

Opening Address

Of Rev. Dr. Chown At Special Conference of United Church

Mr. President,
Honored Fathers, Brethren and Sisters:

When we recall the divine ideas we have unitedly pursued for many years, and the leadings of Providence which have brought us to this auspicious hour, we must be deeply impressed with the conviction that the divine head of the Church has very important purposes to fulfill in our existence. Accordingly, I would like to say something helpful this morning about the peril and tragedy to which we are exposed if we entertain too limited a conception of our duty. This is a very important matter to keep in our thoughts in these formative days, when our ideals as a Church are being so rapidly and with considerable permanency stamped upon us.

If I apprehend aright the purpose of God in creating this United Church, it is to supercede as far as it is possible, at the present time, the fractional representations of Christianity, which as separate denominations we have hitherto presented to the world, by an organization whose high and holy purposes and whose primary passion shall be to reveal to mankind in much larger measure than heretofore, the great spiritual realities which are hidden for us in the mind and heart of Christ. A Church with such an ideal is, I believe, the only kind which can hope for abiding success in this another Springtime in the life of the world.

The history of civilization in comparatively recent times, chronicles a series of tragedies which are full of warning for us in this beginning of days. I can briefly refer to but a few of these.

The French Revolution, for instance, was a never-to-be-forgotten outburst of passion for liberty; but though its chief motive was humane and right, and though it left behind it a deposit of public blessing of immeasurable value, some of its results were ghastly, so much so that the world, witnessing the anarchy and bloodshed with which it was accompanied, became afraid of freedom, and lost for a time the sweetness of the great word "Liberty."

Later, modern democracy awoke as a panacea for political and social inequities, but in due course it brought its own stern disillusionment. Statesmen learned that even the coveted franchise was calamitous unless inspired and directed by character, and that the new democracy solely needed education to give balance to its citizens, and save the State from the effects of mob psychology.

In the course of time a strong social passion for economic justice thrilled the hearts of Karl Marx and others. The Marxian theory became the Messianic hope for multitudes, but the basis of its faith was not broad enough. "Man shall not live by bread alone." And to-day in the reactions of the extreme communistic wing of Socialism as seen in the excesses practiced in Russia, we behold the naked tragedy of a search for Brotherhood apart from the Fatherhood of God, and the sobering sanctions of Christianity.

About three-quarters of a century ago, science led by Charles Darwin as its high priest, stepped forth as a goddess of liberty enlightening the world; the hypothesis of evolution, dangerously misconceived by some of its exponents, not as a divine method of progress, but as a self-contained and self-acting energy, postulated the superman. Germany became the chief national exponent of man's self-sufficiency until the vanished strength of the nation went down in cataclysmic ruin.

The League of Nations, the noblest conception in the realm of modern civilization, has come to life to lift the powers of the world out of the desperate mire of militarism. For six thousand years it had been the custom of so-called humans to kill each other, and to be killed in satisfaction for some real or supposed affront.

Thank God for the remarkable achievements of the League already, but it does not yet appear that it can succeed in quieting the worse than bestial hatreds of men unless the Church of Christ reinforce the conscience of the world with a deeper sense of human value, of international obligation, and breathe into it the very soul of peace. Every national banner must be surmounted by the Flag of the Prince of Peace before unity can be relied upon.

I cannot pass along this way without expressing my feeling, that if the Church of Christ is not soon tremendously aroused to stretch its stern righteousness and warning, love the outlived of war, its future historians will record with burning shame its surprising apathy at this great crisis hour of human history. The failure of the League of Nations would argue the moral insanity of the world, and the Church of Christ would be to blame for not creating a soul of deep spiritual conviction in the heart of the nations to give effect to the purposes of the League. If the Church fail in this, it would lose an opportunity brought with infinite consequences.

and if war continue, the church will be largely unanswerable for the ghastly barbarisms now impending, barbarisms which will make war more terrible and disastrous than imagination can now portray. It is horrible to think that at this hour the old world seems to be boiling like a witch's cauldron, around which devilish harpies sing in hellish glee:

"Double, double, toil and trouble,
Fire burn and cauldron bubble.
Like a hell broth boil and bubble."

Some of the nations of Europe appear to be in such unstable equilibrium as to be dancing a dance of death near the very mouth of a volcano whose eruption at any moment might lay their civilization in ashes, and the people in their graves.

With an alarming challenge the facts and tendencies at work in the world to-day are to summon the Church to heroic action for the prevention of war. May this Church cease not night or day to cry unto God until peace be established forever throughout His world. If I speak thus strongly in describing the opportunity and duty of the Church, it is not out of any disparagement of the League of Nations in its agencies for peace, which are working together with the Gospel message to that end, such as the price of the inevitable and inexorable chaos into which the world was plunged by the Great War, the sorrow of bereaved and grief-stricken multitudes in many nations, the sense of the futility of war as a means of settling international issues, the staggering burdens of immense national debts, and the underlying humanitarian feeling of the human heart. These are all of vital assistance to the League, but it must be remembered that in its efforts at cosmic reconstruction it can as a skillful surgeon, only, set the bones of international life, and bind on the splints, trusting to public opinion to hold the fractured members of the body's politics in place until the knitting process is complete; and it remains for Christianity radically to change human nature itself, and to create the brotherly love and national righteousness which will ensure the permanency of peace. The illustrations I have mentioned reveal some of the tragedies of our civilization.

I feel we must now confess that the Church of Christ is itself suffering from tragedies of a similar nature—the tragedy of dependence upon half-truths, or truths half realized, and consequently the tragedy of half-formed purpose. It is our task as a Church



Ellis & Co. Ltd
203 Water St.

California Oranges.
Seedless Lemons.
Tokay Red Grapes.
Green Grapes.
Dessert Apples.
Cooking Apples.
Bananas.
Grape Fruit.
Anjou Pears.

**Fresh Smoked
Finnan Haddies**

"Belle Mead" Chocolates.
"Huyler's" Chocolates.
Cauliflower.
Iceberg Lettuce.
Florida Celery.
New Cucumbers.
Ripe Tomatoes.
Spanish Onions.
Sweet Potatoes.

**Fresh Blue
Point Oysters**

Fresh Partridge.
Fresh Rabbits.
Black Duck, Snipe
and other game.

to see life whole, and also to see the truth whole, and having seen these, resolutely to set ourselves to carry forward to notable victory the whole range of responsibilities inherent in full orbed Christianity.

We are very thankful to recall that the churches from which we sprang did in their day faithfully sound the tocsin of individual regeneration, and by that means carried our country very appreciably toward the realization of the Kingdom of God.

They also carried the social principle of Brotherhood onward to enduring benefits. They produced the ship which has commanded the admiration of cultivated intellect, and inspired scholars and poets to sublime heights of reason and of fancy.

They have also strewn the bones of their martyrs upon the shores of many nations, and have left them to whiten upon the mountains, and over the prairies of large portions of the globe. Inspired by the Christian conviction that the nations of the earth have been brought into blood relationship in a peculiar sense through the shed blood of the only-begotten Son of God, they have transmitted the universal love of the All-Father into the hearts of men this wide world over in order that every nation and people and kindred and tongue might be brought into the fellowship of the Gospel of Christ.

All these things and many more have been done through the years of our separation with varying emphases and differing degrees of success by messengers of the denominations into which we were formerly unhappily divided.

But a change having come and Union now being an accomplished fact, we should heed the call of God to produce a much more perfect and aggressive development of all the achievements to which I have referred. God is calling us to receive a fresh outpouring of pentecostal power which shall enable the members of our church to observe the first principles, and purest practices of Christianity more fully than they have been obeyed in any previous period in the history of the Church of Christ.

Why should we not believe this is God's call? We have obeyed the will of God. We have healed divisions in the body of Christ. We have answered, as best we could, the high priestly prayer of our Master that, "They all may be one." We have gone forward under the direction of his spirit to a position of obedience previously unattained by any of the denominations now constituting the Church.

And since we have undertaken such great things for God, why should we not expect unprecedented blessings from him? Previous unions of the Mother Churches have been marked in this way.

"Then let us with even more vigorous faith and effort than our fathers move to the rescue of sinners from the blighting effects of sin, through individual conversion. Let us go forward more alertly than ever with hearts full of God's love for humanity to the solution of oppressive and unjust social problems. Let us resolve that we shall do these things with the supreme Christian intelligence of those who walk in the light of God, an intelligence so clear as to remove all lurking superstitions, and banish all compromises and half-truths from the consciousness of our people. Let us carry the gospel of salvation, for every man, and from all sin, unfettered by creeds of human craftsmanship to the uttermost parts of the earth, and further, make it the crowning glory of our Church, to promote unity, international as well as ecclesiastical; a unity so complete and manifest as to compel the world to believe in the divine mission of Jesus, as the one sent of God to be the actual Savior of mankind, and the leader of the life of the whole human race.

These duties are the unescapable responsibilities of our church in this age, and moreover we are persuaded that only with this grasp of truth and grouping of activities may we hope to receive sufficient direction and power for our unique redemptive task.

The history of any denomination which attempts to reveal Christ by emphasizing only a fraction of the gospel message, will in due time become a tragedy, if not of outward disaster, yet of inward deformity and comparative spiritual impotence. The best of churches, like the purest individuals may become dire and disastrous tragedies by narrow minded insistence upon isolated religious truths, and the loveless practice of isolated virtues.

The Church around which our affections gather with more intensity every day and about which our faith becomes daily filled with higher expectations, should evermore dedicate itself to the production of the whole cluster of graces that receive their inspiration from and stand within the radiance of the Cross of Christ. With such infinite interests at stake, there comes to each minister and lay representative here to-day, yes to all members of our church everywhere, the ringing challenge of Joshua, to the Israelites just as they were about to pass over to the Promised Land: "Sanctify yourselves for to-morrow, the Lord will do wonders among you."

Let our sanctification be without reserve; let it be made in complete

sincerity and with full purpose of heart, and the wonders of grace and salvation will surely follow.

May I now compass what I have briefly said, that in this hour of devotion, we should pray that the ideals of the new Church may be equal to the needs of the new world, and be big enough to build into our civilization, spiritual values hitherto only distantly disposed of. The members of our church should be so increased in spiritual stature that they shall regard the whole family of nations as one living human organism, to be loved and served as though all the peoples were of the same kin and kin as ourselves.

When the magnificent steamship Mauretania was launched upon her trial trip, her speed proved bitterly disappointing. An expert was called in to discover the trouble. He found that her hull was perfect in outline and construction, and her engines were well adapted to ensure higher speed, that her boilers were not lacking in capacity to produce a steady stream of steam to send her forward with much greater rapidity; but after full examination he pronounced her propellers, the part of the machinery by which her motive power was applied, to be too narrow for her bulk. Too little propulsive power was the trouble.

We believe we have now constituted a church well built and strong in every part, all its machinery being adapted, or soon to be adapted, to the purposes we desire to fulfill. We believe we have, and can always claim, sufficient power from God to enable us to move forward with much greater strength and speed than hitherto to the evangelization of the world. The supreme question for us to-day then is—are we ourselves in our motives and ideals, in our prayers and purposes sincere and broad enough as to be willing that the spirit of God should apply all the personality and power we possess to the doing of the whole work we are called of God to do.

Surely the magnitude of the work of The United Church of Canada must move mightily upon every living soul amongst us. Are we willing then to consecrate ourselves that we shall say as Edwin Markham said to me about himself, "You may cut my heart right away through, and you will find Jesus at the centre. I am all for Him, and he is everything to me." Are we willing in the words of another devoted servant of Christ, and of this age, to vow before God that we will take Jesus in earnest. Failing to do this, our history will be but another tragedy—the frustration, so far as we are concerned, of a great divine purpose.

"But beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."

An appropriate prayer at this time is found in the verses of a poet otherwise unknown to me, William Steward Gordon, of Roseburg, Oregon.

It is couched in these sublime words:—

"O Master of the modern day,
Our hearts are kindled as we know
Thou walkest still along life's way
As in the ages long ago;
And by the magic of Thy will
New worlds thou art creating still."

We thank Thee that Thou rulest still
This goodly orb on which we dwell
That Thou dost still reveal Thy will
To those who would the dark dispel—
That upward o'er the peaks of time
Thy plan unfolds in form sublime."

Enlarge our minds to grasp Thy thought,
Enlarge our hearts to work Thy plan,
Assured Thy purpose faileth not
To put Thy spirit into man:
God of the present age and hour,
Thrill us anew with holy power."

S. P. A.

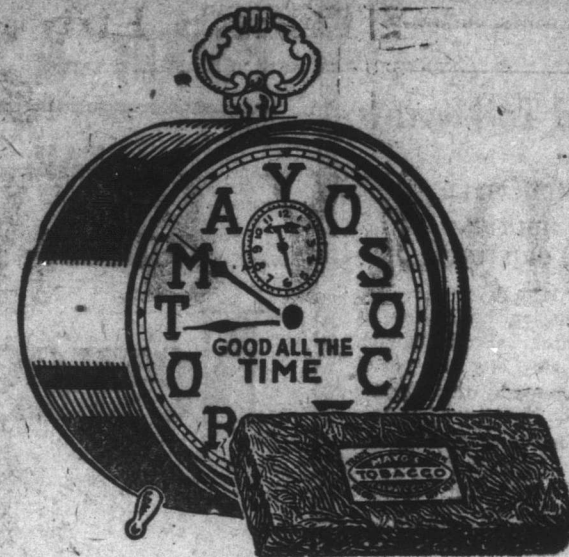
On Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 4th, some of the ladies prominently associated with the Society for the Protection of Animals, will hold a sale in aid of its funds. It will be held in Cagion Wood Hall, and it is hoped the public will patronize it liberally, and take advantage of the opportunity to lend a helping hand to one of the most deserving of our local charities. The ladies in charge of the sale are past mistresses in the art of managing these functions, and the present occasion bids fair to surpass all former efforts. You will be delighted with the splendid array of Xmas novelties and fancy articles at the fancy stalls, where there will be something to suit every taste, and purse. There will be attractive tea tables, and an enticing display of home-made cakes and other dainties for sale. Please make a note of this date, because if this sale is largely attended, it will mean a substantial addition to the Society's resources, and will encourage and help the members to carry on their work.

DANDRUFF!

Rub the scalp with MINARD'S. It stimulates the roots of the hair and removes dandruff.



PREVENT GRIPPE WITH MINARD'S LINIMENT.



Imperial Tobacco Co.
(Incorporated in Canada)

MAYO'S
gives constant satisfaction
to thousands of smokers

In our tag competition
you can't lose

Contestants who have not sent in sufficient tags to win one of the eighteen prizes offered, can redeem Premiums to the value of the Tags sent in. This applies to B.C. and IMPERIAL TAGS only.

Closing date November 30th

FAIR SPECIAL!

We Offer: 10 Per Cent. Discount on

**Vesta and Duradio
Paints & Enamels, etc.**

During "Fair" Weeks.

Orders Will be Accepted at Our Booth in Prince's Rink
Every Afternoon and Evening

"PAINT UP NOW AND SAVE MONEY."

JOB'S STORES LTD.

Local Securities

FOR SALE.

- 124 Newfoundland Consolidated Foundry Co.
- 70 Bell Island Transportation Co.
- 35 Newfoundland Clothing Company.
- 10 Stevestonville Creamery Limited.
- 58 Harbor Grace Boot & Shoe Co., Ltd.
- 50 Newfoundland Boot & Shoe Co., Ltd.
- 195 Standard Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

Price on Application.

Bernard D. Parsons
Investment Broker
Room 12 Muir Bldg.

oct22,ed,tf

Holders of Buttons

Distributed at THE FAIR
and Bearing Numbers
as under, Please
Apply to Our
Office.

Numbers:--- 3750, 2535, 3598,
321, 4747, 2061, 654,
3045 and 1624.

**The Standard Manufacturing
Company, Limited**

Don't Say Paper, Say the Evening Telegram.

STER

STERS Ltd

STERS Ltd

STERS Ltd

STERS Ltd

ST