

# Canadian Churchman

Toronto, November 23rd, 1916

## The Christian Year

## Editorial Notes

Advent Sunday, December 3rd.

"Thy King cometh"—so our Gospel, echoing the words of an old-time prophecy, sounds aloud the Advent proclamation. "Thy King cometh"—there lies the vital centre of the Advent message. The "Coming of the King"—that precisely is an "Advent." For one of the interesting facts brought to light by the recent discoveries among the "Papyri" and "Ostraka," those fragments of writing material from the ancient world which the dry climate of Egypt has preserved to us in such abundance, is this—that the Greek word "Parousia," of which the Latin word "Advent" is a precise equivalent, was commonly in use among the people of Our Lord's time to describe the Royal Visit to any place of a King or Emperor. When the great Potentate of Rome, a Trajan or a Hadrian, paid his visit of inspection to some provincial town, the inhabitants spoke of his arrival as a "Parousia," or an "Advent." And so as the Christian Church looked forward to the promised return of her heavenly King, that return was named the "Parousia," or the "Advent" of the Lord Jesus.

"Thy King cometh"! Wistfully did the disciples of Jesus in the early days look forward to that coming. As they faced the fury of the Roman Empire, and met the lions' gory mane in the amphitheatre, or the tyrant's brandished sword, or the crueller torments of the scorching flame, the Advent Hope promised relief from agony and the victor's crown of righteousness. One of the very few words in the language used by the Christians of Palestine which has been preserved to us in the New Testament, is the Syriac "Maranatha"—and it means "The Lord cometh," or, "O Lord, come."

But in recent years the world has become more comfortable, and the Advent Hope has lost its eagerness. In some hearts these dark days of blood and iron are reviving it. And yet it should ever have shone, and should ever shine, as the Church's beacon light, the glorious mountain standing sentinel at the end of the dark valley of the pilgrimage. For the Coming means the meeting of the King and His Bride, the Divine Lover and the beloved, for whom He died. "So shall we ever be with the Lord," says the Apostle; and in that eternal communion is included all that the heart of man can desire. There is an end of sin—"His servants shall serve Him." There is an end of sorrow and sighing—"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." There is perfection of knowledge—"For now we see through a glass darkly; but then, face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know, even as also I am known." And there is a marvellous assimilation of the believer into the likeness of His Lord. "We know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."

"Such," writes Dr. Robert Law, of Knox College, "is the furthest view opened to our hope . . . and it is that which, of all others, has proved most entrancing to the imagination and stimulating to the aspiration of the children of God." Well may we re-

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### Boys' Leaders.

We endorse most heartily what was said by one of our correspondents in last week's issue regarding the need of greater interest on the part of the Church in the efforts to develop leaders in boys' work. Considerable was done along this line by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew but, unfortunately, this has been allowed in the main to cease. The Church, through the Sunday School Commission, has the machinery that is needed but here we are handicapped by lack of funds. One result of this, as was pointed out, is that many of our boys lose interest and drift away from the Church. In the past the "Boy Problem" was regarded by many as a hopeless one. We know to-day that it is most hopeful, provided we can get proper leaders. The Y.M.C.A. in its Coast-to-Coast Conferences, in which the Sunday School Commission is co-operating to the best of its ability, is trying to develop leaders. Hundreds of Church of England boys are attending these Conferences and yet for lack of a few hundred dollars they are left without leaders of their own Church who will not only guide them in their work but will take back to the Church the lessons learned. Church of England people have the reputation of being very generous to philanthropic objects. We do not grudge what is given to these, far from it. Would it not be wise, though, to extend the same spirit to the activities that are striving to lay better foundations for the future of both Church and State? "Better a fence at the top of a cliff than an ambulance at the foot."

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### Universities and the War.

There has been a good deal said recently about the enlistment of university students. It is doubtless true that there are many young men in our colleges yet who should have answered the call of their country, but for some reason, known perhaps only to themselves, have not done so. A study of the true facts of the case, though, ought to make any fair-minded man hesitate to indulge in generalities that tend to give a wrong impression and undermine the influence of our universities for many years to come. The Canadian universities cannot, of course, show as high a recruiting record as those of the Motherland, where, we are told, "the corporate life of colleges is suspended, and the Dons as well as their pupils are engaged in war work." We do not wish to distinguish between Canadian colleges, but as we happen to have readier access to the figures of Toronto University, we use them to illustrate the effect of the war on the highest educational institutions in this country. In 1914 there were 2,161 students in this University in all faculties; in 1915 there were 1,853, and in 1916 some 1,315, of whom 585 are women. The number in the faculty of Applied Science has dropped from 563 in 1914 to 192 in 1916, and in Medicine from 660 in 1914 to 399 in 1916. Some 1,340 undergraduates have enlisted since the outbreak of war and 1,823 graduates, or a total of 3,163, of whom 145 have already made the highest sacrifice. It surely ill becomes recruiting officers to say anything that will cast discredit upon institutions that can show records such as the above.

### Attacks on the Universities.

It is an easy matter to say that our universities should be closed. It is only one more sample of the kind of thing one hears from men who are forgetting the future. We know, also, that anyone who ventures to enter a protest against this sort of talk is suspected by these same men of a certain degree of disloyalty. We are, however, quite willing to face this and to state unhesitatingly that the highest type of patriotism does not confine its interests to the immediate present alone. We do not mean to excuse any able-bodied young man from enlisting. Far from it. But there are scores who cannot go, whose brains can be turned to account in the days to come in gathering up the fragments that are left and in helping build up a strong national life in this young country. The men who cannot go to the front can still serve their country here at home both now and in the days to come and our universities, instead of being hot houses for a few silken-stockinged dilettantes, have provided thousands of men from the humblest homes with an opportunity to fit themselves for greater service to their God and country. The very existence of the war constitutes one of the strongest reasons for conserving to the utmost the young manhood of our country. One of the tragedies of the war is the loss of trained leaders, men like Captain Drummond, Major Moss and many others who might be mentioned, who will be sadly needed in the days of reconstruction. Their deaths will not, however, have been in vain if they spur the men who are left to greater efforts to preserve and develop in the highest sense the heritage for which they have died. Higher educational institutions are only too frequently made the butt of attacks which should be directed elsewhere, and their value to the life of the nation is far too often overlooked.

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### The Minister of Militia's Resignation.

The resignation of Sir Sam Hughes as Minister of Militia of Canada came with considerable surprise. We had heard rumours from time to time, but, as in the case of so many other such rumours, we had paid little attention to them. Regarding the reasons for his resignation and its effect we have nothing to say. So far as the fact itself is concerned, we do not see how the Prime Minister could have done other than he did, and the ex-Minister has acknowledged that he practically forced it upon the Premier. We regret exceedingly that it was found necessary, and, while we are not only willing, but glad to give Sir Sam every credit for the great amount of work he has done, for the improvements that he has been instrumental in having made in the camp life of our Canadian soldiers, especially the dry canteen, and for his infectious military enthusiasm, still a man who cannot himself submit to constituted authority is scarcely the man to place in a position of high authority over others. There are few men who could have accomplished what the ex-Minister did in the early days of the war, and we are grateful to him for it. We trust that the Premier will find a successor who will be able to grapple with the still greater problems that are ahead. The successful handling of large numbers of returning soldiers, the disposal of these to the best advantage, both to themselves and to their country, will demand extraordinary powers of judgment and tact.

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