

Anglican

[By Ven. Archdeacon Heathcote.]

The War and the Church.

What effect the war should have upon the church and through the church upon the nation, is a matter of earnest thought to all Christians at the present time.

The church in the Old Country is being organized for a mission of "Repentance and Hope," under the guidance of the Archbishops.

The preparations are being made with the utmost care. In July last a number of carefully chosen, and experienced men were called by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to meet and spend quietly several days, in which to pray and deliberate upon our present life and its spiritual needs and then to give him such counsel as God the Holy Spirit should put into their hearts. In October these men submitted a report recommending some "National Mission" or "Appeal throughout the Land." The archbishop then invited all the Diocesan bishops to confer with himself and those who had drawn up the report. The result of this is now made known. In the words of the Primate: "It is not proposed to organize on a vast scale what are ordinarily known as Parochial Missions. What we aim at is something different. We want to stir our great centres of population to realize what they are missing when they leave on one side the church and its social message, its moral message, its message for days of stress. Our effort is to be essentially a Mission of Witness. Let no one speak or act as if what we were doing was to prepare for an Autumnal effort, to make it—and stop there. The new start that we strive for, the new spirit that we pray for, are to be, please God, not passing things."

A strong central council of eighty-five persons (men and women) has taken the organization of this effort in hand. "The aim is to bring about in the truest, deepest, most abiding sense, a 'newness of life'."

In Canada, the Archbishop of Rupertsland announces that the various Dioceses will work independently but that it has been thought well by the bishops in counsel to aim at "Parochial Missions" being held, and this is likely to be contrived in many Dioceses.

The "unique opportunity" is with us. As to how best to take advantage of it, we must look for Divine guidance. In British Columbia the Dioceses will work as units. Kootenay has already arranged for several Parochial Missions. In the Dioceses of Caledonia, Columbia, New Westminster and Cariboo no plans have been matured, or if so are not generally known.

In Vancouver the clergy met together each Monday morning in the weeks between Christmas and Lent, for the special purpose of praying for guidance, a message, and the power to give it.