

## FROM WEEK TO WEEK

"Spectator's" Discussion of Topics of Interest to Churchmen

THE appointment of an Editor of Religious Education publications, ought to be an important step forward in the development of Sunday School work. The Rev. D. B. Rogers, of Montreal, who has just assumed this new position, is capable of filling its requirements with credit to himself and usefulness to the constituency which he will serve. He is an independent thinker and not easily carried away by new and untried schemes that have a doubtful basis of wisdom and strength. With the inauguration of a new field of operation, the responsibility will rest upon Mr. Rogers for setting a standard and establishing a tradition that may have long-standing influence. He is, we presume, a free man to work out his own plans within his own sphere and ought to be given all necessary support until he has had a fair chance to establish himself. He will then have to submit to the judgment of his constituency as to whether his work be wise or otherwise. "Spectator" would venture to make a few general suggestions, which he thinks gives voice to the sentiments of a large and growing section of the Canadian Church. However, Mr. Rogers will have to be the judge of that. His first suggestion is that he be not overmuch enamoured of American teaching and educational methods. The wail that comes from out the Church of the United States regarding the decline of the Sunday School, which, by the way, is now designated "the Church School," is no convincing proof that they have found methods, and discovered principles, of religious education applicable to youth that necessarily impel us to follow in their footsteps. They have many "specialists," who are extremely clever in presenting some new thing in an attractive form, but the more attractive it appears, the more carefully should it be examined as to its soundness and its applicability to our Canadian needs. It is a good rule to insist upon some visible evidences of success before leaping into a trial of a widely advertised scheme which may have nothing but eloquence and catchy phrases behind it. "Spectator" would further advise Mr. Rogers to exercise the same care of enquiry into the content and spirit of the teaching that comes from that same quarter. The character of childhood and manhood that is generally developed there is not such as we hope to produce in this country, nor such as the best Americans are satisfied with. The writer would feign hope that our Sunday Schools have had some decisive part in the laying of the foundations of the Canadian character that is so manifestly appreciated in the U.S.A. In saying all this, "Spectator" is not unmindful of the great intellectual achievements of our friends and neighbours, nor does he for a moment seek to cast reproach upon their methods for themselves. He seeks to preserve for Canadian Churchmen the moulding of their own destiny and character and to check that growing tendency to look for wisdom from a quarter that hasn't proved its capacity to meet our needs. The Church in England may not be strong on methods of teaching, such as we have grown accustomed to, but it is a far more profitable place to look for enduring principles and sound learning.

The writer will go a step further in the consideration of the subject before him. He can do this now without seeming to cast the slightest reflection on the work of the new

editor, for he is just at the beginning and not in the midst of his career. The point to which "Spectator" wishes to call attention is the temptation that will be presented in the alluring plea of undenominational or inter-denominational co-operation in the issue of literature. "It can be produced more cheaply; it can be made more attractive by this plan," it will be said. So far as the writer is concerned, co-operation can be carried as far as you please, provided, the resultant issue is sound, wholesome and enduring. Anyone of the slightest experience knows very well, however, that in working with people of different outlook, different ideals and different modes of thought, it is impossible to be forever insisting upon points that seem small in themselves, but all go to create and to nurture an atmosphere and viewpoint that is vastly important in the end. Besides all this, in such co-operation, so many things have to be left unsaid, the Church and the children become losers thereby. The saving of a few dollars amounts to nothing unless the true purpose is achieved. It seemed quite evident in the reports of various assemblies and conferences recently held that our brethren of other communions are not so sure to-day of the efficacy of doctrines that were set forth a year ago with high hopes of winning a following. There is no real substitute for truth, integrity and honour. We have to keep faith with these things if we are to hand them on from age to age untarnished and glorified. With none should we be so scrupulously careful of our teaching as the young. They are unable to protect themselves against our errors.

The coal situation in Canada is such that one marvels that those in high places can carry on business with apparent composure of mind. What are the workpeople, the salaried people to do this winter? The outlay for fuel will be beyond all reason, and even if we have the funds to pay the price, how are we to be assured of getting it in sufficient quantities. It is admitted that coal deposits in abundance, an abundance far beyond our needs, are to be had within our own Dominion, but the transportation involved, makes it impossible to get the coal where it is needed. The simple fact is that something unusual, something that may not be commercially justified will have to be done. The Canadian climate will not await the good pleasure of commerce. It is far more important that our people should live than that our government should resist an unprofitable enterprise. We have heard much of the deepening of canals and waterways, so that ocean-going vessels may ship cargoes of grain from Fort William to the ports of the world. We would like to hear more of the assembling of a fleet of coal carriers, of every kind of tub capable of weathering the great lakes, that would start with their cargoes at the opening of navigation and stock every coal yard from Sydney to the Soo. We have paid bounties to develop steel plants, why not a bounty, if necessary, to develop our coal industries and secure the safety of our people and make us independent of a foreign country? The money would be spent in our own country by our own people. Under present circumstances, a word from a quarter over which we have no control whatever, would paralyze our industries and render desolate our homes.

"Spectator."

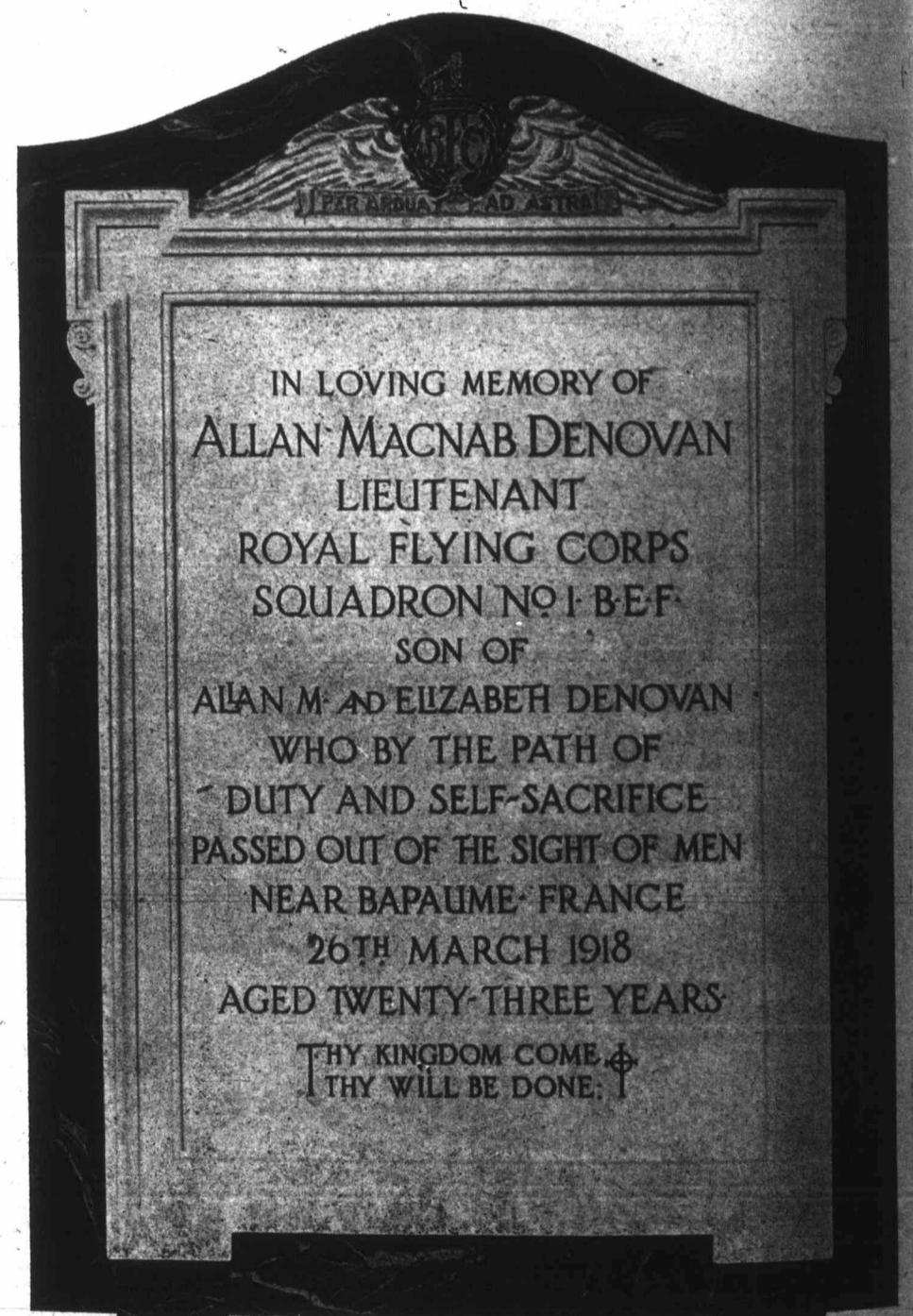
## A Word of Counsel

HAVE your Will made, if you have not already done so. As Bishop Gore said the other day, this is one of these important duties which every man should attend to. In order to secure careful and competent handling of your affairs after death, appoint as your Executor and Trustee—

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