

Canadian Churchman

Thursday, January 29th, 1920

Editorial

"GOD help the country, if the Forward Movement doesn't," was the utterance of a man who has his finger on the pulse of big business in Canada. It was rather illogical but it expressed the idea that the Forward Movement has not only an unusual opportunity but an altogether unparalleled responsibility.

He saw that the special task of the Forward Movement was not limited to the raising of a large fund. He was so accustomed to talking big finance that a couple of millions was no overwhelming affair. He knew that you can get people to give money when they will not give anything else. He saw the danger of placing such emphasis on the money end of things that people would imagine that they had done everything when they had done that.

At the risk of being misunderstood, we must say that it is possible for every dollar of the budget to be raised, and yet for the Forward Movement to be a downright failure so far as our larger responsibilities go. These ought yet to have done and not have left the other undone. There is no opposition between the financial

and spiritual objectives of the Movement. In fact we do not like that classification because with many the financial will be only the expression of the spiritual. But we must take care that the financial is not the only expression of

spiritual. There is work to be done, and more than ever let us hope, and if Churchmen and Churchwomen will not do the tasks of the church there can be no Forward Movement.

We do greatly desire to see a keener interest in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures, a revival of the practice of Family Prayer, a regular attendance at the church services and a great increase in the number of faithful communicants. These are some of the things every true child of God must yearn to see. Our glorious past is a heritage and an inspiration, but whether the present and future will be glorious depends on us and our dedication to God to-day.

An admirable suggestion is made by Mrs. Willoughby Cummings. In her letter to the W.A., she advocates the opening of churches all through the week of the canvass (we should like to see the silent testimony of the Open Church all over Canada). And the holding of special intercessions throughout the week. Let us strain a point to do these things, we must be saved from the disappointment and condemnation of letting the good crowd out the best. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

A Message from the Primate to the Church

AS the testing and culminating time of our Anglican Forward Movement is drawing near, I am venturing to address a few words to my fellow Church people. So far, as Primate, I have limited myself to emphasizing the spiritual objective of the Movement, for I felt that to be not only paramount, but the essential foundation of all true success in the life and progress of the Church. We can only hope and pray that, with God's blessing, there has come a deepening of the spiritual impulses among us as a result of the special efforts which have been put forth. We must trust, too, that the good work begun will not end in February, but will "go on unto perfection."

The financial objective, however, with all that has been leading up to it, will terminate within about ten days. Is it too much to say that the result then achieved will, in more senses than one, be the test of the fruit of all the labours and prayers of many months of faithful endeavour. Will it not be the outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual moving and the stirring up of the wills which, under God, have gone on?

This Forward Movement is the greatest enterprise which our Church in Canada has ever set before itself. In view of that, while its full achievement will be the greatest thing that ever happened to our Canadian Church, its failure may prove one of the most serious reflections ever cast upon it. I venture to give two reasons why I make this strong statement.

The first reason is this. In view of the fact that this Forward Movement is being carried on simultaneously with similar ones among other Christian Communions, the eyes of all Canada are upon us and any seeming to "come short of the glory" of worthily supporting our Church will be liable to evoke both invidious and damaging comparisons. The honour of our Church, therefore, is at stake, and the measure of our loyalty to it is on trial.

My second reason is this: The world is passing through a great crisis and, in its lamentably confused conditions, needs to-day the leaven of Christianity more than it has ever done before. Our General Synod felt that when it inaugurated the Forward Movement. It felt, furthermore, that as organized Christianity was the commissioned agency for spreading that leaven, it behooved us to see to it that our Church was in every way equipped and prepared to do its part worthily in meeting the challenge of the world's need. That conviction was the genesis of the Forward Movement.

I appeal, therefore, most earnestly, to our Church people to respond to the trumpet call from the highest Council of the Church and to carry to fruition the behests and hopes of the General Synod.

A LAST WORD

WILL you allow me, as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Anglican Forward Movement, to issue one brief, final appeal to my fellow Churchmen before the close of the intensive Campaign? I am prompted to do so by three reasons:—

(1) First, because there are many indications that we in Canada fail to realize the magnitude of the debt which we owe to God for His signal blessings to this country. Let us get to the truth as to our position. Ultimately, to Him we owe the security from violence of our homes and of our women and children during all the years of the war; to Him we owe the wonderful prosperity and plenty of this country; and finally to Him we owe the victory by which we were allowed to retain this country as our home free from enemy domination. What return can be great enough as a Thankoffering for all this? Before deciding what to give in the coming canvass, will you think on these things?

(2) Then I am prompted to write because I am anxious that our Church should take a worthy part in shaping the course of the new world that is now rising, and in meeting the extraordinary opportunities now open for preaching the Gospel and extending the Church among the great non-Christian races of the world. The Church cannot do this worthy part unless it is adequately equipped with men and means. What should I give to this?

(3) Then also I am prompted to write because I am jealous for the honour of our own Church, and dread the possibility of being humiliated as a Church by failure to reach our objective while other Communions succeed. We far exceeded all other Communions in the sacrifice of men for the war; don't let us fall down in the lesser sacrifice of money. We led the country in the greater sacrifice; let us resolve, with God's help, to lead also in this. But in order to do so, we must each one give as we never gave before.

DAVID HURON, Chairman,
A. F. M. Executive Committee.

ORGANIZATION ITS FINAL STEPS

THE Anglican Forward Movement is face to face with the direct appeal for its financial objective. The week Monday February ninth to Saturday the fourteenth will reveal the degree in which the membership of the Church has been impressed with the financial needs of the Church and the extent to which they are prepared to provide those needs.

Those needs, as set out in the financial appeal, represent the final results reached by the Executive Committee after careful examination and re-examination of the whole question, and after the fullest possible consultation with church authorities and representative bodies of Church people throughout the Dominion. In the compilation of such an appeal it is inevitable that there should be some question concerning one or more objects included in it, and some disappointment expressed in connection with one or more objects excluded from it. As a whole, however, the financial appeal has commended itself to the judgment of the Church, and received remarkably little criticism.

The work of education has been carried forward with great vigor and on a scale never before attempted in the Church of England in Canada. The supplies of literature, and the methods employed for the effective distribution of the same, have been designed and prepared with the purpose of reaching and informing every Church member.

The literature has consisted of pamphlets, letters, booklets, cards, posters, etc., to a total number of nearly three million pieces. This literature has been distributed through two channels, first, the Special Mailing List, and second, the Women's Committees. The special mailing list includes over seventy-five thousand names and addresses of Church people and to these literature has been sent direct. The mail from the Central Office, for the last three months, has averaged six thousand pieces every day. In addition, the members of over two

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