

# Canadian Churchman

Toronto, September 6th, 1917.

## The Christian Year

The 15th Sunday After Trinity, Sept. 16, 1917.

### WORRY.

"Take no thought for the morrow." This is the Saviour's word in to-day's Gospel. We have a familiar word for that which He condemns—worry!

Worry—how small a sin it sometimes seems to us, yet what a grievous one it really is, and what sorrow and distress it always brings. It is a repudiation of that which should be the central principle of the Christian—trust. The man who is worrying is not really trusting. We have to trust God for the morrow. Tomorrow is, in a sense, not our business. Today is our concern; God will take care of to-morrow. If we do our best to-day in the spirit of faith, there is a Divine guarantee on to-morrow. You look after to-day, your Heavenly Father will look after to-morrow. The man who worries cannot do his best to-day. What he is doing, is done half-heartedly because of his miserable anxiety about to-morrow. How many of us allow the priceless opportunities of the present to pass because of our anxiety about some duty, or difficulty, which may come in the future. The present is that with which we are concerned. The past is gone, the future is in God's Hands, but the present is ours. And we cannot possibly give to that precious present the concentration, the single-hearted attention it deserves, if our minds are being distracted and our hearts made sick by that which has Christ's condemnation upon it—over-anxiety about to-morrow.

It spoils the present, but it spoils the future also. Its sinister shadow falls upon the new day. For if to-day we worry about to-morrow, when to-morrow comes we shall find that, in so far as we have ignored this principle of the Master, we have become unfitted to meet the duties which belong to it. Nothing so unfits a man to meet a difficult to-morrow as to spend an over-anxious to-day.

There is no cure but faith and trust. Faith in the God of love Who is faithful to His promises to His children. He will not suffer us to be tried above that we are able to bear. He will always provide for every hour that is to come. Trust in the word of Jesus Christ Who said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." The truly single-hearted person could not worry. If the Kingdom were really first with us, all this miserable over-anxiety would fall away from us.

St. Paul has a message about this. It is a message of the power of prayer to bring the Peace of God; for it is the Peace of God which stands as a sentinel before the door of heart and mind, and bars the way to worrying thoughts. This is St. Paul's prescription for people who worry: "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ."

There are few who can conceive how instrumental the tongue is to salvation or condemnation.—Quesnel.

## Editorial

### AUTUMN MEETINGS.

Notices have been sent out calling meetings of the M.S.C.C. Board of Management; the Sunday School Commission, and the Council for Social Service. These will be held in the city of Ottawa during the week beginning September 24th, and are all of special importance. They are all Dominion-wide in their activities and are representative of every diocese. They have all come into existence since the beginning of the present century and have done much to bring unity and harmony into the work of the Church.

A couple of years ago it was felt by some of the members of the M.S.C.C. Board that one meeting each year was sufficient and hence no meeting of this Committee has been held since October last year. The fact that the apportionments and grants for the ensuing year are made each autumn has always made the autumn meeting of the Board of special importance. Added to this, there is the pressing question of the future of the missionary work among the Indians and Eskimos in Canada which must soon be settled definitely, war or no war. Another matter arising out of the war that must be considered at the coming meeting is that of exchange in our foreign mission fields. This has become so great a drain on funds voted for work in Japan, China and India that it is practically impossible for our missionaries to live on the salaries paid to them.

The Sunday School Commission has to consider once more the scheme of Sunday School Lessons. At the meeting of the Commission held last spring it was agreed to delay the adoption of the new scheme proposed by the Lesson Committee and since that time information has been collected from the various Schools in an effort to learn their wishes in the matter. It is probable that such modification of the scheme will be agreed upon as will eliminate in large measure the features that gave rise to opposition.

The Council for Social Service will have to deal with the question of Secretaryship. If the Council is to be of any real value to the Church it must have an official who can give his whole time to its work and who can, moreover, make its objects better known to the members of the Church at large. Some valuable literature has been issued during the past six months and considerable interest has been created in the larger centres by members of the Church who realize the importance of the various social problems facing us at the present time. All this has been preparing the way for a more aggressive and united effort in which the Council is expected to give a lead.

These are only a few of the many questions that have to be dealt with but they serve to show the importance of these meetings to the Church. The very fact that the war has continued for over three years already, and so far as one can see will continue for at least another year, makes it impossible for us to beat time. New conditions and new problems have been created and the evident duty of the Church is to adjust itself to these as quickly as possible. We do not, however, advocate too great haste in such matters and any attempt to rush work through in a single day, as was done at the

meeting of the M.S.C.C. Board last year, makes proper consideration of the work impossible. The issues are too important either for snap verdicts or for useless discussions that lead nowhere and the representatives on these different Committees should be prepared to give the time and thought that are necessary. We need scarcely add that the whole body of the Church should feel a deep interest in such meetings and by their prayers and suggestions help those who are sent to represent them to arrive at right conclusions.

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We are in receipt of information regarding the work of the Church among returned soldiers that makes one feel much more hopeful regarding its future. The Rev. Christopher Reed, a C.E.F. Chaplain invalided home from France, who was at one time a mounted policeman in the Yukon, has taken charge of the work at the discharge depot in Quebec. The Bishops throughout Canada have been asked to appoint local men to co-operate with Mr. Reed in following up the men as they are sent on to the more than ninety military hospitals or to their homes. This is a decided step in the right direction and we hope that it will be followed up by the appointment of a man who can supervise all this work and unify it. "Well begun is half done," but it is not by any means all done.

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The Rev. Canon Gould, General Secretary of the M.S.C.C., has returned from a journey down the Mackenzie River and the impressions gathered from his visit to the Indian and Eskimo Missions along this route are awaited with a great deal of interest. It is difficult for us to grasp the importance of such a visit to the missionaries working in these isolated places but we believe that this alone, apart from any effect it may have on the future policy of the work, is sufficient to justify not only one visit but many such. The missionaries too often have felt that their statements regarding their needs were discounted to a considerable extent and we feel certain that they one and all welcomed the prospect of having a more or less independent witness investigate the work they are doing. It, moreover, creates one more connecting link between them and the outside world.

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The death of Earl Grey has removed one of the great men of the British Empire and one of the best of the Governors sent to Canada from across the Atlantic. In the words of the late Lord Strathcona, he was "a statesman and a philanthropist in the best sense." He was great without making those who came into contact with him feel that he was conscious of that fact. A man of great and varied talents, he was at the same time a man of winning personality who took a deep interest in any serious effort to improve the social conditions of his fellow men. He took a leading part in an effort in England to supplant the ordinary drinking saloon by well-conducted public houses and to substitute the use of tea and coffee for intoxicants. Both in South Africa and in Canada he displayed tact and wisdom as an administrator and won the confidence and affection of the masses of the people to an exceptional degree. Canada mourns the loss of one of its best friends.

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