The Canadian Churchman

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Outlook The

As Others See Us

Remarking on the state of the Canadian Church and recent criticisms, the "Scottish Chronicle'' remarks :----

What strikes the impartial observer is the intense Anglicanism of the Canadian Church, in contrast to the native indi-

Country Church

To all who have thought over the question the country church occupies a strategic position. It is more a recruiting post and training ground than an outwork. Much of its efficiency depend on its parson, and part of his efficiency or inefficiency is in the pulpit. "Christian Work" says a good thing: It must be a near and an educative pulpit. After careful study of sermon topics we have come to feel that the preaching in most churches lacks nearness and directness and informing value. It is too often remote from the immediate interests of the people. It is too often an essay or address on a topic rather than a direct message to people with a very welldefined week of living before them. It lacks educative value in the sense that each week's sermons seem prepared, because another Sunday is ahead, rather than part of a course wrought out after long and careful consideration of the Church's need. We are inclined to think that in churches where congregations are generally permanent, exegetical preaching, or at least that which is closely related to Bible study, is not only most effective in its influence, but gives most satisfaction, because it is sure to take the preacher into new fields of thought every Sunday. The Bible is very rich and wonderful in its universality of experience. Many preachers who each week search preaching topics are very apt to make every sermon say what all the others have said.

Liquor Consumption

The statistics for liquor consumption in Canada for the past year show significant increases over those the previous year. The consumption of all three, spirits, beer and wine, has increased, and it is suggested that this is due mainly, if not almost entirely, to the heavy immigration from Continental Europe. Ontario is receiving many of the newcomers, and it is interesting to know that as they become acclimatized they lose some of their habits of using liquors. But in the meantime they have to be counted as a substantial part of public opinion. To many of them complete abolition of the liquor traffic would be entirely objectionable, and it is to be feared that legislative restriction would only be acceptable in very small degrees. All this constitutes a loud call to the temperance forces to concentrate their attention on the problem. There must be careful and constant instruction, and every effort made to bring about legislation that will tend to the diminution of one of the greatest evils in our midst. No quarter must be shown to alcoholic liquor, and when the Churches as a whole take up the subject in real earnest the result will soon be manifest.

word or deed, ever suggest the licensing of prostitution, thereby legalizing and adding an air of respectability to so damnable a business.'

Asiatic Institute Founded in New York

A group of eminent Americans has formed an Asiatic Institute in New York. In order to take hold of the situation developing from the contact of the two civilizations, to endeavour to place American education, scholarship and people in touch with the mutual life and development in Eastern Asia, and to disseminate knowledge of the Orient, they propose :---

To establish an Asiatic and Pacific library, museum and educational and publicity institute. To promote the study of Eastern Asian languages, literature, history, laws, religions, arts and economic conditions. To establish the study of Oriental progress and reforms, especially in China. To estimate the influence of the West upon Eastern Asia and of Asia upon the West. To promote intercourse and to contribute to the solution of questions arising there from the contact of different civilizations.

The founders hope soon to build up a powerful body of intelligent persons, acquainted with questions of Eastern Asia and the Pacific.

Among the members of the Board of Trustees are: Seth Low, president of the American Asiatic Association; Arthur Brown, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; Frederick W. Williams, John Foord, Lindsay Russell, Charles L. Freer, the founder of the American School of Archæology in China; Louis L. Seaman, Samuel T. Dutton, Frederick McCormick, Jerome D. Greene, and Willard Straight, of the American Banking Group in Eastern Asia.

Conscription

The state of affairs in France throws light on the conscription agitation in England. First of all, it has been clearly shown that where once compulsion is enacted it can be extended at the will of Parliament and the victims are helpless. For instance, French conscripts whose liability to serve is two years under the present law will be detained for another year if the Act is passed, regardless of the loss which they will thereby sustain. In the second place, Lord Roberts' special argument that universal military service places all classes on an equality, has been proved unsound. Three years' service in the French Army may be a convenient form of idling for the son of a wealthy man; to a young fellow of the working class it means serious loss. In the third place, conscription in France has involved a limitation of citizenship. Soldiers cannot hold public meetings as can other citizens and they are denied the right of free speech. And, lastly, the enormous sums of money which must be spent by the government in the event of universal conscription cause loss to the country and suffering to tax-payers and are used to provide against a purely hypothetical war.

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viduality of the Church in America. Is there not a shade too much insistence laid on "the Church of England in Canada?"

This remark indicates what is in us both a weakness and strength. This "Anglicanism" is a strength, inasmuch as it more securely preserves for us the best in atmosphere and tradition of our Mother Church. This connection has been the balance-wheel of the Church in new conditions. It has saved us from lagging in matters outside our own country, and saved us from racing in those problems whose nearness would demand speedy, perhaps hasty and ill-considered action. A balance-wheel is a good thing. On the other hand, this "Anglicanism" is a weakness at the times when it securely hangs about our necks the worst things of the atmosphere and tradition of the Mother Church. We have noticed the attitude of some men, who seem to think that the quotation of an English precedent settles a whole question without discussion. Now, there is no doubt that in England, as elsewhere on this earth, men are not exempt from doing some unnecessary, or even foolish, things. A blind allegiance to these is the worst compliment we could pay to Anglicanism. Rather let our Church here be instinct with the same spirit which animates the best of Churchmen in England. That spirit is the attack and solution of problems in the way best suited to conditions. This is the essential, not the accidental, of true Anglicanism.

The Coroner's Position

We are more than pleased to note by the following statement given out by Coroner Pickering that, in spite of his previous ambiguous remarks, he is absolutely against any quarter being given to the White Slave traders:-

"I did not intend to infer that there should be segregation. I did not intend to infer that there should be a red light district in the city of Toronto; likewise I did not intend to infer that the police or any other person should violate the criminal code or any other law of the land, as has been suggested, as I strongly advocate that every person should be a good and law-abiding citizen. If the criminal code or any other law is defective, it should be amended, and God forbid that I should, by

Chinese Comments on America

Ever since the recognition of the Republic of China by the United States, the Chinese newspapers have been filled with the most friendly editorials. One paper remarks: "America's initiative will not only be valuable in the development of the friendly and cordial feelings now existing between the two nations; but will be valuable in view of our natural expectation that recognition should first come