

# The CHALLENGE of the HOUR.

## "Go On or Go Under."

Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Bond in Cochrane Street Methodist Church, Sunday, April 14.

unto the children of Israel that they go forward. Exodus 14: 15.)

men, have so far kept the enemies of Democracy back. The profiteer can count his blood-stained shekels, and the slacker can keep his hands in his pockets and his cigarette in his mouth, and the sport can drive his new automobile, and the woman of fashion can have her dance and her bridge, and—what is more to the purpose—the millions of good citizens who are neither profiteers nor slackers, nor sports nor fashionables, can keep their quiet homes and their everyday business, and lead their free lives, because these brave men and these brave women are fighting, fighting at home or at the front, to keep the hordes of Hunns from breaking through. My friends, just as sure as the devil is out after your soul, and he will get it if you do not fight him off, so Germany is out after your home, your family, your free manhood, your pure womanhood, your present and future as a citizen of a free Democracy; the very freest and fairest under heaven—and he will get them, too, unless you fight. He will get it unless our guns are stronger and better aimed than his guns, unless our men are better men and better fighters than his men, and unless we can keep up the supply of these better men and better guns till he is exhausted and gives up the struggle.

Do you hear me, my friends? He will get Paris, he will get London, he will get St. John's—unless we keep up guns enough, munitions enough, ships enough, food enough, to overpower him and keep him back. If he gets through, what then? Why where, what he has done everywhere else where his armies have been victorious. What has he done? Let me give you a sample out of many, from the diary of a German soldier by name Max Thomas, and under date of Aug. 22, eighteen days after the war began:—"Our soldiers are so excited; we are like wild beasts to-day, we destroyed eight houses with their inmates. Bayoneted two men with their wives, and a girl of eighteen. The little one almost unnerved me, so innocent was her expression." Here is another extract from the diary of Elton Andre, another soldier:—"Some of you have girls of eighteen. Think of them served in that way! 'In Vendre all the inhabitants without exception were brought out and shot. This shooting was heart-breaking, as they all knelt down and prayed. It is real sport, yet it was really terrible to watch.' Put Petty Harbor, or Blackhead, or Bonavista for Vendre, and think of that brutality. Here is the sworn testimony of an eye witness: 'At Haecht I saw the body of a young girl nailed to the outside door of a cottage by her hands. She was about fourteen or sixteen years old.' (Some of us have daughters of fourteen or sixteen. Think of them served in that way.) 'In returning from Malines, eight drunken soldiers were marching through the street. A little child of two years came out, and a soldier skinned the child on his bayonet and carried it away, while his comrades sang.' Upon the streets of one city alone, inquiries were held upon the bodies of over 600 victims, including very aged men and women and babes unborn, removed by the bayonet from their mothers." I could multiply these incidents, and tell of others more atrocious. I could show you copies of the orders by which such deeds were done.

Then think of what the Germans have done on the sea. Think of the "Lusitania" with 1,400 men, women and children torpedoed—a wholesale murder such as will make the name of Germany a stench in the nostrils of all the generations to the end of time. Ten thousand innocent people have been murdered by German submarines; and they are being murdered at the average of about forty-five a day. They are being murdered as we sit in this quiet church; for day and night, in storm and calm, the infernal submarine is doing its ghastly work. Says the American Consul at Queens-town, in his published report: "The 'Madura', a little Russian barque, cut down her mainsail to show submission to the submarine, but when her lifeboat was rescued it was a perfect shambly. The captain . . . sat in the stern shoots with his wife, and at their feet two dead sailors lay weltering in their blood, while another was just gasping out his life. The four other sailors were all wretchedly wounded. . . . On a dismal February day, I saw the dismembered fragments of the Captain of the 'Anglo-Californian' carried ashore in a gunny bag, and the mutilated corpses of eight of his men. Their crime consisted in having tried to run away from destruction. . . . They seized a

lifeboat of the 'Cairnhill' and placed her eighteen men on the submarine's deck. They then threw over from the lifeboat the food, water, and sails. . . . They even filled the water-cask with salt water. When they returned to the submarine they went below and submerged instantly, leaving our boys floundering in a stormy sea, 150 miles from land, with no refuge but that gutted lifeboat." These are only a few of the awful submarine doings the Consul relates. What do you think of those things, Newfoundland seamen and fishermen who listen to me to-night? They would do the same to you if they got the chance. They are doing things like that, while I am speaking.

Some people say, in this very town, that it does not matter whether Germany or Britain wins this war. What fools they are! Some people think they would be as well off under German rule as under the flag of Britain. What ignorant fools they must be! Let me read to you what Rudyard Kipling told an audience in England the other day. "We are fighting for our lives, the lives of every man, woman and child, here and everywhere else. We are fighting that we may not be herded into actual slavery such as the Germans have established by force of their arms in large parts of Europe. We are fighting against eighteen hours a day enforced labor under the lash, or at the point of the bayonet, with a dog's death and a dog's burial at the end of it. We are fighting that men, women and children may not be tortured, burned, and mutilated in the public streets, as has happened in this town (he was speaking in Folkestone) and hundreds of others, and we will go on fighting till the race that have done these things are in no position to repeat their offence." The great writer continues: "If for any reason, whatever, we fall short of victory—and there is no halfway house between victory and defeat—what happens to us? This, every relation, every understanding, every decency upon which civilization has been so anxiously built up will go—will be washed out, because it will have been proved unable to endure. The whole idea of Democracy—which at bottom is what the Hun fights against—will be dismissed from men's minds, because it will have shown incapable of maintaining itself against the Hun. It will die; and it will die—discredited, together with every belief and practice that is based on it."

"The Hun ideal, the Hun notions of life, who take its pace throughout the world. Under that dispensation, man will become once more the natural prey, body and goods, of his better armed neighbor. Women will be the mere instrument for continuing the breed; the vessel of men's lust and men's cruelty; and labor will become a thing to be knocked on the head, if it dares to give trouble, and worked to death if it does not. And from this order of life there will be no appeal, no possibility of any escape. This is what the Hun means when he says he intends to impose German Kultur—which is the German religion—upon the world. This is precisely what the world has banded itself together to resist. It will take every ounce in us, it will try us out to the naked soul." He concludes with this significant sentence, which should burn itself into all our souls: "Nothing, nothing we may have to endure now will weigh one featherweight in comparison with what we shall most certainly have to endure, if for any reason we fail of victory." There it is, my friends. There it is, put very plainly. We must not, we dare not stop at anything short of victory. Nothing but that will make the world safe for Democracy. We must go on or go under.

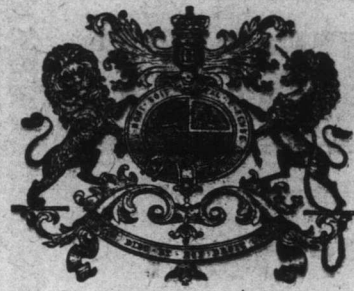
Yes, we must go on or go under. By voluntary enlistment or by selective conscription we must keep up the strength of the regiment. Personally, I do not think that anything short of selective conscription can now meet the exigencies of the hour. It is not merely a question of keeping up the Royal Newfoundland Regiment as a fighting unit. That regiment by its glorious deeds has put Newfoundland on the map of the world. That little regiment, never up to full strength since Beaumont Hamel and the First of July dash of 1916, has made Newfoundland a country of national and even of international fame and importance. That regiment must never be allowed to die out and to have its identity lost and its noble survivors scattered among other regiments in the field. It would be an everlasting shame and disgrace if such a thing should happen. We owe it to the

memory of the dear fellows whose bodies rest beneath the soil of Gallipoli and France, we owe it to the dear crippled and shattered fellows who have come home, and whom, so far, their country has failed adequately to provide for, we owe it to the dear fellows who are still fighting, we owe it to ourselves, and to this Dominion, and to the Empire, that the Regiment should be promptly and regularly sent the reinforcements for which the Imperial authorities have called. But it is not the regiment alone, it is the country, it is the Motherland, it is the Empire, it is the whole world, it is the whole fabric of Christian civilization that must go on or go under. Human right is threatened by armed might, and human right must fight its aggressor to the death. I am not preaching a gospel of hate, God forbid, I am preaching an appeal for armed resistance, for utmost resistance to the foes of the home and the community and the State. I am preaching an appeal for suffering, for self surrender, for martyrdom it may be, that things dearer than life may be secured to our loved ones and to the men and women who come after us. The world must be made safe for Democracy, for only Democracy makes life worth living. We must go on or go under. Trusting in God, let us go on till we gain a victory that shall shatter the forces of autocracy for ever.

"Chill Chasers." We have received another shipment of these popular portable heating stoves in three sizes which we are selling at \$6.50, \$7.50 and \$8.50. We also call attention to our special "Humpry" Gas Iron, in nickel finish, complete with flexible tube connection. We are selling this iron at \$3.00, and recommend it as a useful Xmas gift. Phone 97, or call at our Showroom, One Building, ST. JOHN'S GAS LIGHT CO. dec22/17

Nldr. Wins Degree. A cablegram received in town yesterday announced that another Newfoundland boy had distinguished himself at McGill University, Montreal, in the person of George Bond Cross, son of the late John Cross, of Trinity, and Mrs. Mary Christian, having passed with honours and taking the degree of M.D. Dr. Cross, although offered a lucrative position in the West, had decided to join the Canadian R. A. M. C., and shortly proceeds across the water. We congratulate the young Doctor on his success.

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## An Appeal

I am addressing this Appeal to all the people of Newfoundland, but especially to those of the Outports.

Your Government have decided to make another special attempt to obtain further recruits for the duties forced upon us by the War. I am anxious to explain to you in simple and strong words why those duties are yours.

In your sea-girt home you have, I know, your own dangers and anxieties to face. As I write this my mind is still full of the appalling disaster to the Florida. But War you do not realise; you are beyond the sound of the guns which, in the South East corner of England, I have heard day after day breaking in upon the beauty and calmness of the summer air.

That awe-inspiring rumble of the guns which I ask you to imagine—that lurid light on the horizon which I ask you to picture are the signs of a terrible struggle for Right—of a mighty effort to save from ruin, not only France, but every bit of free soil in the world, including this island of which you are so proud. The awful struggle seems to be approaching its climax now and your close kinsmen are in the middle of it.

Some may ask, What is the danger? and it is my purpose to endeavour to make it clear to you.

By some permission of Divine Providence, which we do not understand, a nation of criminals is now attacking all that is just and true in the whole world. Germany has set herself deliberately to violate every law of Right and every principle of Humanity.

Never before in History has a War been planned like this. Hitherto all wars have had some sort of pretext of right or impulse of passion. It has been reserved to the German military party to plot wilfully and wantonly a great crime against the peace of mankind.

And the hypocrisy with which Germany supports the crime makes it still more abominable. As Judas treated the Christ, Germany is treating Civilization. Under appeals to God, Germany masks the utmost malignities of the devil. The German nation to-day knows no Law except that of the pagan, the liar, the ravisher, the murderer. They are a curse let loose on the Earth. And the task demanded of all of us is to fight and conquer this curse just as in our moral life we are bound to fight and conquer Sin. The Cause is a far broader and holier Cause than that which impelled the Crusaders against the Saracens.

We may thank God that the greater nations of the World have realised the Justice of the Cause; and I believe that every man in Newfoundland will one day be thankful that he was at least asked to face this question—"Is it not my higher duty to go out and save humanity from destruction?"

Remember that your wives, your children, your cottages, your boats, are in positive danger if the German breaks through France. As he is treating the foolish Russians, so he will treat every nation whom he touches—America, Canada, Newfoundland, are to him mere objectives for his greedy brutality. He is entirely evil, he has no sense of right and no feelings of Mercy.

This mass of incarnate selfishness is held back by the strong arm of the Allies in France. Will any man of British race decline to do all he can to defeat and crush it?

At this moment the need is specially great, for the Germans are now desperate. They begin to realise the truth of that dread decree "He that takes the sword, shall perish with the sword." At no horror will they hesitate if they can but escape the punishment that is their due.

Now on every man and woman among us lies the duty to bear a hand in administering that punishment a duty not only to ourselves but to posterity. If age or health prevent some of us from going they do not prevent us from following the greatest example ever set to mankind and making the sacrifice of that which is dearest to our hearts.

You young men I ask to listen carefully to the appeals which will once more be made to you in the next few weeks. Believe me that the voluntary act of a man, impelled by the high sense of duty, is far nobler than the mere obedience to the provisions of a public enactment.

One special word I say to women. Try to realise the sufferings of women and children wherever in Germany comes; think of the little children starved in Belgium and slaughtered in cold blood in Armenia. Let your men folk stand out and protect you, for in helping to defeat the Germans they are protecting the honour and safety of all their dear ones at home.

G. ALEXANDER HARRIS,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Government House, St. John's, 30th March, 1918.

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