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ADVERTISERS, NOTE.

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London, Ontario, Saturday, September 3, 1921.

A CALL TO THE CHURCH.

"Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in
earth as it is in heaven."—Matthew vi. 10.
Discussing the "Church of Scotland Bill of 1921,"
in the British House of Commons, the member for East
Edinburgh, Mr. Hogg, taunted the church with having
failed at critical times to give guidance and put moral
backbone into the people of the country. During the
war period the church was reproached with being
impotent to avert that unparalleled catastrophe. A
biting cartoon depicted a group of Africans gazing at
the carnage of Europe and asking why do the
Christians rage and the people imagine a vain thing?
An element of unfairness mingles in these criticisms
of the Christian church, although confessedly she
has not reached the measure of her high calling. The
second Psalm, however, places responsibility upon
kings and rulers who "take counsel against the Lord
and His Anointed and would cast away their cords,"
and repudiate the rule of righteousness. Whatever
may have been the shortcomings of the church in
the past, it is futile to brood over them, but rather
to gather wisdom for the greater tasks of the present,
pressing forward toward that day when the invocation
in the Lord's Prayer will be made reality, and
not a vain form of words.

A grave undertaking confronts the church if the
tragedies of history are not to be repeated, and she
is to share the encomium of Isaiah, "How beautiful
are the mountains as the feet of Him that bring-
eth good tidings—that publisheth peace—that saith
unto Zion, Thy God reigneth." A conference of the
nations has been proposed by the President of the
United States, to meet at Washington in November.
Its purpose is disarmament, or an agreement upon
measures to deliver mankind from the menace and
the curse of war. The sanctity of human life is a
supremely Christian conception. "Every life," observes
an English writer, "is precious. Every life has a
meaning. He alone is the true reformer who seeks
by reason and persuasion so to alter the political con-
dition of the world that every life may grow to its
fullest power." This cannot be realized while war and
preparation for war dominate politics. To go no
further afield, what are the churches of the United
States and Canada doing to mold a strong and whole-
some public opinion that will strengthen the hands
of this conference and sustain any righteous con-
clusions reached? A war-sick and famished world
appeals for deliverance, and here is the opportunity
for a big-hearted and forward-going movement. As
the agent of the Prince of Peace and promoter of the
Kingdom of Heaven on earth, it becomes the church
to rise above all minor and non-essential issues, con-
verging apathy and the narrow aims of national greed
into a righteous international spirit. If the churches
through their pulpits and all their subsidiary organi-
zations do not lead the way, it would be to their ever-
lasting discredit. The aim of this conference is an
application of Christianity which, having delivered
individuals and communities, knocks at the door of the
nations for admittance to their counsels. In England
lately Anglicans and Free Churchmen have courage-
ously asserted their right and duty to demand that
public policies and methods conform with the spirit
and teaching of the Christian religion. Influential
periodicals assert that churches should speak more on
such issues and speak together. If their voice be clear
and strong, statesmen will hearken and act. In the
United States it will be remembered that through the
Federal Council of Protestant Communities and the
National Catholic Welfare Council, Sunday, June 5,
was devotedly observed as a day of prayer and petition
for some move looking to the ending of war prepara-
tions. The Federal Council has followed this up with
a further appeal to ministers and lay leaders to take
an active share in educating the public so that a
national consciousness of moral idealism will be de-
veloped. Christian people are especially urged to
inform their legislators and administrative representa-
tives that they expect the Golden Rule to obtain not
only toward Great Britain and France, but toward
the people of the Far East, where trouble is brewing
over the rivalries of traders and politicians, that may
yet precipitate a crisis in missionary enterprises.
American statesmen need to realize that their day of
aloofness is past. If they would share the honor of
advancing world peace, they must assume the burden
of sharing in concerted international machinery to
take the place of war and enforcing its judicial
decisions.

The Christian Church seems to need the inspiration
of this crusade for international righteousness, which
surely is part and parcel of the Gospel mandate. It is
for every well-wisher of humanity between now and
November to work and pray for a right spirit to
possess the hearts of the nations. That is not mere

plous platitude. Giant evils, like slavery, have been
exorcised from Christendom by the march of Christian
conviction. There is no occasion to lapse into supine
hopelessness that mankind is forever manacled to war.
To do that is to fall back on greed and rapacity, and
abandon faith in the universal working of the Divine
Spirit in the hearts of men.

THE REAL ISSUE.

There is no reason to doubt that the forthcoming
general election will be fought on the broad issues of
democracy versus reaction. Premier Meighen in his
London speech said that the main issue would be free
trade as against protection. As the Liberal leader
pointed out at Seaford, this assumption is absurd.
So far as tariff revision is concerned, there must be
evolution and not revolution, and while certain food-
stuffs, essential commodities and implements for the
tilling of the soil should be free from restrictions, no
country can carry on without an adequate revenue, and
for this reason unrestricted free trade is entirely out
of the question.

But however wide of the mark Mr. Meighen's
assumption may be, it is susceptible of being para-
phrased into the statement that the principal issue
to be decided at the general election is freedom
versus privilege. The principle of granting titles in
Canada has been condemned and abolished, and rightly
so. As a free and independent people we recognize no
aristocracy in this country, but this is all the more
reason why we must guard against the rise of a
smobocracy, or a bureaucracy, or any other com-
bination which insidiously climbs to power and be-
comes as great an enemy to true progress as poison
ivy smothering a grape vine.

Britain's island continent has the motto, "Advance,
Australia." Her empire in the West must in like
manner adopt the slogan, "Forward, Canada!" There
must be no clogging of the wheels of progress by the
lifeless clay of old ideals. The country has passed the
period of its adolescence and has become a nation with
aims and aspirations of its own. Liberal ideals have
well nigh obliterated the conservatism to which for
a time so many of the people clung because they could
not be bothered thinking for themselves. But those
days are gone for ever, and the old trick of trying
to fish on both sides of the political stream by con-
vincing the people that a party can be Liberal and
Conservative at one and the same time is discredited
for ever.

Mr. Meighen knows full well that the result of the
approaching struggle of the Tory die-hards to retain a
few remnants of their power has already been written
on the wall of state. Since the advent to power of the
Union Government in December, 1917, they have had
twenty electoral contests, and out of this they have
sustained sixteen losses. The forthcoming general
election has been forced upon them because every day
increased the danger of the total annihilation of their
voting strength in the House of Commons. Merchant
and mechanic, farmer and city dweller are now enrolled
in the ranks of progress. Liberal principles of devel-
opment, the improvement of the condition of the
industrial classes, and the retention of the sons and
daughters of the pioneers on the land are the means
by which Canada can be restored to its true prosperity
and the happiness of its people assured.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Germans have banned Sedan cheers.

The Meighenites are already talking about "dark
December."

Although its eyes are fixed on the general election,
London will not overlook the Western Fair.

The reorganization of the Provincial Police Force
is to be undertaken. This means lots of work for the
undertaker.

London's botanical collection does not boast of a
bread-fruit tree, but the city possesses some very fine
bread plants.

The Toronto Board of Education has protested
against the 54-inch rule on street cars. The Golden
Rule would be much better.

Mr. Meighen's supplementary knowledge of political
perspective has enabled him to see that his party
has reached the vanishing-point.

Birmingham University has established a chemical
course with the object of getting better beer. It is
anticipated that there will be a great rush of students
from Canada.

It has been discovered that the corn-borer is an
enemy of the gladiolus. The United States officials
who seize these lovely flowers at the border are
apparently in the same class.

The Annapolis Valley has the greatest apple crop
in its history. Nova Scotia has reason to be proud,
and it would be well for Ontario if its crop of
pommes-de-terre was in proportion.

At the premier's meeting in the Grand Opera
House, while the audience was waiting the momentous
election announcement, they were unexpectedly
enabled to see through a Glass darkly.

If Premier Meighen succeeds in making a clean
sweep of his former colleagues in the Government and
in whitewashing the policy he has pursued since
assuming power, he will rank as one of the greatest
black-and-white artists the country has ever produced.

The French doctor who advises that the sparing of
the rod saves the child instead of spoiling it, cannot
be accepted as an authority on the subject, because he
has no children of his own. But as a surgeon he ought
to know that sparing the knife does not always save
the patient.

Mr. Meighen has not shown himself a very skillful
cabinetmaker. Unseasoned material, cracks, knots,
discolorations and other blemishes have marred the
usefulness of his handiwork, and a coat of Union
enamel has failed to hide its unsightliness or diversity
of material. His last desperate effort at reconstruction
is bound to prove futile on account of his inability to
discard some of the old stuff.

What's In a Book?

By Kathleen K. Bowker.

SALAD WITH SAUCE PIQUANTE.

Ninety-nine people out of ninety-eight
enjoy a love story properly told. And
quite possibly they enjoy it all the more
for having an entirely outside interest
interwoven with the phyllophora.

Love-making is often spoken of as
the sauce of our "salad days." But
experience develops a bit of the gour-
met in most of us; and we appreciate a
touch of tarragon—a dash of chives—
a sprig of endive—a caper or a
caraway seed—to vary the flavor of the
dish.

Just such an intriguing concoction
is offered to the rapacious reader in
"Her Father's Daughter"—the just-out
book by Gene Stratton Porter. (S. G.
Gundy & Co., Toronto.)

Linda Strong was a high school girl,
who lived and worked in Lilac Valley,
one of the beauty spots that may be
picked at random within the twenty-
mile radius of Los Angeles. Her elder
sister, Eileen, a real "society butterfly,"
ran the finances and took the lead (and
mostly everything else) in the house,
whose third and last inmate was Katy,
the Irish cook. Warm-hearted, deft-
fingered, quick-tongued—the best of
Erin's products—(no Sinn Fein there!)
Katy bore with Eileen because she
loved Linda.

From a happy childhood in a home
that boasted a pretty, fastidious mother,
and a father who was nationally noted
as a nerve specialist, the girls had
been hurled into orphanhood.

The Thornes were neighbors and close-
est friends of the Strong's, whose girls
were the devoted chums and compan-
ions of beautiful, clever, true-hearted
Marian Thorne. The whole neighborhood
was "horror-stricken" when the car,
driven by Marian, and containing Dr.
and Mrs. Strong and Mr. and Mrs.
Thorne had become uncontrollable and
plunged down the mountain in a disaster
that left only Marian—protected by the
steering gear—alive. Marian's hair
went snow-white before the week was
out—and that was not the only one of
her troubles. Her all-but affianced lov-
er, John Gilman, guardian of Linda, and
legal adviser for the estate, and whom
Marian had helped and encouraged while
he was a struggling young lawyer, was
snatched at with avidity by Eileen, as
soon as she realized that he was be-
coming a legal luminary. Eileen laid
her plans carefully—but she reckoned
without the fact that Linda was grow-
ing up.

During the early part of the book,
Linda seems really too good to be true.
But before one is half finished, one has
decided that—Given Linda's father's
hot training—and her touch of genius
(such things do happen sometimes,
though not often enough) such a girl
might come to pass. By that time, in
fact, you couldn't bear to part with
Linda, and firmly refuse to say that
you don't believe there's no such person.
Her lapses into literature—and the
culinary cult—make fascinating read-
ing. I was almost as pleased about the
check that came from it, as was Linda
herself. Linda, you see, needed money,
and when once she realized that Eileen
would continue to use John—why, Linda
just put air in her tires, gas in her
tank, oiled up her self-starter, and
fairly romped down the road.

The human encounters—the "boy to
boy" friendship with Donald Whiting—

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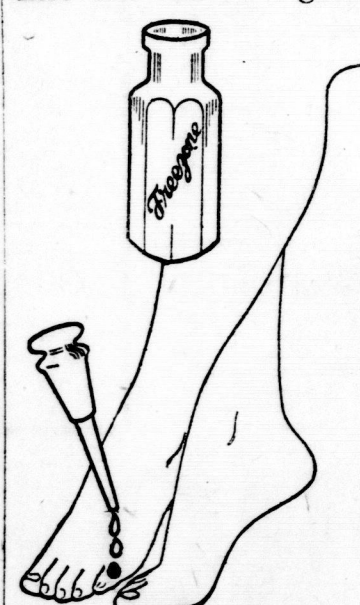
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that corn stops hurting, then shortly
you lift it right off with fingers. Truly!
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"Freezone" for a few cents, sufficient to
remove every hard corn, soft corn, or
corn between the toes, and the calluses,
without soreness or irritation.

the sinister struggle with the formidable
Jap—the resume of the yellow peril and
the race question (I must admit that
near eighteen does seem a bit young to
have evolved all that, in just that lan-
guage, ever as "Her Father's Daugh-
ter," when her father had been dead
four years!)—Peter, the perfect knight—
that wise man, Eugene Snow—even the
unspeakable Anderson—are all well
worth meeting. And Mrs. Porter has
left the page ajar for a sequel. But

the chiefest charm and value of the
book lies in its wonderful description
and interpretation of the flora of Cali-
fornia; the glory and the glamor of the
plant life in canyon and forest, on rocks
and seashore, and even in the sun-baked
desert itself. The extraordinary know-
ledge, the intensive culture, the deep
studies in very line, are expressed in a
love of the whole concern that are in-
vivid and arresting manner, even worthy
of the entrancing subject. "The kindly

fruits of the earth" almost overwhelm
us with their variety and abundance.

Perhaps this sort of writing is just
"bald-headed luck" for the American
eagle. But certain it is that the Cali-
fornian Chamber of Commerce should in-
stall special chairs for Mrs. Porter in
their specious halls, and serve her with
extra portions of their get-together din-
ners. Their publicity people should hand
her a handsome check, and those who
love that land, should give her loud ap-
plause. I doubt if these books of hers
were originally intended as American
propaganda to the world—but that is
what they are, in a very fine sense. In
spirit, it is exactly what should be in
progress, from the Canadians to the
Americans. It would have a subtle but
certain effect on the vital question of
"exchange." It could be gloriously done
if — But perhaps that is outside this col-
umn?

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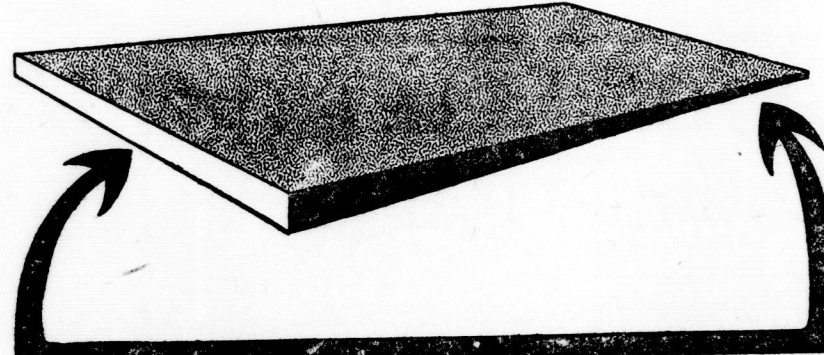
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