

Moderator Compares Roman Empire and Our World Today

A warning to abide by the faith of our ancestors in the face of a world upheaval that may lead to the end of our present civilization, was sounded Sunday evening by the Rt. Rev. Clarence M. Nicholson, D.D., Moderator of the United Church of Canada, in a sermon at First United Church during his official visit to St. Catharines, which coincided with the 120th anniversary of this church.

Drawing his text from I Peter, iv, 7, Dr. Nicholson said that this exhortation was given to the Christians in the seventh decade of the Christian era when every effort was being made to crush the believers in this new faith, and at a time when the Roman Empire was beginning to totter.

This verse, "But the end of all

things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer," was a warning, said Dr. Nicholson, that the end of the existing Roman world was approaching. It was a warning of difficulties ahead, and that the days of Rome were numbered.

Drawing a parallel between conditions in Rome at the time this epistle was written, and in the world today, Dr. Nicholson referred to the analysis of Roman history by Ward Fowler. The destruction of Rome was not because of the incursion by the barbarians, but because of the weakness within the nation.

One of the great parallels is the ceaseless tendency toward wars, he continued. In Rome the strongest blood was shed abroad. The nation could not stand the continual draining away of potential leaders and statesmen. A similar situation, Dr. Nicholson saw in the 1930's when Great Britain appeared to lack strong leaders because those who should have risen to leadership had died on the Somme, at Ypres and elsewhere during the First World War.

During the Second World War our world came near to destruction, and if involved in a third world war it would appear doubtful if our civilization could stand the blood-letting, predicted Dr. Nicholson.

Family Life

A second parallel he found in the decay of social institutions and family life. During the early history of Rome, that nation's great strength had been in its family life and domestic ties. By the beginning of the Christian era strong influences had begun to undermine the home, and divorce became prevalent.

"Today we are cursed with busyness," said Dr. Nicholson. "Clubs, societies and meetings absorb all our time and there is no time for the family to gather together."

Economic forces such as housing shortage are also working against a strong home life.

FREDERICK R. FOLEY

Hulse funeral chapel was scene of an impressive funeral service on Tuesday evening, when the late Frederick R. Foley, passed away early Sunday morning, when a host of sorrow-stricken friends and relatives gathered to pay their final tributes to the beloved and well-known figure of St. Catharines. Rev. J. W. Johnston of Welland Avenue Methodist Church, assisted by Rev. J. W. Johnston and Rev. Thos. Hedley, conducted the service. Rev. Hedley made reference to the faithful service rendered by the late Mr. Foley to his community, but more especially to the church, and mentioned his preference for hymns, several of his favorites being beautifully rendered throughout the service. Interment took place in Bowman's cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, when a large number of friends from the area attended funeral