

Wake Up the Preachers.

It was my privilege recently to spend a day with a State Country Life Commission and enjoy their earnest, courageous, sensible discussion of the problems which the rural community presents today. After several hours of detailed consideration of all phases of country life, each member of the commission stated in a single sentence what he considered the greatest need. No two had the same idea. They were all significant, but one which had great force was: "Wake up the preacher."

There seems to be no question but that all too much of the preaching to which those who attend church in the country listen is out of date in every respect. Illustrations need to be from the life and reading of today. The focus needs to be upon the needs of 1912, and of their own country. The Bible needs to be read as though it was written for the New World. Truth needs to be applied to our own day. Mythology and the classics should be given a rest.

A country preacher must realize that he is, or should be, the one to minister to that community, and he must think in units broad enough to include all local interests. He must, above all else, work hand and glove with the teacher. He will do little on Sunday unless he knows the children through the week. Teacher and preacher must have a common purpose and must be in close touch with each other's work.

If the church loses out in the rural districts, its loss will be a greater blow to the church than it realizes, but it will also be a serious matter for the school and for the nation. No preacher should be tolerated in the country church simply because there is nowhere else for him.

The country school is beginning to get as good a teacher as the city school. This will soon be absolutely and universally true. The preaching must match the teaching or there will be no preaching.—*Journal of Education.*

Red has always been a favorite military color. Its employment dates from the time of Lycurgus, the Spartan, who commanded his army to be arrayed in red tunics in order that new recruits might not be dismayed at the sight of blood. Its first use in the British army dates from 1526, when the yeomen of the guard were dressed in red.

Answer these Questions with the Name of a Fish.

In the entertainment department of the *July Woman's Home Companion*, appears the following: A seashore party should be held on the veranda, if it is broad and spacious. When the guests arrive, each one is given a little booklet made from white note-paper, to which you have added a cover of sea-green. On the inside, the following questions should be neatly written, the guests being asked to supply the answers with the names of fishes:

1. What fish is astronomical in its taste?—Starfish.
2. What fish is the bad boy acquainted with?—Whale.
3. What shell-fish completes a doily?—Scallops.
4. What fish would you serve as a desert?—Jelly-fish.
5. What fish comes from the dairy?—Butterfish.
6. What fish would you take on a hunting trip?—Dogfish.
7. What fish is the most valuable?—Goldfish.
8. What fish would arm a soldier?—Swordfish.
9. What fish is always under your foot?—Sole.
10. What fish is always in a bird-cage?—Perch.

Next, each guest is provided with a small card, four inches square, and asked to make a graphic illustration of some well known sea-tale. *Afield and Afloat*, *The Red Rover*, *Captains Courageous*, *Water Babies*, and *Treasure Island* are only a few titles which may be illustrated.

The refreshments for this occasion were a genuine fish supper, and the place-cards were small paper boats of green paper.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Their Royal Highnesses, the Governor-General and the Princess Patricia, are at present visiting the Atlantic Provinces. The Duchess of Connaught, who is recovering from her recent illness, will take no part in official functions for some time to come.

The census figures show the total population of Canada to be a little over seven millions, and the increase in the last ten years less than two millions. The rural population has increased in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec; but has decreased in Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The urban population has increased in all the provinces, but has fallen off in the Yukon Territory.

By the recent extension of its boundaries, Quebec has become the largest of the provinces, having a total area of more than seven hundred thousand square miles. Ontario is now second in area; British Columbia, third; Manitoba, fourth; Alberta, fifth; Saskatchewan, sixth; New Brunswick, seventh; Nova Scotia, eighth; Prince Edward Island, ninth.

The grain crop of the western provinces will be larger this year than ever before. It is now about ready for harvesting, and fifty thousand men are needed in the harvest fields.

The principal legislatures of the British West Indies, including British Guiana, but not including Jamaica, have ratified the agreement with Canada providing for a mutual