

THE CHURCH AND ITS PROBLEMS IN AUSTRALIA

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The problems with which the church in Australia is called upon to deal are the problems universally found in all lands.

How to cover a continent with the Christian ideal; how to save a new civilization from the dangers of materialism and pleasure; how to fill the already Christian heart with the missionary motive; how to save the growing cities from what menaces their best life.

Some of these problems are the following:

The Sparseness of Population—

In the whole continent there are less than 5,000,000 people and of these one and one-quarter million are in the two cities of Sydney and Melbourne. The rest are in the few other cities and towns and the majority scattered over a vast territory, making a serious matter the manning of fields and the reaching these scattered handfuls with gospel ministry.

The Gambling Spirit—

It was said by one church leader to be Australia's leading vice, nearly two and a half million changing hands last year.

The Love of Pleasure—

The love of pleasure that is bred by the very climatic conditions. In Sydney the Sabbath is largely a holiday and its magnificent harbor and gardens make it easy for the pleasure loving spirit to gratify itself.

The Liquor Problem—

This must be faced for the whiskey traffic has a strong hold at least in Sydney, the only city I saw outside Brisbane.

In the down town district nearly every corner seemed to have from one to four saloons and in more than one case bar maids are being supplied.