

The Votes of Our New Settlers and Missions

Missionary Topic, January 31, 1909. By Rev. S. F. Dixon.

Canada is rapidly becoming cosmopolitan. We must be alive to the perils and possibilities that lie therein. Settlers from Britain and the States soon become Canadianized. Settlers from some countries of Northern Europe have a love of freedom, from Bible study and evangelical preaching. But hordes are coming from less cultured countries of Southern and Eastern Europe, and in lesser numbers from the Orient. From Europe "this great force, moving at the rate of nearly 1,500,000 a year, is invading the civilized world." "It is a march the like of which the world has never seen, and the moving columns are animated by one idea—that of escaping from evils which have made existence intolerable and of reaching the free air of countries where conditions are better." In 1906 over 100,000 immigrants, representing 54 nationalities, landed on Canadian soil, and in 1907 the Bible was asked for in 70 languages. In recent years, nearly 30 per cent. of our immigrants cannot speak English. Every twelfth man between Ontario and the Rockies is a Galician, and thirty races are represented there, some in large and growing numbers. This brings to Canadian Protestantism a tremendous responsibility, and spells an unprecedented and glorious opportunity for service. Many of these immigrants, through no fault of theirs, are ignorant and superstitious. But of one blood God hath made all the nations of the earth, and regnant qualities lie latent in these races. These men and their children will have votes. What shall the national product be? Ours is a democracy, and democracy is the future of humanity. Shall ours be good or evil? Just what we make it by the grace of God. The Kingdom of God is a divine, spiritual force, working itself into all spheres of national and social life. Jesus Christ was at once the greatest individualist and the greatest socialist of history. "Thy kingdom come" is our central prayer, because the central doctrine of the Kingdom is the value of the individual life, which has worth because it is a part of a great social whole.

The Protestant Reformation revived the teaching of the Primitive Church as to value of the individual, and the Protestant Forward Movement of this century must train the individual for capacity and service in national life. "None of us liveth to himself." The love of Christ constrains us to give now the word of life and the preaching of the Gospel to the new settlers. For their sakes "we must sacrifice ourselves, and offer our sons and daughters upon the altar of missionary service," "beginning at Jerusalem," whither all nations are now assembling. The call is insistent and loud for young men and women to teach in the schools, preach in the missions, nurse in the homes. Who will answer to the call? The success of "All Peoples' Mission" is a voucher for the prophetic dream and the call for whole-hearted devotion. Methodism is peculiarly fitted for this work, for the world is our parish, and wherever is preached and taught the universality and impartiality of God's grace, the freedom of the human will and man's individual responsibility to God, men are trained for citizenship. There are grave perils to our nation, but if the youth of our Protestantism responds to the call, Jesus Christ will remain the chief corner-stone of our Dominion and Empire, and our national history will declare the glory of God and our imperial firmament show forth his handi-

work. May God give us men now and in the years to be, so that our national energies may terminate in Jesus Christ, the ends of civil government find their consummation in Him and our political life interpret the vitality of spiritual religion in terms of political activity and righteousness.

The Strangers Within Our Gates

Perhaps the largest and most important problem that the North American continent has before it to-day for solution is to show how the incoming tides of immigrants of various nationalities and different degrees of civilization may be assimilated and made worthy citizens of the great commonwealths. The United States have been grappling with this question for decades, but have not yet found a solution. Canada is now facing the same problem, but in an aggravated form. A much larger percentage of foreigners, in proportion to our population, is coming to us just now than came at any period to the United States. The larger percentage the more difficult is the problem of solution. Western Canada has this problem in an even more perplexing form and to an even greater degree than has the East. And the city of Winnipeg might, without any misuse of words, be called the storm centre of this pressing Canadian problem. Mr. J. H. Ashdown, who has been Mayor of Winnipeg for the past two years, and resident in the West for over forty years, and who has perhaps given more time, attention and energy to the working out of a solution of this question than any other layman in the West, regards the problem as vital and fundamental.

Principal Sparling, of Wesley College, Winnipeg, writes: "I have been permitted to read the manuscript of the Rev. J. S. Woodworth's book, entitled 'Strangers Within Our Gates.' It should be stated that Mr. Woodworth is Superintendent of 'All Peoples' Mission,' and of our foreign work generally in the city of Winnipeg, and has had special opportunity to meet and study these various peoples and divers nationalities. I can with confidence commend this pioneer Canadian work on this subject to the careful consideration of those who are desirous of understanding and grappling with this great national danger. For there is a danger, and it is national! Either we must educate and elevate the incoming multitudes or they will drag us and our children down to a lower level. We must see to it that the civilization and ideals of South-Eastern Europe are not transplanted to and perpetuated on our virgin soil. I would have all our young people between the oceans read and ponder the subject-matter of this book. 'Dry up, say?' No! vastly interesting and illuminating if you read and study it sympathetically. Here you will find tragedy and comedy combined in the actual lives of men and women, none of whom we may call 'common or unclean.' I fear that the Canadian Churches have not yet been seized of the magnitude and import of this ever-growing problem."

Our Leaguers will do well to order this valuable book at once. It will afford them abundant help in preparing their missionary evenings. Its price is 35c. in paper and 50c. cloth. Order from Dr. Stephenson.

Adult Bible Class Rally

Send to J. A. Jackson, Confederation Life Building, Toronto, the programme of the great Rally of Adult Bible Class representatives, to be held in Broadway Tabernacle, Toronto, on January 28th and 29th. It will pay you to be there.

Look Out

A. W. HONE.

We live in a lookout age, and the institution, society, or individual that ceases to be looking out has no successful place in the busy life of the twentieth century.

In this age of the survival of the fittest the survivors are the ones who are on the lookout, having learned by experience that the methods of to-day will be relegated to the scrap-heap to-morrow. Thus the capitalist is not content with one field of investment, but is continually on the lookout for new fields of exploitation; the manufacturer is constantly on the lookout for fresh markets, and every merchant is—or should be—aware of the necessity of looking out for up-to-date business methods, in order to keep abreast of competition. Canada is growing as she is to-day because the oppressed millions of Europe are looking out and moving out to the land which offers to them such splendid opportunities for advancement.

If the Methodist Church is to perpetuate its existence it must have the help and co-operation of its young people. The future of the church is in the keeping of the young people's societies, and these are powerless to help the church, or themselves either, unless the officers and members are prayerfully on the lookout. Looking out for the best interests of the church, looking out for more effective methods of work, and above all, looking and working for the salvation of souls.

Fellow-president, is yours a lookout leap? Is it alert? Not only looking, but doing. Are you on the lookout for, and reaching out after, the glorious possibilities which lie before you? Or are you looking in at, and satisfied with, that which you have accomplished in the past? Remember, leaguers, if you determine to rest upon the past, and contented with the methods in vogue even a year ago, you cannot hope to cope successfully with the multifarious problems arising in the present era of progress. Look up for guidance, look out for opportunity.

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Words to Remember

In one of his last editorials, the late Dr. Withrow wrote the following paragraph: "Read in the light of subsequent events it is full of momentous meaning, and we are sure it must appeal to both old and young to do their utmost in their short period of earthly service for the Master: 'The older membership of the church will soon have passed beyond the schisms and strifes and alienations of earth'—to where beyond these voices there is peace, to the indissoluble union of the general assembly and church of the first-born above. The younger people must carry on the 'work of the church' as the older members will not catch the inspiration of the bugle call which is now ringing for an advance in missions 'all along the line.'"

Our Strongest Weapon

In Westmontre Echo, the pastor, the Rev. G. Bowyer, B.D., has the following paragraph on Prayer. It is as applicable to all churches as Westmontre Avenue, and we commend it to our workers everywhere. He wrote: "Some writer recently has said prayer is the forgotten secret of the church. There never was a time when the church was so well organized, and the great danger in all our churches is to trust to the committee and organization rather than to God. How much we need to be reminded of prayer. In the early church the religious service was especially for prayer. Prayer is our strongest weapon to fight evil and to reach souls. Let us all pray."