

December 28, 1916.

Canadian Churchman

Toronto, December 28th, 1916

New Year

It is a time to pause for a moment—to look back and see where we have fallen short—to look forward and see where we may do better. It is a time to set wrong things right.

It could be more in keeping with the New Year—more timely—than to set the important matter of your insurance? A vast and ever-increasing number of people, of all ages, have found in Life Insurance the sure way of providing for the best welfare of dependent ones—making provision for their own at the same time.

For a Great-West Life Policy, you will obtain protection at low cost. You will possess a Policy insured for liberality and value—and you will share in the remarkable being accomplished for the benefit of the Policyholders.

For information—stating age and health—write today.

Great-West Life Insurance Company
DEPARTMENT "C."
WINNIPEG

For information, ask for a Great-West Calendar for 1917.

BOOK

(as revised by the author) in the fine new holiday gift.

Now on sale at all bookstores in beautiful covers and in the best style obtainable in the following:

— Morocco, limp, round under gold edges, and two bookmarks \$1.75

— Morocco, limp, red under gold roll, headband and marks \$2.50

— All-grained Morocco, leather lined, round under gold edges, side covers, headband, two bookmarks, best bound \$3.00

For flexibility and of styles and sizes. any bookseller or

London.

Limited
Toronto

of time."

of the year, when churches have failed if so, order NOW, 25c. per 100.

Company
Toronto

The Christian Year

The First Sunday After Epiphany, January 7.

The Season of the Epiphany, or of the "Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles," has rightly been chosen as the period of the Church's year when, in a special manner, the thoughts of Christ's people turn towards the insistent obligation and the magnificent privilege of the Missionary Enterprise. The "Three Wise Men" who followed the star from their eastern home to find and to worship Him Who was born King of the Jews, were the pioneers and forerunners of that countless host who have followed, and who shall follow, the beckoning gleam of the Spirit of God, away from the arid wastes of sin, to find in Christ a Saviour who satisfies the deep desires of the heart, and to lay at His feet that offering, dearer far than "gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean," even the adoration of a surrendered life.

The Missionary Enterprise! ordered and commanded by Our Lord's last words upon earth, and yet the Church still takes up the task less than half-heartedly. The Missionary Enterprise! And we hear voices asking, "To what purpose is this waste. The ethnic religions are good enough for the Hindoo or the Chinaman." While other voices cry out that we have given up all idea that the heathen are going to hell, and protest the consequent futility of missionary endeavour.

Consider the invalidity and one-sidedness of this argument. It is true that Our Lord's teaching regarding the Last Judgment in St. Matt. 25, and St. Paul's teaching in Romans 2:14-16 imply that the heathen are judged according to the use of the light which they possess, and that due reward follows obedience to conscience and the natural law of love. But the question is, at least in one important aspect, not a theoretical one as to the future fate or destiny of the heathen. It is a very practical one as to their present state. Ask any returned missionary what he thinks of the moral conditions of paganism and he will tell you that the account which St. Paul gave of the heathen world of his day in Romans 1 is still true. Society as a whole is dead in trespasses in sins. Men are born and live and die without hope and without God in the world. Darkness and degradation and cruelty unutterable brood over the land like some demonic incubus. and the question for the Christian Church to answer is just this: "Are we going to let our brother men and women continue in this unhappy and inefficient moral state, with all its deplorable consequences for the life and mind of the individual and of society?" The remedy, the only remedy is Christ. Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mohammedanism, have had had their opportunity for hundreds or even thousands of years, and they have failed. The immense moral dynamic of Calvary and Pentecost alone can achieve the victory. Are we going to heed the Macedonian cry and transmit the Divine Energy, conquering and triumphant wherever welcomed and given right of way, or are we going to make the great refusal?

Briefly, the kernel of the matter lies here. Do we believe that the knowledge of Christ is worth passing on? Is our own experience of Him so adequate, so satisfying, that we feel we have a message worth the telling? If it is not, we had better either cease calling our-

(Continued on page 828.)

Editorial Notes

The New Year.

Within a few days we shall have passed another mile-post in the life of the world. The days, and weeks and months come and go, silently but surely, and one year after another is added to the past. We are not fond of dwelling on these thoughts. So long as human hope lasts, or rather so long as faith in the future and in God's plans for the salvation of mankind last, we shall look ahead and plan for greater things. Christianity is essentially a religion of progress, of optimism, of victory over failure and sin, and of joy and love. It is also a religion of sacrifice, of unselfish service for others. We are all making plans and new resolutions for the year on which we are entering, and it is well that we should. A life without plans and new resolutions will never advance, and even if we cannot achieve all we plan and resolve, we are bound, if we plan and resolve wisely, to reach a point far in advance of the past. We remember how forcibly the saying appealed to us when we saw it first, "Failure is not the worst thing in the world; the worst thing is not to try." Let us remember this throughout the coming year in all our work and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our trying and we are bound to be better men and better women, if spared, when the year closes.

* * * * *

President Wilson and Peace.

We shall not add to what "Spectator" has said on another page on this subject except to endorse every word of it. We are sorry for the thousands of fair-minded citizens of the Republic to the south of us who are able to distinguish between the cause of the Allies and that of our enemies, and who place the welfare of humanity above expediency. They have been placed in an unfair and an unenviable position and it is for them to clear their country's honour of the stain that has been put upon it. One effect at least of President Wilson's note has been to strengthen the determination of every true friend of humanity to see that the monster who took it upon himself to destroy the peace of the world is deprived of the power to bring upon us a repetition of this horrible carnage.

* * * * *

National Service.

May we once more urge every reader of the Canadian Churchman to do everything in his or her power to make the National Service Movement a success. No matter what our views may be regarding the desirability of conscription in Canada, this should not deter us from doing our utmost to produce, if possible, the desired results without conscription. Any lukewarmness will tend to encourage men to avoid signing the cards sent out. The struggle in which our Empire is engaged is our struggle and it may yet entail far more sacrifice than many have dreamed of. The man who refuses to sign the card when it is presented to him should be treated as a traitor to his country. There are scores of business concerns in every one of our cities that could very well be dispensed with during the balance of the war, and there are hundreds of young men in stores, etc., who are evidently shirking their duty. These should be approached first and the last men to enlist should be those engaged in farming and in occupations connected with the

manufacture of munitions. There are hundreds, yes thousands, of older men who may yet have to leave their ordinary occupations to assist in providing food or munitions. It is not a time to pick and choose but a time when every man with a spark of patriotism in him, and who believes in the justice of our Empire's cause, should be prepared to drop everything and throw himself into the struggle. Canada expects every man to sign. He who refuses is no man.

* * * * *

Peace Terms.

Lloyd George has already justified his appointment as Prime Minister of Great Britain and Ireland. The government that he has assembled is doubtless one of the strongest that Britain has ever known, and his initial speech was that of a man of intense patriotism, deep insight, and unswerving faith in the justice and the outcome of the present struggle. We regretted the necessity of a change of government during this struggle, but we must all agree that the change has not weakened the position of the Empire. It has strengthened it, for we venture to think that the feeling that more decisive action will be taken in several directions, and that the policy of delay, which sometimes is the best means of helping an enemy, will come to an end, is shared with us by our enemies. The conditions of peace as laid down in general terms by Premier Lloyd George, "Complete restitution, full reparation, effectual guarantees against repetition," should be committed to memory by every member of the British Empire. It is the very least that can be demanded of a bully that has thrown every consideration of humanity and international law to the winds and has used the excuse "military expediency" as a cloak for the most heinous crimes. And it is the least we can demand in justice to the men and women who have given their lives in defence of those things that are of more value than life itself.

* * * * *

Mobilization of Our Forces.

The suggestion has been made by one of our clergy that a discussion should be started on the subject, "How to mobilize the forces at present engaged in Patriotic and Red Cross work, in definite service for the Church after the War." The suggestion is a splendid one and nothing would please us more than to have the columns of the Canadian Churchman made use of for a discussion on such a constructive subject. There are scores of Church workers thinking on this subject, but their thinking will do no one much good unless they give others the benefit of their conclusions. We find, unfortunately, for some reason or other, a reluctance on the part of a very great number to appear in print. It is an Anglican failing. They are afraid that someone else will conclude that they are seeking for notoriety or that they have a superabundance of self-conceit. The result is that the Church as a whole is very often the loser. We have already stated that petty personalities will find no place in our columns. The problems of the future are not going to be decided by one man or by the men who say nothing, no matter how much private thinking they may do, nor will they be decided by those who merely listen. Smart sayings and carping criticism serve no good purpose, but there never was a time in the history of the Church when its whole work should be discussed more frankly and charitably than at the present.