

Four Good Reasons for a National Forward Movement

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

DESPITE the four years' fury of War, and the year of uncertainty just ended, the people of Canada have prospered. Yet, spiritual glories revealed to us in the great Conflict are being clouded by drifts of class-hostility, mutual suspicion and cynical materialism.

The world is troubled. Old conceptions are giving place to new. Yet, the Kingdom of God remains, firmly grounded on the great principle of love. It has the one remedy for a world diseased:—"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Five Christian Communions—Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian—call their various constituencies and the whole nation to a livelier and more sacrificial Christianity. They are making a great financial appeal. It is fitting that the public should know the reasons.

1 The Decline of the Dollar

The sharp rise in prices the world over has affected injuriously the position of every man working for a fixed salary. Missionaries are in this category. Stipends that were ample in 1900, and nearly adequate in 1912, are utterly insufficient in 1920. There has been no general increase in these stipends. There cannot be, until the Canadian people scale-up their giving to balance the decline in purchasing-power of the Canadian dollar.

International exchange has been unstable. Money for export has been subject to heavy discounts. In view also of the increased cost of materials and of labor, any new building programme abroad has been out of the question. But the need for new buildings is imperative. Some missionaries are living in clay-floored huts.

New Standards are Necessary The Anglican Synods, the Baptist Conventions, the Congregational Union, the Methodist Conferences, and the Presbyterian General Assembly, have set new standards for the salaries of Clergymen actively engaged in Canada. But, for the Missionaries, and for the Superannuated Ministers, no increases have been possible.

One of the aims of the Forward Movement is to show the fine-spirited, generous, Christian people of Canada that the old standards of giving for Missions must be revised. It is impossible to maintain existing stations, even on a pre-War basis, without more men and much more revenue.

2 The Call from Abroad

Coincident with this financial difficulty, new and glorious opportunities for the extension of Christian teaching have appeared. In India, literally millions of "outcasts" are pleading for Missionary preachers and doctors. In China, a new National spirit has been born. Missionary teachers are urgently required to help formulate the National system of education. Hospitals, Missionary nurses, doctors and dentists, are heartily welcomed by the people. From Japan, Africa and the Islands of the Sea, comes the same story.

3 The Home Responsibility

Here in Canada, the work of evangelizing Indians and Eskimos must now be undertaken wholly by the Canadian Church. The rapid growth of our cities, the expansion of the West, the great immigration of the last twenty years, and the depopulation of rural areas, make a four-fold problem which can be solved only by radical readjustments of policy and greatly increased resources of men and money.

4 The Pressure on the Colleges

Finally, the decline of the dollar has created difficulties in financing the Colleges and Universities established and maintained for the training of the Clergy. Last year, one College which had been able before the War barely to subsist, faced an additional charge for coal alone of \$1600. All other expenditures have risen in like proportion. Christianity has been the mother of Higher Education. A thoroughly trained Ministry is the great need of the times.

The men of faith, filled with the Holy Ghost, who proclaim the Gospel story by the frozen Coppermine, beneath the cone of Fujiyama, along the banks of the Yangtse and the Ganges are the product of our Canadian Colleges. There the Vision first appeared to them. The Church must stand behind these institutions.

The Unity of Faith and Prayer

These are the facts. Faced with such conditions, the Church leaders, at first, were appalled. They went to their knees, first in separate denominational groups, then in company. Putting aside for the time being differences of religious temperament, considering only their common belief in the Everlasting Father, the Almighty Son, and the everpresent Holy Ghost, they prayed together. Then they arose, thrilled with a glimpse of the wonderful Missionary opportunity, to appeal together to the whole body of Christians in Canada.

The Greatest of All Gifts

You are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Gospel He proclaimed. Your country has become great through Christianity. The hope and love of the Gospel have warmed your heart and illumined your life.

Next week you will be asked by the representatives of your Church to show practical proof of your convictions. Be prepared—not to give a trifle out of your abundance, but to taste the full sweetness of Sacrifice.



National Peace Thank-Offering

Simultaneous Every-Person Canvass
by Each Communion

February 9-14

The United National Campaign

Representing the Simultaneous but Independent Forward Movements of the Anglican, Baptist, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Communions in Canada