The Canadian Churchman

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1914.

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The Outlook

Nippon Sei Kokwai

Our readers will notice a special article on the General Synod of Nippon Sei Kokwai as the whole associated Anglican cause in Japan is called, and of which our Canadian diocese under Bishop Hamilton is a part. We notice that the Europeans spoke seldom in the Synod, leaving discussions to the native Christian clergymen and laymen. We see here working out before our eyes the advancement of a native Church to a position of practical autonomy. No one would suggest that at this point Europeans should be withdrawn. The native Church could not so well stand or advance alone. Our missionaries have their telling work in guidance and inspiration. But the affair does point the moral that the day of European control of such native Churches is going to cease eventually. It will be to the advantage of the cause of Christ when it comes. Unless the house can stand without the scaffolding, it is no house. As the Greek, Gallic, Teutonic and British missions of centuries ago have made their contributions to the development of Christian thought by giving the viewpoint of the Greek, German, French and English mind, so we must expect that the Japanese, Chinese and Indian viewpoint on some matters will be distinct additions. It is to be hoped that when such viewpoints are urged we shall be big enough to admit them. Too much of our mission work is conducting on the principle of the infallibility of the

European mind. Our divisions, as well as the Gospel, are being perpetuated in the mission fields of the world. God grant that the natives in their clear, simple faith may get such a grip of the essentials that they may do, what is impossible without the Spirit's help, that is, reject our divisions and unite on the essentials in one Church of Christ. Well might the mission Churches say to us, "Is Christ divided?"

Missionaries' Messages

The simple recital of what has been done and what remains to be done is the best message any missionary can bring to the Church. At this stage apologetic sermons on the necessity of missions are neither needed nor heeded. We are awake on that point. Let us have something which will increase our intelligent devotion to the cause of missions. If a missionary cannot stimulate by the portrayal of the actual work and results in his field, he never can move by his exhortation. Let us know all, the victories, the failures, hopes and fears. When a missionary tells the simple tale of a convert finding the Saviour and trusting Him, cost what it may, there is an unspeakable joy that wells up in the heart of his hearers which is akin to the joy among the angels of heaven over one sinner that repenteth. Many a man has found that the simple narration of such actual plucking of brands from the burning has been the spark that ignited a flame of zeal for the cause. So, let our missionaries on furlough tell us and let our missionaries out on the field write us the most intimate and practical statements of the work, its needs, its dangers, its shortcomings and its accomplishments and our missionary appeals will be saved from sentimentality and the interest of the Church will be alert and its givings and prayers intelligent. "And when they were come, and had gathered the Church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles." This is how St. Paul and St. Barnabas reported their missionary work to the Church at Antioch. We know of no improvement on this method.

Panama Tolls

It is a matter for congratulation to the President and people of the United States that the Panama Tolls Repeal Bill has received the President's signature. We are glad not on account of the beneficial effect to Canadian and British shipping, but on account of the victory of higher national ideals. In the discussion of such a case, jingoism often passes for patriotism and appeals to false national pride are heard on many sides. In advocating such a repeal, the President took his political life in his hands. Against many of his own party, he insisted on the legislation being passed. He saw that only righteousness exalteth a nation and, what is more, he acted on that principle. Actions of such calibre are among the truly great actions of a nation, like the abolition of slavery, when, for no gain, but at a loss materially, they do right in spite of everything.

strenuously object to the attitude of mind and manners which some condescending Englishmen assume to us, "Colonials," as they say. They have an equal right to object to our know-it-all habit of mind which superciliously regards the problems and work of the old land. Some of us seem to say, "You have made an awful mess of things over here in these old countries. Just come to our new country. We will show you how to build cities without slums, and towns without barrenness." Most of us have noted that it is always the youth who can easily tell his father how to run his business. But are we getting into business ourselves now, and realize the difficulties of father's work? And, by the way, we have made some mistakes in our omniscience of youth. "Even the youngest of us is not infallible."

The Spirit of the Flag

President Wilson, speaking at Washington on Flag Day (June 15th) before a great crowd, said: "I sometimes wonder why men take this flag and flaunt it. If I am respected I do not have to demand respect. If I am feared, I do not have to ask for fear. If my power is known, I do not have to proclaim it. I do not understand the temper, neither does this nation understand the temper of men who use this flag boastfully. This flag for the future is meant to stand for the just use of undisputed national power. No nation is ever going to doubt our power to assert its rights, and we should lay it to heart that no nation shall ever henceforth doubt our purpose to put it to the highest uses to which a great emblem of justice and government can be put. It is henceforth to stand for self-possession, for dignity, for the assertion of the right of one nation to serve the other nations of the world-an emblem that will not condescend to be used for purposes of aggression and self-aggrandizement; that is too great to be debased by selfishness; that has vindicated its right to be honored by all nations of the world and feared by none who do righteousness. Is it not a proud thing to stand under such an emblem? Would it not be a pitiful thing ever to make apology and explanation of anything that we ever did under the leadership of this flag carried in the van? Is it not a solemn responsibility laid upon us to lay aside bluster and assume that much greater thing, the quietude of genuine power? So it seems to me that it is my privilege and right, as the temporary representative of a great nation that does what it pleases with its own affairs, to say that we please to do justice and assert the rights of mankind wherever this flag is unfurled." This is excellent and is the best statement of the ideal for any nation we have read for many a day. We are glad that the President voices such noble sentiments. But, without being at all ironical, we must say honestly that we are puzzled. Did not the hostilities of the two republics, United States and Mexico, have as their immediate cause and published "reason" the affair at Tampico? Can you call that affair anything than a flag affair? "If I am respected, I do not have to demand respect," says the President. What was demanded at Tampico except respect? Honestly, we are puzzled. Theory and practice are sometimes far apart. Sometimes statesmen are hampered by the popular clamor in following their theory. That is the best explanation we can give of the President's action. But we do not like to think of the Head Executive falling to such a clamour or taking such an excuse. So, we are still puzzled.

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Flag Waving

A Leeds paper, commenting on the anticipated trip of the Canadian school teachers to England, observed that they would be welcome and cordially received, so long as they did not come in that flag-waving spirit which some Canadians display in England. It is time we saw ourselves as others see us. We

