

THE THIRD TERM AND DICTATORSHIP

By DR. KELLY MILLER

Democracy and Dictatorship are incompatible terms. The issue between these two types of government is now uppermost throughout the civilized world. In the final analysis the distinction between the two types of government will not be found to consist wholly in the exercise of irresponsible and absolute power, but the ultimate test will be seen in the transmission of authority from the existing regime to its successor. Who will succeed Mussolini or Hitler?—that is the question. Under a democracy the law of transition is fixed in the Constitution. The successor of the dictator depends upon his own will and choice. President Theodore Roosevelt designated William H. Taft for his successor, but this designation had to be confirmed by the suffrage of the people according to prescribed Constitutional method.

Hitler is called a Fuehrer, and Mussolini, Il Duce, meaning leader in both instances. The title of dictator is reproated in America for reason of euphony, albeit we acquiesced in emergency power conferred upon or assumed by Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt—emergency powers equal to or surpassing those of European dictatorships. We tolerate the role while detesting the title of dictator. Roosevelt cannot exercise any authority unless specifically conferred upon him by Congress and acquiesced in by the people. The length of time in which a dictator shall exercise extraordinary power depends upon the duration of the emergency which made him necessary.

On March 4, 1933, the American people found themselves confronted, not merely by an emergency of short duration, but face to face with an epoch produced by the slow accumulation of economic and industrial forces. Invention, discovery and improved managerial technique had produced an industrial and economic impasse. The new industrial revolution required a re-shaping of the processes of government to meet the demands of the new age with or without epochal upheaval. We had come to an epoch in which our history marked the sudden transition from the individualistic era of the horse and buggy age to that of social regulation and control. At this critical juncture, in 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt stepped into the arena and requested and was accorded necessary emergency powers. He willingly assumed the duty and responsibility of leadership at such a time as this.

The American people, without regard to parties, accepted his drastic experiment as a way out of the emergency then pressing hard upon them. How long shall Roosevelt remain in office? The answer depends not so much upon his own will and choice, as upon the emergencies of the nation and upon interparty and intra-party political exigencies. The outcome of the duel between man and the machine is not yet settled. It will be necessary to retain Franklin D. Roosevelt in office until the New Deal shall have made an adequate trail of its power. This may be accomplished within another year, before nominating conventions of the two great political parties. In the meantime if the New Deal hopelessly breaks down, a third term for Roosevelt will be impossible; if, on the other hand, it gives increasing indication of final success, his renomination and re-election will be inevitable. While the New Deal remains in its experimental stage, to use Abraham Lincoln's homely figure of speech, it would be folly "to swap horses in the middle of the creek."

The American people have commissioned Franklin D. Roosevelt by overwhelming ma-

majorities in repeated national elections to perfect the New Deal as a fixed and accepted policy of the nation. Until this high commission is consummated he could not let go if he would and would not if he could. No responsible spokesman of any political party has yet proposed any other solvent of our economic and industrial problems comparable with the New Deal. Any wise government will continue in power the leader who has proved himself to be so capable of coping with the existing emergency as long as it continues. We are in the thin timber but not yet out of the forest. By universal agreement Franklin D. Roosevelt is the one American best able to handle the critical domestic and foreign affairs in which our nation is now involved. Political conditions remain in turmoil until the question of a third term is settled. Chairman Farley, of the National Democratic Committee, sagely admonished the nation that no candidate of either party would have the temerity to declare himself as long as President Roosevelt's decision remains undeclared.

The American people want the New Deal, but deprecate a third term. They will uphold the New Deal without the third term if they may, but with it if they must.

CHRISTIAN UNITY GAINS A VISIBLE SYMBOL

(From Federal Council Bulletin)

When Stanley Jones gave his last address at the Preaching Mission in Washington, D. C., in the Fall of 1936, a woman in attendance was inspired by his plea for Christian unity. She already knew what the Washington Federation of Churches was doing to effect an active cooperative unity, and had been especially impressed by its united ministry to the sick and lonely in the hospitals of the city. She concluded that it would greatly strengthen the forces making for Christian unity in the national Capital if the Federation had proper headquarters for its work. She therefore purchased a five-story residence, half a block from busy Connecticut Avenue, remodeled it and presented it to the Federation of Churches.

So today the Washington Federation of Churches has a splendidly equipped building of which all the Christian forces of the city are proud and which is a visible symbol of their movement toward unity. The ground floor contains a reception room, working offices and a room for prayer and meditation. On the second floor is a commodious conference room and a dining-room for interdenominational luncheons and dinners. On the upper floors there are living rooms, which, rented to residents, yield an income for the upkeep of the building.

The Washington Federation of Churches is the first city federation to have its own building as the center of the movement of Christian cooperation and unity. We hope that many another city may soon have a similar asset. Perhaps there are other generous Christian spirits who will follow the example of the Washington benefactor. In the midst of enthusiasm for cooperation on a world scale we need to realize that the crux of the problem is in the local community and that if unity does not exist there it exists nowhere.

Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider.—Francis Bacon.

It is more important to me to preserve an unblemished conscience than to accomplish any object, be it ever so great.—Dr. Channing.

NOTES FROM THE RUSSELL GROVE CHURCH, AMELIA, VA.

By C. A. Wright

Sunday, Sept. 4th, found most of the members of the Russell Grove church in their places at the eleven o'clock service. Although Rev. R. L. Hyde, our pastor, is still in the hospital, preaching services went on. Fortunately, Rev. H. W. McNair, D. D., came to our rescue. He spoke to an appreciative audience. He called our attention to Gen. 28:17; Philippians 4:11, and St. Luke 17:21. His remarks were principally from Luke 17:21, "Neither shall they say, lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

Dr. McNair's discourse was edifying and inspiring, and it is hoped he will soon be with us again. Dr. McNair is President of Ingleside-Fee Memorial Institute, Burkeville, Va., and has frequently dropped in and usually favored us with a message. We hope for him much success in his work.

"Didn't We Have a Time!"

So said the children of the Russell Grove Sunday school Tuesday, August 30, when they had enjoyed the day at a picnic over at Manikin, Va. A bus carried a load and others went in cars. We took the Sunday school through Richmond, and finally reached our destination, Manikin. It is several miles beyond Richmond. We went to a small park owned by a colored man: We were made welcome. Among the amusements was pony riding for the smaller children.

Mr. A. B. Wingo, our Supt., and other adults went along also. They, like the younger set, enjoyed games, etc. The young ladies and a few boys played soft ball, while most of the men and larger boys pitched horse shoes. As there were several players very good at this sport, the game became very interesting, and, finally, the center of attraction.

Miss Susie Shepperson, former principal of Russell Grove High School, met us there, together with her sisters, Miss Chaney Gray and others. All present voted a pleasant time, and are looking forward to the next picnic which, likely, won't be until next year about this time.

We are pleased to note many of our church and Sunday school members will be with us again in a few days.

We are also glad to note Rev. Hyde will be home this week from the Retreat Hospital at Richmond, Va. We are sorry he will leave one of our church members there, Mrs. Cleverine S. Booker. We hope that she, too, may soon recover and be with us again.

A CALL TO YOUTH

At the Young People's Conference held in St. Paul, Minn., last February, the opening service of worship used as a meditation the following poem by Thomas Curtis Clark, expressing the call of Christian service to young people of today.

You whose hearts possess a dream,
You whose vision still is true,
Will you follow still the gleam?
Will you build the world anew?

Futile is the reign of hate,
Fated is the rule of gold;
On your deeds great issues wait,
Let your hearts with love be bold.

Vain are all the tools of war,
Vain the boastings of success;
These the dreams you battle for;
Faith and truth and righteousness.

Let who will despise your youth,
Let them trail your words in dust;
You shall conquer, with the truth;
In your visions be your trust.

You whose hearts possess a dream,
God is God; his word is true;
Follow still the luring gleam
Till the world is built anew.

The Bible plainly discloses the reality of Satan and the extent of his sway in human life.—Sel.

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE YADKIN WESTERN DISTRICT

By Mrs. Sadie Perkins Murdock,
Corresponding Secretary

The 31st annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the Yadkin Western District Presbyterian was held at Church Street Presbyterian church of Salisbury, N. C., Rev. J. P. Johnson, pastor, July 28th.

The meeting opened with the President, Mrs. W. A. Hawkins, presiding. The theme for the immediate thought of the meeting was, "Church Women Ready for Creative Work," which was beautifully touched on in every phase of the discussions.

After the President had given warm words of welcome to all, the devotionals were conducted by Mrs. Lina Lucky and Mrs. Beulah Knight. A district choir was selected and furnished music throughout the entire sessions.

A very interesting report from the Presbyterial Conference was given by Mrs. Clara Pearson.

After listening to the discussion on "Church Women Ready for Creative Work," which was led by Mrs. B. F. Murray and Mrs. S. J. Taylor, we were beautifully entertained by two papers coming from Mrs. Mary E. Phifer, of the Freedom church and Mrs. Maggie Cowan, of Alien Temple. Both ladies gave many helpful suggestions on what women may do to bring about better results in their own society by creating a better co-operative spirit. There were quite a number of visitors from the various other churches and they were introduced by the President.

The President thoroughly explained the amount of dues expected of each society and the requirement of the Young People and Light Bearers.

The Memorial Service was very impressive. It was conducted by Mrs. Grace Scott and the Logan delegate. Quite a number of names were given of those who had quit the walks of life and heeded the call of One who "Doeth all things well."

After being filled from the loaded table in the basement of the church, all were very anxious to return to the sessions again to listen to the "High Lights of Twenty Years Ago," given by Mrs. Odessa Carr, of the Mooresville church. Twenty years ago she was the Secretary, and she read from her minutes many interesting things that were carried on then. After listening to the inspiring remarks we can say that the society has made progress by leaps and bounds. We also can say that there are a few things that were done then that we are still doing only on a higher scale.

Many of the leaders of those days were mentioned, as the late Mrs. B. F. Murray and others. Mrs. B. F. Murray was beautifully spoken of while we ate by Mrs. Lula Kelsey, of Salisbury, who gave us some of the high lights of her life. Mrs. Beatrice Powe sang a solo and then the delegates of the various churches gave their reports, which were very interesting indeed, and showed that the local societies are making progress.

Mrs. Bessie Waddell and Miss Cora Lee Morton were in charge of the Young People's program which was very good. Many of the young people took a part, and an address was given by Mrs. Ruth Neeley Freeman.

Because of illness our Presbyterial President, Mrs. Meares, could not be with us. She sent a letter of regret which was read by Mrs. Bessie Waddell.

The Committee on Place of Meeting was ready to make its report, having been invited to Tradd Street church, of Statesville, on the last Thursday in July, 1938.

The vespers service was held on the beautiful lawn of the Soldiers' Memorial A. M. E.

Zion church, just opposite the Church Street church. The service was led by Mrs. H. N. Sullivan and Mrs. Mary Woods. From the Scripture lesson we gathered the thought of creating in us a new heart, that we may be able to do more creative work.

Promptly at 8 P. M. the choir of the church sang and prayer was offered by Mrs. J. M. Morton and the Scripture lesson was read by Mrs. Sadie Perkins Murdock. Words of welcome were given by Mrs. J. P. Johnson, of Church Street. The response was made by Miss Allie Coble, after which we listened to a very inspiring sermon by Rev. Leslie Smith, of Statesville.

The amount of collection raised during the entire sessions was \$20.41, which was announced by the acting treasurer, Mrs. Odessa Carr. After which we adjourned by singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

AUGUST VESPER SERVICES AT CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WILSON

The fourth series of August vesper services at Calvary Presbyterian church, Wilson, sponsored by the young people, came to a close on Sunday, August 28. These services were up to the standard—full of interest, thought and inspiration, and well attended.

The services were conducted each Sunday in August, on the lawn of the church, from 6 P. M. to 7 P. M. They consisted of the following:

Prelude.
Call to Worship.
Hymn.
Scripture Reading.
Prayer and Response.
Poem or Reading.
Vocal solo.
The message.
A Spiritual.
Offering and offertory.
Announcements.
Closing Hymn.
Benediction.

On August 7th the Reverend J. W. Smith, pastor of Davie Street Presbyterian church, Raleigh, gave the vesper message. His subject was: "The Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin." Rev. Smith pointed out many helpful lessons from this subject. His message was interesting, and enjoyed by all.

The second vesper message was delivered by the Reverend Wendell C. Somerville, General Baptist Secretary, Raleigh. Rev. Somerville spoke from the subject: "The Unavoidable God." The speaker emphasized the fact that one cannot escape God, and that he is to be found everywhere, and in all movements for progress, uplift and service. Rev. Somerville is always good.

On Sunday, August 21st, the third vesper service of the season was conducted by Rev. H. T. McFadden, pastor of St. Paul Presbyterian church, Louisburg. His subject was, "Some Advantages in Seeking God." Rev. McFadden was greeted by an appreciative audience, and his interesting and thoughtful message was seemingly enjoyed by all. This minister does not term himself a successful open-air speaker, but we enjoyed hearing him.

The last vesper service of the season was held on August 28th. Rev. O. E. Sanders, our pastor, was the speaker. His subject was, "Watch Your Life." Rev. Sanders used the word "Watch," and made each letter stand for a separate division of the message as follows: "Watch your words; Watch your actions; Watch your thoughts; Watch your character; and watch your heart."

Music for this service was furnished by the "Handel Chorus" and the choir of the First Baptist church, Mr. Hartford E. Bess, Director. Selections rendered by these singers were: Hymn, "Come Thou, Almighty King;" Spiritual, "I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray;"

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THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE OF KIAMICHI PRESBYTERY

By Irene Griffin

The Conference of Kiamichi Presbytery which convenes yearly was held at Pleasant Valley Presbyterian church at Broken Bow, Okla., July 27-29.

All had been looking forward to this meeting and were therefore ready for whatever might confront them. Every individual gave his whole hearted cooperation, which made the meeting a very successful one.

The first phase of our program began Wednesday night, July 27, at 8 o'clock. The local church was in charge. The President, Mr. C. M. Burris, gave a splendid address.

After having rested peacefully during the night, we were awakened at 7:30 o'clock for breakfast which was served in family style. After breakfast we had one hour for preparation and study, after which an interesting "Bible Study" was given by the Rev. H. C. Cousins, of Lima, Okla.

At 9:45 our class work began. The teachers were as follows: Rev. A. S. Meachem, "Methods of Young People's Work;" Mrs. M. L. Morrow, "Teaching Children in the Sunday School;" Irene Griffin, "How to Conduct a Daily Vacation Bible School;" Rev. C. N. Shropshire, "Our Presbyterian Church."

We relaxed from classes for 15 minutes, after which there were nine one-minute reports made from each class. The purpose of these reports was to give each individual a general knowledge of each subject that was taught.

The devotions were conducted by the Rev. S. W. Mallard. After devotions we looked forward to our well prepared meals. After our physical body had been satisfied with the many good things to eat, resting was then in order. After the rest period we had various group meetings.

The recreation period began at 3:30 o'clock. The conference was divided into two groups, the Reds and the Blues. Each team tried to beat the other. The following games were played: relay race, pass-ball, stealing the flag, hoop race and baseball. Mr. Elijah Wheeler was the captain of the Reds and Paul Morrow captain of the Blues.

The vesper period was in charge of the Rev. J. W. Mallard.

Thursday night a wonderful sermon was delivered by the Rev. C. N. Shropshire. It was inspirational and was enjoyed by all.

Friday night was Young People's Night. This part of the program was in charge of Mrs. M. L. Morrow, Misses Gertrude Cubit and Irene Griffin. Little Misses Betty Shropshire and Vernice Scafe rendered two musical numbers. The choir, directed by Mrs. W. J. Meachem, also rendered several numbers. The main speaker for the night was the Rev. R. R. Craig, pastor of the white Presbyterian church of Idabel, Okla.

Saturday morning was the time for the election of officers. They are as follows:

President, Elijah Wheeler; Vice-President, Paul Morrow; Secretary, Irene Griffin; Assistant Secretary, Annie Herndon; Treasurer, Mrs. M. L. Morrow.

The Conference gave a fee of \$1.00 each to Paul Morrow, Gertrude Cubit and Irene Griffin as delegates to the Canadian Young People's Synodical Conference.

Every one will be looking forward to another Conference of this kind, which will be at Elliott Community Center.

There are but two thoroughfares in this world; the way of life and death. Every traveler is walking in one or the other.

A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life.—John Milton.