and great as have been the years that have passed, the possibilities of the future are still greater. God grant us men of faith and vision, of unselfishness and ability to guide its destinies aright.

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If a referendum or an election is held in Canada to decide whether conscription shall be enforced or not, every man who has enlisted, whether living or dead, should be counted as voting in favour of it. Justice demands it.

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The Synod of Huron at its recent session, on motion by Rev. Canon Sage, seconded by Rev. Dr. Tucker, passed a resolution recommending the extension of the circulation of the Canadian Churchman in all the parishes of the diocese. Needless to say, we are deeply grateful to the members of the Synod for this evidence of their appreciation of the efforts we have made to produce a paper of real value to the Church. We assure them we shall do our utmost to merit their confidence.

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The Governor-General of Canada has issued a call to prayer and the 1st of July has been set apart for this purpose. We are deeply grateful to his Excellency for this proclamation and we feel certain that it will meet with a hearty response throughout the Dominion. Special services have already been arranged for by our Bishops with suitable prayers and intercessions. It remains only for the rank and file of Christians of all communions to take advantage of the opportunity for a united appeal to Almighty God on behalf of the cause for which the British Commonwealth and the Allies are fighting.

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A most timely book has just appeared entitled "Confederation and Its Leaders," written by Mr. M. O. Hammond, of Toronto. It is indeed "a Canadian book for every Canadian," and should be in every Canadian home. The present generation has too little knowledge of the steps leading up to the federation of the different provinces and of the great men who were responsible for this work. Time has fully justified their expectations and every year strengthens the bonds of union more tightly and shows more clearly how wisely and carefully the details were worked out. The above book gives in most interesting form a brief outline of the life and work of seventeen of the men who were charged with this task.

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During the past few weeks the Rev. Dr. Hallam has kindly answered a series of questions sent to the Editor of the Canadian Churchman by an earnest layman in Toronto. The questions included points that have been troubling a great many people's minds and we feel certain that the answers will do a very great deal of good. It is possible though that others of our readers have difficulties in their religious life that they would like to have cleared up. The Canadian Churchman aims at being constructive and of practical assistance in all such matters, and while we do not promise to answer all questions sent in, we shall be very glad to answer those that are considered of more or less general interest.

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