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Issued by the Army and Navy Board of the Methodist Church

THE CHURCH, THE WAR AND PATRIOTISM

Report adopted by General Conference at Hamilton, 1918.

REPORT NO. 1.

We recommend that the following resolution be sent to the Right Honorable Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, and also presented to the Patriotic Meeting next Tuesday evening.

That this General Conference, speaking for a million Canadian Methodists, desires to assure the Prime Minister of its firm determination cheerfully to support whatever measures, and to accept any inconvenience, which may be required to make Canada's war effort adequate and efficient. We rejoice in the indications that enemy Governments are seriously reconsidering their constitution and international policy. But while we deprecate measures prompted by desire for revenge, we look to our national leaders, in co-operation with the Imperial and Allied Governments, to secure such a complete settlement of the world's political and military order as will be commensurate with the sacrifice made by the womanhood of the world and will crown with vindication and success the careers which have been arrested and the lives which have been laid down.

REPORT NO. 2.

Re the Mennonites: The attention of the Conference is drawn to the situation created in certain parts of Canada by various Mennonite Communities claiming exemption from military and other forms of National Service, and to the fact that the policies of the Provincial Governments which require inspection of public schools by state inspectors and compulsory school attendance has aroused opposition and protest in these communities. The official statistics, compiled from the 1916 census, show approximately 16,500 Mennonites in Manitoba, 19,000 in Saskatchewan, and 2,000 in Alberta.

We recommend that:

1. The action of the Government of Saskatchewan in adopting the policy of the inspection of schools, public and private; and of the Government of Manitoba in making compulsory the teaching of the English language be commended:

2. As the policy of segregating colonies of non-English settlers is inimical to the best interests of the nations, it be not approved:

3. All citizens of Canada should stand upon equal footing, having common rights and privileges, and be alike amenable to all responsibilities to the State:

4. Mennonites and other conscientious objectors to Military Service should not be given exemption from non-combatant service or other national work, save only on the same conditions and for the same reasons as may obtain with other citizens:

5. Exemption should not be granted to Mennonites, save only as they may be entitled thereto under strict and impartial interpretation of the Letter of Agreement, of June 23rd, 1873, upon which they base the claim:

6. Persons claiming exemption under the said Letter of Agreement should not be allowed to extend their real estate holdings within the boundaries of our Dominion:

7. Franchise rights should not be granted to any person claiming exemption on any grounds, until they shall have duly and formally waived all claim to such exemption, and with due formality have accepted the full responsibilities of citizenship:

8. The exemption privileges claimed under the Letter of Agreement should not be extended in future to any persons who may take up their residence in Canada:

9. Exemptions claimed under the Letter of Agreement should not pass on to the descendants of those who came in under the said Letter and due notice to this effect should be formally served upon the communities affected.

REPORT No. 3.

1. THE CHURCH IN THE WAR SERVICES.

(A) *The Problem and Our Duty:* This General Conference greatly rejoices in, and makes glad recognition of, the large and hearty response of our Church in the various fields of service presented by the war. The efficient work of our ministers in the Chaplain service, the devotion of our young women in the ministry of nursing, the consecrated skill of our physicians and surgeons, and the unstinted heroism and sacrifice of our boys in the high places of danger, have lifted us up with them to planes of larger vision. We weep with the many in our homes who weep; but through the mist of tears we see the high gains which have made our sacrifices worth while. Not for the first time in world history has the way of the winepress been the pathway of redemption for the world. We are led to adopt new standards for the valuation of all things in the light of sacrifice, and in the spirit of the poet:

Measure thy life by loss and not by gain;
Not by the wine drunk, but by the wine poured out;
For love's strength standeth in love's sacrifice,
And he who giveth most hath most to give."

From these higher altitudes, with saner thought and clearer vision than ever before, we confront with a new courage and faith and spiritual force the tremendous problems that in the immediate future face our own, and every other Christian Church in our land. We pray that the spirit of wisdom may be abundantly given that our portion of the Israel of God may have understanding of the times to know what we ought to do.

Following are our recommendations on the several items remitted to us in this section of the Committee's work:

(B) *Rolls of Honor*: That the General Conference strongly urge upon every congregation, without exception, in our Methodism that complete Rolls of Honor of all members and adherents in each Church, who have enlisted in the war, be prepared and placed in a conspicuous position in the Church.

(C) *Army and Navy Board*: That this Conference approves of the action of the General Conference Special Committee in creating an Army and Navy Board.

1. That the Army and Navy Board of the General Conference consist of the General Superintendent, who shall be chairman, and fourteen others, seven ministers and seven laymen, to be elected by the General Conference, on the nomination of this Committee.

2. That the duties of the Board shall be as follows:

(a) It shall appoint the Secretary-Treasurer and may appoint a Field Secretary who shall be under direction of the Board.

(b) It shall make official representations on behalf of the Church to the Government and the Military Authorities with regard to Chaplains, either for Overseas or Home Service, and other war matters.

(c) It shall recommend only ordained ministers for appointment as Chaplains.

(d) It shall promote a war-time programme in the local church.

(e) It shall obtain, as far as possible, a record of all casualties to members of Methodist families.

(f) It shall co-operate with other denominations in regard to war work.

(g) It shall obtain, as far as possible, a record of the activities of every congregation with regard to the war-time programme of the local church.

(h) It shall arrange for sending regular letters from our Church to its ministers, probationers and members overseas.

(i) It shall have authority to appeal to our congregations, or to individuals, for contributions to carry on its work, including the Chaplain services, and any other cause that commends itself to the Board; and each congregation throughout the whole Church shall contribute at least one offering annually towards the work of the Board, including the Chaplains' Fund.

(j) Before any minister or official board shall sanction any appeal to a congregation for contribution to a fund in connection

with the war, except for a purely local cause, there shall be required evidence that the appeal has been sanctioned by the Army and Navy Board.

3. That the following constitute the Army and Navy Board:

The General Superintendent; Rev. T. Albert Moore, Hamilton Conference; Rev. J. A. Long, Toronto Conference; Rev. John Garbutt, Bay of Quinte Conference; Rev. W. B. Creighton, London Conference; Rev. W. H. Raney, Montreal Conference; Rev. Ernest Thomas, British Columbia Conference; Rev. W. H. Barraclough, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Conference; Oliver Hezzlewood, Toronto; Hon. E. J. Davis, Newmarket; J. O. McCarthy, Toronto; Col. J. D. Chipman, Toronto; Capt. J. K. Sparling, Manitoba; J. J. Parsons, Hamilton; John M. Trueman, Truro, N.S.

4. That the Board be empowered to appoint an Executive Committee.

5. That each Annual Conference appoint a Conference Army and Navy Board, to consist of a chairman and eight others, four ministers and four laymen, which shall complete its own organization and carry on its work in co-operation with the Army and Navy Board of the General Conference, and in harmony with the constitution already provided.

6. That the suggestions contained in the leaflet, "A War-time programme for the Local Church," issued by the Army and Navy Board be read to every congregation, and that provision be made to carry out this programme as completely as possible; and every Official Board which has not already done so shall appoint, at the earliest possible moment, the necessary committee to carry on the work, with the twofold object of restoring the returned soldier to civil life and to the fellowship of the Church.

7. That whereas a rumor has been circulated that of the four large denominations, Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic the Methodist has supplied by far the smallest number of recruits, and whereas manifest injustice was done our Church on the attestation papers during a period of nearly two years when enlistments were most numerous, and whereas no official figures have ever been published by the military authorities, and whereas Chaplains are appointed in proportion to the reported enlistment from each denomination—this Conference would urgently request the Government publicly to declare that the denominational records of the military department are incorrect and to adopt some other method of determining the proportion of Chaplains to be appointed from each denomination.

8. *National Service and Double Salaries:* That while this Conference rejoices in the large number of ministers who have offered themselves for chaplaincies and medical or combatant service during the war, and also recognizes with satisfaction the great service rendered to recruiting by many ministers on their circuits, it records its conviction that any minister who is in receipt of salary from the national

treasury is under moral obligation to decline to receive any pay from the Church for services he may be able to render to the common cause. The Conference regards the obligation to render the largest possible service to the nation, as incumbent on all citizens, and the duplication of salaries or the acceptance of salary for services which are merely nominal, cannot be condoned.

9. *Chaplains' Service Fund*: That this General Conference deplores the failure of many Churches to respond to the appeal of the Army and Navy Board for \$15,000 towards the Chaplains' Social Service Fund; and would urge every quarterly Board to assume a just share of the amount required by the Board to meet in full the obligations honestly accepted in conjunction with other denominations.

10. *Protestant Chaplains' Fund*: That whereas a large sum of money will be necessary to enable the Army and Navy Board to carry on the war work of the Church, the General Conference approve of the plan being initiated to unite all the Protestant Churches in one supreme effort to raise an adequate sum by one great drive among all the Protestant people of Canada—the proceeds to be divided in some equitable way among the various denominations; and that the Army and Navy Board be authorized to represent Methodism in any such campaign and to continue the initiative in planning for it.

11. *Interdenominational Military Commission*: That our very hearty approval is given to proposal to organize an Interdenominational Military Commission, representing all the Churches, which would be the vehicle of approach to the Government on all interdenominational matters, and would also confer with every organization seeking the betterment of the soldiers, as well as giving publicity to the multiplied activities of the Church in behalf of the soldiers and their families.

II.—CHURCH LEADERSHIP IN THE NATION.

Your Committee has had its attention directed to the work of the Church in the problems of reconstruction by some pregnant passages in the address of the General Superintendent, and by a Memorial from the Alberta Conference.

Even before the war it was widely foreseen that great racial changes were imminent in the western world. This gigantic convulsion has precipitated the nations into the melting pot. Such an era summons the prophetic gifts of the Church, first to the task of interpretation—to discern amid the turmoil and confusion the hand of God, and secondly, to the task of inspiration—to breathe into the hearts of men the faith, the courage, the patience, the brotherliness, by which alone the happy harbor can be won. And no Church is under a deeper obligation to assist in this twofold task than our own. Methodism was born in a revolt against sin and social extravagancies and corruption. It was content with no aim lower than "to spread scriptural holiness through the land."

Insisting on personal regeneration and all the implications therein, it transformed the face of England and saved that land from the excesses of a French revolution. To it the ideal of the Christian life was simply love made perfect. Without seeking at this time to commit the Church to a definite programme of economic policy, we would present for the consideration of our people the following statement which reflects our point of view:

1. The present economic system stands revealed as one of the roots of the war. The insane pride of Germany, her passion for world-domination found an occasion in the demand for colonies as markets and sources of raw materials—the imperative need of competing groups of industries carried on for profits.

2. The war has made more clearly manifest the moral perils inherent in the system of production for profits. Condemnation of special individuals seems often unjust and always futile. The system rather than the individual calls for change.

3. The war is the coronation of democracy. No profounder interpretation of the issue has been made than the great phrase of President Wilson's that the Allies are fighting to "make the world safe for democracy." It is clearly impossible for the champions of democracy to set limits to its recognition. The last century democratized politics; the 20th century has found that political democracy means little without economic democracy. The democratic control of industry is just and inevitable.

4. Under the shock and strain of this tremendous struggle, accepted commercial and industrial methods based on individualism and competition have gone down like mud walls in a flood. National organization, national control, extraordinary approximations of national equality have been found essential to efficiency.

Despite the derangements and the sorrows of the war, the Motherland has raised large masses of her people from the edge of starvation to a higher plane of physical well-being, and in consequence, was never so healthy, never so brotherly, nor ever actuated by so high a purpose, or possessed by such exaltation of spirit as to-day—and the secret is that all are fighting or working, and all are sacrificing.

It is not conceivable that when Germany ceases to be a menace, these dearly bought discoveries will be forgotten. Relapse would mean recurrence, the renewal of the agony.

The conclusion seems irresistible. The war is a sterner teacher than Jesus and uses far other methods, but it teaches the same lesson. The social development which it has so unexpectedly accelerated has the same goal as Christianity, that common goal is a nation of comrade workers, as now at the trenches, fights so gloriously—a nation of comrade fighters.

With the earthquake shocks of the war thundering so tremendous a reaffirmation to the principles of Jesus, it would be the most inexcusable dereliction of duty on the part of the Church not to re-state

her programme in modern terms and re-define her divinely-appointed goal.

The triumph of democracy, the demand of the educated workers for human conditions of life, the deep condemnation this war has passed on the competitive struggle, the revelation of the superior efficiency of rational organization and co-operation, combine with the unfulfilled, the often forgotten, but the undying ethics of Jesus, to demand nothing less than a transference of the whole economic life from a basis of competition and profits to one of co-operation and service.

We recognize the magnificent effort of many great employers to make their industrial organization a means of uplift and betterment to all who participate, but the human spirit instinctively resents even the most benevolent forms of government, while self-government is denied. The noblest humanitarian aims of employers, too, are often thwarted by the very conditions under which their business must be carried on.

That another system is practicable is shown by the recent statement of the British Prime Minister, that every industry save one in Britain has been made to serve the national interest by the elimination of the element of private profit. That the present organization, based on production and service for profits, can be superseded by a system of production and service for human needs, is no longer a dream.

We, therefore, look to our national government—and the factor is a vital one—to enlist in the service of the nation those great leaders and corporations which have shown magnificent capacity in the organizing of life and resources for the profit of shareholders. Surely the same capacity can find nobler and more deeply satisfying activity in the service of the whole people rather than in the service of any particular group.

The British Government Commission has outlined a policy which, while accepting as a present fact the separation of capital and labor, definitely denies the right of sole control to the former and insisting on the full organization of workers and employers, vests the government of every industry in a joint board of employers and workers, which board shall determine the working conditions of that industry.

This policy has been officially adopted by the British Government and nothing less can be regarded as tolerable even now in Canada.

But we do not believe this separation of labor and capital can be permanent. Its transcendence, whether through co-operation or public ownership, seems to be the only constructive and radical reform.

This is the policy set forth by the great labor organizations and must not be rejected because it presupposes as Jesus did, that the normal human spirit will respond more readily to the call to service than to the lure of private gain.

The acceptance of this report, it cannot be too clearly recognized, commits this Church, as far as this representative body can commit it, to nothing less than a complete social reconstruction. When it shall be fully accomplished, and through what measures and processes, depend on the thinking and the goodwill of men and, above all, in the guiding hand of God. But we think it is clear that nothing less than the goal we have outlined will satisfy the aroused moral consciousness of the Church or retain for the Church any leadership in the testing period that is upon them. And in such an heroic task as this our citizen armies will find it possible to preserve, under the conditions of peace, the high idealism with which they have fought for democracy in France.

Recognizing the greatness and complexity of the task before the Christian people of Canada, and the imperative necessity of united action by the Churches, we recommend that the suggestion of the memorial from the Alberta Conference be adopted and that this General Conference invite the other Churches of Canada to a National Convention for the consideration of the problems of reconstruction.

Further, in order that our Church may give the most intelligent support to the movement, we recommend that our ministers and people should acquaint themselves with such important documents as the Report of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations, the Inter-Allied Labor Party's Memorandum on War Aims, the British Labor Party's Programme of the new social order and the British Governmental Commission Reports on Industrial Relations.

Your Committee outlines this programme in the profound conviction that it can be carried out only by men quickened and inspired by the spirit of Christ and for that Divine Spirit, working in the hearts of men, nothing that is good is too high or too hard.

III.—INTERNATIONALISM.

(A) Whereas it is now incontrovertibly established that Germany, actuated by a greed for world domination, obsessed by an abnormal self-consciousness, and controlled by an infamous and blood-thirsty militarism, designedly planned and precipitated the present world war and in conformity with these barbarous doctrines, in reference to war, has wantonly violated international agreements, committed innumerable atrocities too revolting for description, not only upon combatants, but upon non-combatants, including women and children: fomented a religious or holy war, resulting in the massacre of multitudes of Christians resident in Moslem countries, and proclaimed and practised the doctrines of frightfulness, bestiality and disregard of treaties; and

Whereas Germany's diplomacy stands convicted before the world of the basest duplicity, dishonesty and deceit;

Therefore resolved, That this General Conference expresses the opinion that to keep faith with our dead, and for the future safety of civilization, the Allies should refuse at all times to discuss or negotiate peace until Germany is ready to lay down her arms and accept the published peace proposals of the Entente Powers; and further, that we express the conviction that under present circumstances complete and crushing victory by arms is necessary to induce, on the part of the German people, such realization of guilt, repentance and willingness to make restitution as will make permanent peace possible; and furthermore, that we demand the surrender and punishment of the arch criminals by whose orders these crimes were instigated and perpetrated.

It was resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to Premier Lloyd George and Sir Robert Borden.

(B) *The Holy Land in Christian Hands*: This General Conference hereby records its appreciation of the stupendous fact that the Holy Land, so closely related to all that we as Christians hold most sacred, has at last been liberated from the deplorable rule and misrule of the Turks. We most reverently thank the God of all nations for this splendid achievement, and especially do we rejoice because He was pleased, in the main, to give to the armies of the British Empire, led by a British General, the honor of accomplishing this glorious consummation, which has been the hope of the Christian world for many centuries.

It was resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to General Allenby, Premier Lloyd George and Sir Robert Borden.

(C) Ever since Jesus commanded His followers to "Go into all the world and disciple the nations," the Church has been called to an international outlook. The tragic circumstances of the present war have placed a new emphasis upon the international citizenship to which every intelligent Christian man and woman is called.

No greater step can be taken towards the Christianization of the world than to make supreme, in the high places of international affairs, the ideals of justice, mercy and brotherhood for which Christ died. Therefore we declare ourselves in favor of the forming of the proposed League of Nations, as the first step in organizing the world for enduring peace, based on well established law.

We declare ourselves in favor of the establishment of a Tribunal of International Justice, as the organized conscience of the League and the voice of civilization, whose verdicts shall be enforced by the pledged honor of the nations of the League to enact a decree of non-intercourse upon any nation refusing to obey the behests of the Court.

We suggest that an international police force be organized to act as the servant of the Supreme Court of the World, in keeping in order any of the non-commercial nations, to whom a decree of non-intercourse might have no terrors.

IV.—DEMOBILIZATION.

(A) The General Conference is requested to place on record and communicate to the Dominion Government its high appreciation of the admirable and comprehensive work which the Government has undertaken in the rehabilitation and vocational training of our returned soldiers, and assures the Government that the Methodist Church stands ready to co-operate in every way possible in the carrying on and development of this work.

(B) It is our conviction that as the needs of the returned soldiers for land may require, the Dominion and the Provincial Governments should make it possible to open up to them the millions of acres now lying idle near our cities and towns and railways, and render conditions which would preclude the possibility of the land so occupied reverting into the hands of speculators.

V.—GIVEN POWER TO GIVE EFFECT.

Special Resolution.—That the whole report, including the call to a National Convention, be referred to the Army and Navy Board, with power to give effect.

A. W. BRIGGS,
Chairman.

ERNEST THOMAS,
Secretary.

