

Religious Life and Work

Nisi Dominus Frustra—"Except the Lord, it is in vain."

A Challenge to All the Churches in Western Canada

Last Fall this Magazine made a suggestion regarding the provision of a Rest Home for travellers connected with all the churches. We had reason to know that the idea commended itself to certain church people, if not also church organizations. But, as so often happens, the question arose—Let us consult Toronto, or let Toronto FIRST move in the matter. Thus definite action was indefinitely postponed.

That the *British Columbia Monthly* did not proceed further with the matter then was simply due to the fact that, while we were ready to co-operate with the **awakened churches**, the vital work of this Magazine did not permit its management to spend time seeking to arouse churchmen, lay and clerical, of all the churches, to the fact that a sterling opportunity for co-operative service was being offered to them. Besides to have taken any active part in impressing them officially at that time, just following the enlargement of this Magazine, might have been misunderstood.

A Site Was Offered.

As reported at that time, a site for such a Rest Home was offered to the B.C.M., but even with that assured, the management of this Magazine did not feel warranted in following the matter up **pending the awakening to co-operative action** of the people of the churches, or church organizations.

THE CLAMANT NEED FOR SUCH A HOSTEL.

As our Midsummer number emphasized, this Magazine is now in its tenth year of publication. Though we have made steady progress throughout the years and are making marked headway at this time, the management should be glad to supplement our advance in other directions by increased social and christian service.

Additions to our circulation and other conditions prevent us repeating the offer as formerly made. But the repeated changes of home forced upon one undenominational institution—with which it is scarcely necessary to note, we are in no way affiliated—have anew suggested to the editor of this Magazine the timeliness of making an offer amounting to a challenge to all the churches of the West through their clerical and other representatives to co-operate in the work of providing such a Terminal city hostel at the Pacific Coast.

We know there are many members of the public, and also business men, to whom a Magazine's appeal is qualified in the measure in which it gives space to anything "religious." But, nevertheless, we intend to retain this section.

THE DAY OF DECENTRALIZATION DAWNING.

Men and women of all the churches, clergymen and laymen alike, surely the day for denominational rivalry has passed, or is passing, and the day, if not for union, for closer co-operation is here? To that end we believe such Magazine service can help.

Also, with all respect to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal or other centres of light and leading in the East of our great Dominion, surely the day is dawning for decentralization to be practised so far at least that this Pacific Coast Land may give publicity to its life and work in Church as well as State without waiting for supervisor, editor or printer in the East or elsewhere.

OUR "TENTH YEAR" NEW DIRECT OFFER

In connection with our expansion policy—and yet independently of it—we are led to make the following offer to each of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist Churches

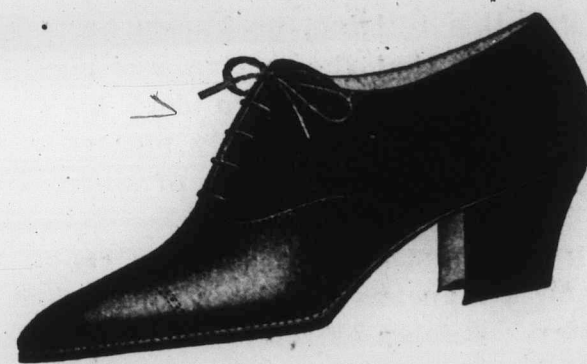
in the west, and equally to the Western Canadian representatives of the Roman Communion, if they are free and choose to be included. We shall undertake to supply each of these churches for a period of years with a certain number of Magazines and at the same time allow each church space (to be arranged) in this section for church news and literary notes to be contributed in each case by responsible representatives appointed by the Western Boards or Synods of each church.

We should make no charge for the space or publicity. On the contrary, subject only to the cost of production being covered, we should undertake to set aside for a period of years a percentage (to be agreed upon) of the regular subscription rate as a fund to be accumulated for the provision or maintenance of such an undenominational Pacific Coast Rest Home for travellers connected with the Missions of all the Churches. As previously suggested, the management would be under the supervision of a Committee or board on which all the Churches would be represented.

WHAT SHALL THE ANSWER BE?

For years this Magazine gave space to notes concerning the Churches. Consistently with that attitude, and in all sincerity, we now make this offer to co-operate with all the Churches and to be **AT THEIR SERVICE** for practical social and Christian work. Needless to note we shall await answers with interest.

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