

Missionaries to Present Views on Plea to Stop "Gunboat" Protection

Winnetka Church Petition Prompts Mission Board to Ap- peal to U. S. Government

At a meeting of the Winnetka Congregational church in the fall, a resolution was passed regarding the use of force for the protection of that church's missionaries in China. This resulted from the Rev. Paul R. Reynolds' deep sense of the incubus upon his efforts in preaching the gospel of the Prince of Peace backed by the gunboats of the government under treaties with clauses very obnoxious to the Chinese people and considered unequal by many enlightened Westerners.

This resolution was for presentation to the Prudential committee of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions at Boston in the hope that they would request the United States government to release from protection by force such of the board's missionaries as so desired and also present this matter to other mission boards in this country with work in China in the hope that they would similarly approach the government. Stanley Simpson was appointed by the church to present this matter in person to the committee in Boston.

Mr. Simpson corresponded with Boston as to when it would suit their convenience to have the matter presented and Tuesday, December 13, was chosen as a date when the church's resolution might be discussed in the morning with the Prudential committee's sub-committee on Foreign Policy and, if given a favorable hearing there, by the whole Prudential committee in the afternoon.

Plea Not at Variance

Meanwhile Mr. Simpson sought for available precedents to enable the committee to see that such a request did not involve a departure from already established government practice. He was successful through others in securing a letter from Professor Chamberlain of Columbia university, an expert on international law and a government advisor in such matters. Professor Chamberlain discussed the matter pro and con, with some "cons" but more "pros," with the general conclusion that the Winnetka church's resolution, if supported by the American board, would ask of the government nothing at variance with its practice as already established.

Mr. Simpson also learned that the Y. M. C. A. had three missionaries in the Nanking disturbance who suffered losses of \$4,000, each, but had not only refused to ask for indemnities to be collected by force but had voted interim amounts of \$2,500,

each, out of its own treasury. The Y. M. C. A. was further reported as having made of the government a request almost identical with that of the Winnetka church with respect to all its missionaries and property through an interim period during which it is progressively turning all its work over to the Chinese.

Committee of Three

Mr. Simpson, learning that William Ayer McKinney was to be in the East at about the time of the proposed meeting, invited him to join him in the presentation of this matter in Boston and Mr. McKinney gladly consented.

These two men, therefore, spent Monday and Tuesday, December 12 and 13, in Boston on this errand, being joined there during these two days by the Rev. Paul Reynolds, who came on from New York City for the purpose. There were therefore three members of Winnetka church in consultation with the Prudential committee and its members on this matter.

Most of Monday was spent in div-



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ided and small group conferences in which personal acquaintance and a free exchange of individual views was achieved. Tuesday morning was spent with the sub-committee on Foreign Policies. At the end of this session a revised draft of the Winnetka church resolution was formulated with unanimous approval for presentation to the Prudential committee. All three Winnetkans were invited to the meet-

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