

Canadian Churchman

Toronto, September 13th, 1917.

The Christian Year

The 16th Sunday after Trinity, Sept. 23, 1917

ST. PAUL'S PRAYER.

The Epistle for this Sunday has in it the record of one of the greatest prayers in the world—St. Paul's prayer for the Ephesians.

It is great in its wonderful confidence in the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. No vague conception is in his mind as he prays, for it is the God Who sent forth His Only Son into the world he addresses. St. Paul sets before himself in this prayer the Great Father Who is revealed in Jesus Christ. Therefore, he can rejoice in God, and can speak of "the riches of His glory." His mind is filled with the Christian conception of God, and so he prays with confidence and gladness.

We notice some of the great things he asks for the Ephesians: "That He would grant you . . . to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith." A prayer for strengthening, and for the gift of the Indwelling Christ! This is a prayer we all need, and one we can offer for our friends every day. We may have doubts as to what is best to ask for our friends in prayer, but there can be no uncertainty about these requests.

We can make this one of our own intercessory prayers. Let us offer it constantly for our friends, especially for those who are engaged in the spiritual work of the Church, more especially for the clergy. It is a very appropriate prayer for you to use for your clergyman. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." St. Paul's Epistles are a constant rebuke to slack ways in regard to the work of Intercession. How careful he was about this work! How highly he valued it! He is always referring to it. Intercession will never be popular, for it is hard work. We must remember it is part of our work. It is part of our War work. The little Services of Intercession for our Soldiers and Sailors are of great value. They must continue to be carried on, even when there is little interest shown and a small attendance. We cannot know how much they may mean to weary men fighting for us on the battle lines.

"The weary ones had rest, the sad had joy that day,

And wondered how?"

A ploughman, singing at his work, had prayed, "Lord, help them now."

Put a piece of iron in the presence of an electrified body, and that piece of iron for a time becomes electrified. It is changed into a temporary magnet in the mere presence of a permanent magnet, and as long as you leave the two side by side they are both magnets alike. Remain side by side with Him who loved us, and you, too, will become a permanent, attractive force. That is the inevitable effect of love.—Drummond.

Editorial

IS PROHIBITION A SUCCESS?

Had the Editorial Board of the Council for Social Service of the Church in Canada done nothing else than conduct its enquiry and issue its pamphlet on the subject of Prohibition, it would have justified its existence. The results of the enquiry as summed up in the pamphlet are valuable, not only for the statistics, but especially for the general insight given into the whole situation. The questions sent out to the clergy asked for information regarding such matters as conviction of drunks and vagrants; evidences of secret drinking; increase in use of drugs or of medicines containing alcohol; closing of hotels; importation of liquor; existence of "blind pigs." The territory included in the survey was necessarily confined in the main to the Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The result of the enquiry is summed up in the statement: "Prohibition laws in the six provinces that have enacted them are working well; but the measure of their success is in exact ratio to the determination of the authorities to enforce them. While Provincial Prohibition is good, Dominion Prohibition would be infinitely preferable. The benefits gained from these laws are almost incalculable and the very thought of going back to the old system is out of the question. In a word, the Church of England in Canada is solid for Prohibition."

In the Provinces of Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan the replies showed beyond the shadow of a doubt that the Provincial authorities are not making a serious effort to enforce the laws they have passed, with the inevitable result that in many places conditions are much worse than formerly. In Ontario and Manitoba, on the other hand, the laws are being enforced and conditions have shown unmistakable improvement. It is utter childishness for any government to attempt to lay the blame for non-enforcement of any law upon the people. We are sometimes told that our legislators are what the people make them, but the opposite is just as, if not more, true. The people have placed in the hands of certain representatives the power not only to make laws, but to enforce them. When an individual citizen knowingly winks at a violation of a law of the land he is looked upon as a partner in the crime. Much more should a government, with its greater power for enforcing laws, be regarded as playing the traitor and as unfit to occupy the position it does.

Another point that is emphasized by repetition is that Prohibition removes temptation from the young and stops the casual drinker. To shield young boys by removing the open bar and the saloon from their sight is of inestimable value. Many of us have seen this proved under other temperance legislation and know from actual experience what the removal of the open bar means to a community. A generation hence we will wonder how the bar-room and saloon were ever tolerated.

Not only does it protect our youth, but it protects as well the man who wants to leave drink alone, or who, by taking an occasional drink, is in danger of forming the habit and of becoming a drunkard. "The man who is

determined to get liquor will get it," and it is absolutely unfair to condemn Prohibition because such men are not reformed. The object is to protect quite as much as to reform, if not more so. There will, in all probability, always be drinking dives, call them "blind-pigs" or what you will, that are known to a few, but the number of such is bound to decrease with time.

The result of the enquiry, so far as it reveals the attitude of the Church on the subject, is most gratifying. The struggle is, however, only in its initial stages, and we trust that it will not be taken for granted that the mere passing of a law is all that is required. Eternal vigilance is one of the secrets of success in this as in other efforts.

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Conscription, or the Military Service Act, has become the law of Canada, and it is the duty of every law-abiding citizen to assist in enforcing it. To take the stand of the Mayor of Montreal, that if bloodshed results from efforts to enforce the law, those who attempt to enforce it will be responsible, is to play the part of a traitor. The attitude of Sir Wilfrid Laurier who, although opposed to conscription, now that it has become the law of the land considers it his duty to help enforce it, must command respect even from his opponents. We trust that his example will have a salutary effect upon other French-Canadians.

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The possibility of an increase in the pensions allowed to our soldiers must give gratification to very many people in Canada. Some people are worrying more about the effect on their pockets than about giving the soldiers a square deal. One cannot help wondering how much money some would give to be able to stay at home if they found themselves called upon to go to the front. It isn't as if the amount of the pensions was so great that there is danger of pauperizing the soldiers. Thousands of them must go through life with a handicap that stays with them day and night. For such men a few dollars more will in many cases mean the difference between poverty and moderate comfort. It is not charity. They have earned it, and if those of us at home do not give it we shall be nothing but slackers.

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We hear a great deal nowadays about Church union and shall probably hear more when the war ends. One of the first steps in this direction, so far as the members of the Church of England in Canada are concerned, is to develop the spirit of union within the Church itself. To use terms that are unnecessary, and cause friction, tends to perpetuate the old suspicion and ill-will and to block the progress of the Church's work. The particular word that we have in mind is the "Mass" as a title for the "Holy Communion." It is not only un-Scriptural and un-Prayer Book but must give offence to thousands of Church members irrespective of party in the Church. It appeared in the first Prayer Book of Edward VI., but was omitted in the present Prayer Book because of its associations, and has not since been recognized by Anglican usage. It is hard to understand, therefore, why it should be used at the present time.

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