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THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH.

The Whig travelled from Toronto to Kingston not so long ago with a distinguished representative of the church. The conversation turned on what the church should do, in preparation for the return of thousands of soldiers who had been damaged in the war, who had an experience peculiarly their own. What should be done in order to meet these men and minister to their religious welfare? The man of the church did not know. He was meditating. So were others.

It was with a recollection of this conversation that the Whig opened the book which is composed of a series of articles written to the London Spectator by "a student in arms." (Donald Hankey), an English ordinaid, who early became engrossed in the war. In an occasional hour of rest he put his thoughts on paper. Later, the editor advised that the articles be brought together and printed, and later, about the time this book left the publisher's hands, Hankey lost his life in action. His ideas live, however, and, reflected upon, must produce changes in the lives of others.

Hankey recalled two books which he had read. One was written by a clergyman, and the other by a layman. Both dealt with the question of what the fighting men will desire when they return to their civil occupations, with experiences of danger and hardship and pain and death, and a more serious frame of mind than that with which they set out. Will the church have any message for them? If it has not, and misses its opportunity, centuries will pass ere it returns. The clergyman expected his colleagues to let everything go of a temporal kind and devote themselves to the cultivation of a deeper spirituality. The layman did not hope for any relief from the clergy. They do not know enough of life to meet its deeper needs. The laymen, who had been at the front, who had served and suffered side by side with their fellows, these could best minister to the spiritual wants of men. The author agreed with the non-conformist. The problems of life can never be solved by those whose definitions of sin and temptation, of life and death, are obtained in the college halls. The training of the clergy for the soldier situation cannot be acquired at home, and in solitary retreat.

Hankey, a student himself, and an ordinaid such as he so often describes in his book, tells his friends that the situation is not going to be improved by keeping the younger clergy back from their share in the nation's struggle. Other professions and callings have been depleted of their best representatives, and those who hold back, or are restrained by their superiors, "at the end of the war will be more out of touch with the laity than ever." These of the combatant clergy who return from the war will know all that is worth knowing of the characters of ordinary men. They will be able to link up the doctrines of religion with the lives of men, and express them in language which one cannot fail to understand. With such men as clergy a new era might dawn for the church in this land, and the kingdom of heaven be brought very nigh. "The idea is that the forces of the church should be mobilized, that many churches may be closed and their services suspended, that

the men of the cloth may go or be sent to the front and get the instruction and the training that will qualify them for the activities that await them.

Here is a book that every clergyman should read, every bishop, every head of the church, and every one who is in a position to advise and direct the lives of others. By the way, nearly all ordinaids of the Church of England, everywhere, and of the right age, and capable physically for the service, have enlisted from England, and been given commissions in the army. Many of the younger clergymen have found their way into the ranks of the R.A.M.C., and even of the combatant units. The publisher of the book retained the chapter on church mobilization because it applied to other countries than England, and it occurred to him that the present crisis, for the church, "is an unprecedented opportunity for either making a fresh start or committing suicide."

The faith of Congress in the president, the confidence of the legislators in his judgment, has been shown in their willingness to let him settle whether the United States shall be bone dry during the war. Mr. Wilson will reflect and act.

RECRUITING IS RETARDED.

The discussion in Ottawa, upon the Conscription Bill has degenerated. It has left the lofty platform upon which it began, and continued for a time, while the independent men expressed their views respecting past failures and hopes and expectations with regard to the future. Now there is a steady flow of smaller talk, lighted up with an occasional flash of wit or passion, but little argument that can influence any one in his decision. It appears that the members generally have made up their minds how they will vote upon the question. Time is being consumed by one after another as he puts himself on record or in Hansard.

The referendum will be voted on by some who do not like conscription, except as a last resort, but when it has been disposed of, the division upon conscription will occur, and it promises to be decisive. Then what? Ah! is uncertainty. There is a desire on the part of the premier to undertake a reconstruction of his government. The feeling is that he cannot go to the people with the present aggregation of irreconcilables, the men who have been unequal to the emergencies of the past, and the men who have brought things to their present impossible condition. The liberals who have spoken for conscription, and will vote for it, do not relish membership in the cabinet, with its present encumbrances, and the enforcement of conscription becomes an issue of the gravest importance.

An election, which will follow as soon as it can be arranged for, carries with it an approval of conscription and the government's war policy. They cannot be separated. The government may profit by this fact and it may not. Experience only can reveal results. Sooner or later the test will come, and it does not appear that very much progress can be made in the one thing needful, the recruiting, until it is settled.

The dropping of a few bombs from aerial ships, of German origin, over Ottawa, would do more to help recruiting than all the verbal artillery of government and opposition. The sense of danger has not been aroused in Canada as it should be.

CLARK WANTS NOTICE

Dr. Michael Clark, of Red Deer, congratulated in the lobby of the House of Commons by Hon. Bob Rogers, and presumably because he made personal remarks about the speech on conscription, is not somebody which one can very much admire. Sir Wilfrid Laurier invited each liberal to exercise his judgment and to vote as he liked upon this subject. Several members of the liberal party have spoken and acted accordingly. Each in his turn, however, excepting Dr. Clark, paid tribute to the personal virtues of the grand old man who has served Canada so long and so honorably. Dr. Clark could have followed their example, could have pronounced himself quite as strongly in favor of the war and its necessities, and proven himself a patriot and a public man of independence. He marred, as the Globe's Ottawa correspondent puts it, an otherwise eloquent speech by jarring notes which were out of harmony with the exalted theme he discussed. There are times when a man must rise above party feelings and party prejudices, when great issues grip him and carry him forward without thought of anything else. But he can be great and at the same time magnanimous. Dr. Clark may, later, away from the peculiar influence of Hon. Bob Rogers, and men of his stamp, realize that he owes liberalism some explanation for his mysterious ways.

EDITORIAL NOTES.
The Hamilton Spectator rejoices that Quebec has been partially redeemed by Hon. Albert Sevigny. This is great news.

Capt. (Rev.) Magwood, of Toronto, returned from the front, says Canada does not realize that she is at war. That is not a new discovery. But it is none the less regrettable on that account.

Dr. Michael Clark has not, done his party justice in saying that they are thinking more of elections than of war. The noble and patriotic stand of so many liberals emphatically contradicts that opinion.

My Lord Northcliffe broadly smiles when he reads about the anger in England over his American mission. The heathen, metaphorically speaking, may rage, while he enjoys his power and political patronage.

Do the English in Ontario hate the French of Quebec? Is all the friction between the two races due to that fact? Hon. Jacques Bureau thinks so, and appeals to the generosity of the English to cultivate the French and appreciate their virtues.

The Kaiser must be impressed with England's magnanimity. Parliament has decided that there will not be reprisals on Germany because of its air raids and killing of women and babies. Of that kind of warfare Germany can have a monopoly.

The imperial government is again in a shaky condition. It has not been so viciously attacked since Mr. Asquith retired from office. The causes are the aerial attacks on England without reprisals, and the Northcliffe appointment. Both minor affairs, but very irritating to public opinion.

The masses in Berlin are now fed out of great soup kitchens which the municipality has established. The soup varies. It rarely contains any meat, but peas, mangel-wurzels, beans, and sauer kraut. There is plenty of this soup, but no one wants it unless he is really hungry, and he must be registered a patron to get it at any time.

New potatoes are offered in the markets of New York, in unprecedented quantities, at from 5 to 11 cents a barrel. The railway companies anticipate the tremendous movement of this crop, and are providing special stations therefor. Presently there will be a fall in prices, and the surplus crop of 1916, which some people have been nursing for high prices, will go to the incinerators.

Rippling Rhymes

THE SPEECHMAKER

They call upon me, now and then, to make a speech on this or that; I rise before my fellow-men and shoot some wisdom through my hat. A glow of pleasure most men feel when they hand out profound remarks, for every fellow likes to spiel, as every dog enjoys his barks. And ten men out of every nine, go on and on and like it so, till palsied hearers wilt and pine, and wish they had some eggs to throw. When I begin to note the clock, which has all time at its command; I keep on squinting as I talk, and mark the moving minute hand. I watch the clock with hateful eye, I stand where I can see its face, and when ten minutes have gone by I put my tongue back in its place. My lungs would like, like everything, to labor on, but they must cease; I tie my larynx with a string, and put them all in my valise. So I am often asked to rise and thrash the issues of the day, for people know I am too wise, to keep it up till they are gray. They know I always watch the clock, and when the proper hour has come, I grab my hat and take a walk and seal my lips with chewing gum.

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN
BY GENE BYRNES



PUBLIC OPINION

ObeY That Impulse, Girls.
(New York Sun)
Forty war brides at Vassar show how the patriotic college girls are answering the call to arms.

Political Wedding.
(Windsor Record)
Ottawa is to be the scene of a political wedding between the French Conservatives and the Quebec Nationalists.

Corkers All Round.
(Hamilton Herald)
In the matter of rioting the Sinn Feiners are corkers, and it looks as if there are many corkers who are Sinn Feiners.

A New Claim.
(London Advertiser)
And now Senator Marconi claims Italy saved France. That makes it France, Britain, Canada and Italy that did the deed.

Suitable Poster.
(Toronto News)
A travelling hypnotist, announces on his hand-bill: "If you don't get in early, you'll never get in." That would make a good Recruiting poster in Montreal.

Heart to Heart Talks.
A whole lot of politicians are taking their leaders into the woodshed these days and remarking, "Old man it hurts me more than it does you to do this but—" etc., etc.

No Comedy, Please.
(Brantford Expositor)
"Fair and warmer" is the sign which that great comedian, Old France, hangs out on its weather billboard. It is to be hoped it will be no burlesque performance.

Breaking the Commandments.
(Peterboro Examiner)
Sir Robert Borden has announced Saturday sittings of Parliament. Sunday sittings might provide our politicians with the chance of breaking almost the only one of the commandments they have not already broken one way or another.

STANDING BY
BOYS AT THE FRONT

Windsor Record.

We gave those boys our pledge when they left that we would back them up. The boys in France are calling for reinforcements. Even the voice of those who have fallen comes ringing to our hearts. Their sacrifice must not be in vain. Steady, men. Get your chin set. Pluck up the courage that is within you. Prove to yourself, your friends, your loved ones, and the nation that needs you that you have the same kind of determination and the same sustaining strength as carried the boys of the first contingent, the Princess Pats, and the various other battalions to victory and honor against the mighty hosts of Germany. Cast aside party prejudice. Drop petty strife. Forget the hard things that were said in the heat of debate. Remove the sting of reproach. Overlook, for the time being, the mistakes that were made. Join together and fight shoulder to shoulder for the principles and ideals that live forever.

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A GREAT AND GOOD MAN.
Dr. Salem Bland is Called Canada's Greatest Orator.
Toronto World.
The Word reprints from The Winnipeg Tribune a well-deserved tribute to Rev. Dr. Salem G. Bland upon his retirement from the staff of Wesley College Winnipeg. It is but one flower in a general garland of praise, as many other papers in western Canada speak in the same strain. No man is more loved or revered in the west than Dr. Bland. Although born in eastern Canada, he has dedicated the best years of his life to the sympathetic service of the people who dwell in the prairie west. Thousands of young men and women have been his disciples at Wesley College, and many thousands more have been influenced and uplifted by his precept and example as a minister of the gospel. But a still wider constituency that he may claim as his own stretches from the lakes to the mountains, and includes the right thinking and the well-intended people of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. For years every movement for the common weal that has made headway in the west has been helped and pushed forward by Dr. Bland. At every public meeting his presence is in demand and those who have been privileged to hear him have no hesitation in saying that he is the greatest orator in Canada to-day. No man will perhaps be more surprised to hear how highly his fellow citizens regard him than Dr. Bland himself. This pioneer missionary leads a simple, athletic life. He neither claims nor desires reward or distinction, yet because he has been forgetful of self and entirely devoted to his fellow men he has achieved an influence in the west that is almost commanding and always unique. A good many big men and big corporations fear Dr. Bland though they dare not assail him. He is a radical in the sense of wanting everyone to have fair play. He will not compromise with evil, but on the other hand he will not insist upon the unattainable or sacrifice a real advantage in the quest for an impossible ideal. Dr. Bland is not a politician, but no one is more keenly interested in the problems that confront the nation. He wields a commanding influence among the grain growers of the west, and he is universally beloved in the City of Winnipeg. Hence many believe that he ought to enter public life, and that it is no secret that he can be returning for the asking from almost any riding in the Province of Manitoba. His retirement from Wesley College may not mean that he has at last consented to enter public life, but his many friends and admirers, both east and west, hope to see him returned to the next parliament.

HORN SENTENCED
German Reservist Gets 18 Months For Carrying Dynamite.
Boston, June 25.—Federal Judge Morton sentenced Werner Horn, a German reservist to the Atlanta penitentiary for eighteen months for illegally transporting dynamite on a passenger train from New York to Vanceboro, Maine, to be used in an attempt to destroy the international bridge across the St. Croix river. Love often makes a fool of a sensible man, and sometimes it makes a sensible man of a fool.

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