

Canadian Churchman

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Hymns from the Book of Common Praise, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of the Choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto.

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

(July 18th.)

Holy Communion: 256, 258, 386, 646.

Processional: 385, 448, 653, 664.

Offertory: 390, 393, 397, 426.

Children: 443, 703, 707, 710.

General: 5, 22, 392, 404.

The Outlook

John Huss

On July 6th it will be 500 years since the martyrdom of John Huss, the famous Bohemian religious reformer, and the event is being commemorated in various parts of the world. We hope soon to give a brief account of this great man. It is curious that there is so much ignorance of Bohemia in this country, for the Bohemians are a highly cultivated people. They have developed a rich literature, they have poets of world-wide fame, and numerous dramatists, historians, and men of science of very high rank. Their system of education is perfect. To-day there are two Universities in Prague—a German and Czech—the latter with more students than Oxford and Cambridge together. With regard to the effect of the war on Bohemia, it is curious that, although part of Austria, almost every man, woman and child sympathizes with Russia, and longs for the victory of the Allies as their only hope of salvation. Yet they are compelled to sacrifice their sons in fighting against their friends and in trampling on their dearest traditions and aspirations. In October last a Czech regiment left Prague with banners flying and bands playing and the people singing the national Slav hymn, which contained a verse in honour of the French and Russians. A man walked in front carrying a white flag on which an additional verse to the national hymn had been inscribed, stating in substance, "We are marching against Russia, but nobody knows why." The officers and the authorities dared not stop this, but when that regiment reached the front and it was decimated, it was by no means the only Czech regiment to meet that fate. The censorship in Bohemia is so complete that

no one dares make a comment on the war, and when the Russians took Lemberg several months ago the news was suppressed for seventeen days. But the Czech population has long since acquired, by bitter experience, the skilful habit of reading between the lines and of saying things without saying them, and nothing could prevent the wounded soldiers from returning and telling their kinsmen what was happening at the front. John Huss was definitely influenced by John Wycliffe, and influenced Martin Luther, who, in turn, was the main instrument in bringing about the Reformation. We have, therefore, much for which to be thankful to Huss, and the commemoration of his martyrdom should lead us to renew thanksgiving for what has been rightly called "the blessed Reformation."

The Church and Temperance

We are compelled to say that we read with extreme regret the account of the recent discussion at the Huron Synod. When the proposal was made to approve of the dry canteen, several laymen took exception to it and advocated moderate drinking rather than total abstinence. In view of the facts that are only too familiar to all in connection with English life, civil and military, during the last few months, it is incredible that such a decision should be taken, and the idea that the moderate drinker is a stronger man than the total abstainer is not worthy of the name of argument. The whole debate was calculated, we fear, to misrepresent the Church of England in the eyes of the public, but it is a satisfaction to know that the position taken in the Huron diocese was not that taken in the Diocese of Toronto. It is astounding that anyone cannot see the ravages caused by drink in almost every class of the community, and for this reason alone our Church should speak with no uncertain sound about the absolute necessity of total abstinence. We understand that no clergyman in the Huron Synod took a stand against temperance, and so far the result is satisfactory. But unless our Church is prepared to take a firm position with other Christian communities in the face of this evil, it is bound to be left behind in the moral progress of the country, and will suffer in the eyes of all those who, beyond everything else, desire the land to be free from one of the greatest curses of the present day.

Family Prayers

We rejoice to read the full account of the recent meeting in London, England, on the subject of family worship, when the Archbishop of Canterbury presided, and earnest speeches were made by him, the Chaplain-General, Lord Grenfell and others. There is no doubt that the family altar is the secret of almost every blessing in our domestic and national life, and nothing can make up for it. The Chaplain-General in the course of his address told the audience some interesting stories concerning the prayers of little children. One little boy known to the Bishop was very grateful to God for His goodness, and after giving expression to his gratitude in a spoken prayer, he turned to his father and said: "Daddie, do you think I've thanked Him enough for being so good to me?" "Yes, my little man," said the father, "I'm sure He understands; just get into bed." "But, daddie," said this five-year-old boy, "don't you think He'd like to see me turn that somersault you taught me the other night?" and he turned over head-and-heels on his bed. The audience naturally smiled, but as the Bishop remarked, "That child knew

how to pray and made everything a matter of prayer." The Chaplain-General spoke most pathetically of his experiences with soldiers who had never been taught to pray as children. On one evening when he was with thirty men of all ranks and suggested that they should close the meeting with prayer, he found that not one of them could pray. They were speechless. Then he recalled some of the things they had been discussing, and asked them to close their eyes and just speak to God about those things. Then there came some natural prayers, and for one the Bishop would never forget the simple prayer of a big sergeant, who said, "Lord, help me not to be so hard on the recruits." No wonder the young fellows responded "Amen" with great heartiness. We trust that both in England and in Canada, and, indeed, throughout the whole Empire there will be more effort made to cultivate regular habits of family prayer.

A Great Problem

In the correspondence between the Premier, Sir Robert Borden, and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, one point of great interest and practical importance was mentioned which has a much wider application than the particular question raised. We cannot do better than give the exact words of the letter of the Association to the Premier:—

In some quarters the impression seemed to prevail that war material could not be sold to the Government on its merits, but only through influence, and it was accordingly suggested to the Premier that the business should be thrown wider open, and placed as far as possible with manufacturers or producers direct, instead of through middlemen, thus insuring competitive prices and at the same time giving the Government the satisfaction of dealing with responsible parties.

It is this question of the middleman that constitutes one of the gravest problems of modern life. Is it or is it not possible for actual workers to be brought into direct contact with buyers without the interposition of the middleman? We happen to know of one case that illustrates the whole complex system. A milliner was engaged in making a lady's hat, which, including material and work, cost \$1.50, and yet that same hat was sold in a store for \$5.00. Now, it is obvious that either the purchaser was overcharged or else the milliner did not obtain adequate remuneration for her work. The explanation is due to the charge made by the middleman who purchased from the milliner and sold to the store. How this injustice is to be set aside is a problem of real difficulty, and yet we believe the idea of the middleman is at the root of a great deal of our commercial unrest and injustice. We are, therefore, thankful that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has called attention to the matter in connection with their own specific topic, and we now wish to widen the issue and call attention to the seriousness and real injustice of the present condition. How is the matter to be settled?

Religion at the Front

Much is being said in regard to the effect of the war on our soldiers, and a recent book, entitled "With Our Fighting Men," tells the story of their faith, courage and endurance. The book presents a convincing case for the power of religion in the hearts and lives of those who are fighting our battles, and it is a great satisfaction to know that the com-

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