

WINNING A WAR; PLOWS VS. GUNS

Farmers Have Great Opportunity, Says Dr. Hillis.

FAMINE THREATENS WORLD

By Rev. Dr. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS, Pastor of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.



REV. DR. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS.

"Winning a War With Food" was the subject of the fifth of a series of sermons preached by Dr. Hillis, pastor of Plymouth church, in Brooklyn. He chose his text from Gen. xlvii, "And there was famine upon the land." He referred to the address by Assistant Secretary Carl Vrooman of the department of agriculture at Washington and said:

After centuries of struggle, at last the human race is within sight of the coming parliament of mankind and a federation of the world. For the first time in history the representatives of the free nations have assembled in Washington to safeguard democracy and to plan how best to expel autocracy and militarism from the earth.

In 1776 there were 3,000,000 of people who believed in self government, and they controlled a little fringe of land on the edge of the Atlantic. In 1917, including England and her colonies, there are a thousand millions of self governing peoples, and they control nine-tenths of the land of the globe.

Autocracy Doomed.

There are some things that cannot be stopped—the advance of summer, riding in the chariots of the south wind, the progress of independence, liberty and self government, now journeying like a beautiful civilization over the earth.

Autocracy is doomed.

The doctrine of the divine right of kings is like an iceberg caught in the gulf stream, gnawed by the warm waters beneath and consumed by the sun from above.

There is no longer any room in the world for a czar, a kaiser or a sultan. There never lived a man who was wise enough to be master and call another man his slave. There never lived a czar, a kaiser or a sultan born with a native right to rule over his brother man in the spirit of the despot. Nothing testifies to the upward progress of mankind like this conference and congress of the representatives of England and France, Italy and Russia, China and Japan, with the other free peoples, now assembled in Washington. The signing of the compact in the cabin of the Mayflower was the seed corn of the constitution. Not otherwise this conference in Washington is the germ of a coming world parliament of mankind and the future federation of the world.

A Famine Threatened World.

Mr. Balfour, former prime minister of England, and ex-Premier Viviani have advised our people that the overwhelming need of France and England is food and that this war will be nobly won by a farmer producing bread, by a people conserving bread, or else meanly lost by inefficient producers and wasting consumers. As in Pharaoh's time, when famine was upon Egypt and Joseph as prime minister organized a movement to conserve the wheat, so in 1917 the world is threatened with hunger and famine.

Our world moves in cycles. Wet years, with abundant harvests, are followed by dry years and food shortage. These cycles represent a swing of the pendulum from seven to ten years. From every quarter of the globe comes the voice of fear. Drought is upon Australia and New Zealand. Scant crops are in the Argentine Republic and Uruguay. The herds and flocks are threatened in South Africa because of short pasturage. India and China fear famine. Strangely enough, at the very time when Germany and France, by reason of war, need abundant harvests there comes the certain indications of crops far below the average.

The Rebuke of Starvation.

It is as if the god of peace were rebuking the ambitious lords of battle. What Providence cannot prevent by justice and conscience he may end by sending starvation up and down the land.

Hunger may humble the proud; weakness may pull down the fortress that brute force would build up. In our own country from 40 to 50 per cent of the winter wheat has been plowed up. Last winter the heavens withheld the rain and the snow blanket to protect the young grain. Already wheat has risen to \$3 a bushel. Our people are looking forward with fear to the future. The farmer has done all that he can through plowing and sowing. Henceforth the issue is with God, who alone can fill the granaries with the finest of the wheat or starve the proud into submission. As never before farmers and husbandmen realize that they are workers together with God for human progress.

During other great crises in history, the army under Wellington or Grant,

the navy under Nelson or Farragut, the statesman, Gladstone or Lincoln, have had the center of the stage. Today the high lights are falling upon the farmer.

With eager anxiety men in great cities waken in the morning to read the crop reports.

The announcement of good weather and rich rains in the middle west brings more excitement than the story of attacks and defeats at the battle front. Men have come to realize their dependence upon the farmer. As never before the world realizes that finance in the city is rooted in the soil, as are trade and commerce. Law and liberty, with art and science, have marched with the plow around the globe in temperate zones rich with wheat and corn and cotton. Once the farmer's task was undramatic. No longer need he feel that the field is an obscure place. If once the plowing, the sowing and the reaping seemed monotonous, now these tasks are as fascinating as the moves of two swordsmen fighting unto death. All military experts tell us that Germany cannot defeat the free nations, but what the cannon cannot accomplish it may be given unto hunger to achieve. It is absolutely certain that England and France cannot go through another winter without 200,000,000 bushels of wheat, rye, corn, barley, potatoes, not to mention their needs of cotton and wool and weapons. But this treasure means a thousand wooden ships completed before October to transport this food to the weary soldiers.

To Feed the People.

Who shall set forth a right crisis that is upon the farmer into whose hands the issues of liberty have been committed?

It is for the soldier to keep the people in liberty; it is for the teacher and physician to heal the people and inform the multitudes; it is the duty of the prophet to hearten the men and comfort the women; it is the duty of the merchant and manufacturer to feed and clothe the people, but above all else it is the duty of the husbandman and the farmer to feed the people. Jesus Christ made much of two little words, bread and water.

The genius of the love of God is symbolized by the wheaten loaf, and the mercy of God's forgiveness is in the cup of cold water. To every farmer comes the injunction that he is a worker, together with God, to feed earth's hungry children, and whatsoever his hand findeth to do let him do it with his might.

The Earth and Farm God's School of Manhood.

During these days when the lure of the land is upon men once more we must remember that the eple of man's progress began with the earth garden. God set his children here to dress the vineyards and orchards, to keep the pastures and meadows and safeguard the herds and the flocks.

But instead we have split the very boughs of the tree of life into spear shafts and fed the purple blossoms unto war horses. Ruskin once said that through his folly and his sin man has been driven out of the Eden garden into the stones of city streets, while at the gate through which the tired citizen would fain pass a sword of flame has been set.

The earth is God's schoolhouse, where work and thought, seed time and harvest, summer and winter are life teachers.

The earth is man's gymnasium for the building of his body, through plowing and sowing, reaping and gathering into barns.

The earth is man's armory, filled with weapons of wood and iron against tomorrow's battles.

The earth is a toolhouse stored with iron and copper, with tin, lead and zinc, that man may have locomotives to carry his goods, cars that transport his crops, ships that bring him near to distant lands.

God Giveth the Increase.

The earth is man's granary, in which is stored all the treasures accumulated by God for the busy workers. Well has the earth been likened unto a cathedral for noble worshippers, a library whose pages of rock and sky have been written over with letters of living light, a gallery filled with a beauty and light divine. And the most modest gifts of the earth, the grass, that begins as a carpet upon which the little children play, or a soft blanket for the tired worker's grave, is the symbol of an earth fitted up by God for his children as no prince ever fitted up a palace for his little ones. God maketh grass to grow upon the mountains; he filleth the granary with the finest of wheat. He that soweth with tears shall come again, bringing his sheaves with him. One soweth, another reapeth, but God giveth the increase. His goodness descends like rain upon the thirsty fields, and his mercy refreshes like the dew.

The Bible makes civilization begin with a garden, and John portrays heaven as a city, but even John with his eager longing to see Jerusalem, the joy of the whole earth, made us understand that the most alluring part of the City Beautiful is the river flowing through the midst of the city, with banks shaded by the tree of life, a tree whose leaves heal all wounds, whose glowing balm, spices and incense carry healing charm, whose fruits are not separated by long winters, but ripen every month for the hunger of the nations.

The Farmer's Work is Soldierly Work.

First.—The task of the farmer through feeding the state is a soldierly task and carries the note of chivalry. That brave soldier boy wounded in his first engagement in the old crusades, who knew that his work would soon be ended, determined to plant vines with

the plum and apple and pear, thinking that when several years had passed by the luscious fruit would be ripe and ready for weary soldiers returning after years from the crusade. Slowly and painfully the boy planted his vines and fruit trees, and slowly the tide of life ebbed away. Then when the days came, as he was waiting for the unseen Messenger, the boy looked out across hills he had planted and comforted himself by the outlook of days when the cherry boughs would hang with crimson food to the very ground, when pear and plum would yield their luscious fruit to hungry pilgrims. Off the dying soldier boy dreamed his dreams of coming days and deep fruited orchards, when old men would sit under the trees that he had planted, young lovers keep their tryst and little children enjoy the fruit. Oh, it is a brave tale! It contains the chivalry of a noble soldier.

It tells us that all good work is immortal.

Memorize forever those who feed and defend God's children.

It connects every man in the vineyard, every farmer in the furrow, with this great battle for democracy and liberty.

Patriotic Work.

Second.—Now that the battle lines are in array it is for us to remember that there are two regiments. The first regiment is at the front with guns and cannon, and the larger regiment is on the farm supporting the soldiers. Every soldier boy at the front needs six men at home raising wheat, grinding flour and providing clothing, shoes and munitions. To support the boy who carries the colors for one year means four tons of food and equipment. Alexander's soldiers once lived off the country, as did Julius Caesar's. But not now.

The Spanish smith who tempered the sword, who made beautiful the hit and sharpened the blade, fought just as truly as the knight who unsheathed his sword in the name of justice and liberty. Only one youth out of seven will be called upon to fight at the front. The other six, who fulfill their task in sowing the seed and reaping the grain and feeding the army, fulfill duties just as patriotic and noble and sublime and godlike. It is the duty and privilege of the worker at home to identify himself with the regiments whom he is supporting at the front.

The Husbandman's Battle.

Walter Scott used to comfort himself in discouraged hours by thinking of those who read his books, in their delight in reading forget the tire and grind—the miners in their dark chambers, the woodsmen in the forest, the spinners in the factories, the pilgrims on the sea and desert. During these critical days the husbandman who shrinks from no task will have a right when the victory is won to say that that was my battle, that was my charge, that was my victory, for I furnished the support that made possible the achievement.

Better days are coming. At the great price of blood and treasure soon victory will be won. When the frontier lines are safe, when all treaties are made sacred, when the rights of little lands like Belgium are recovered, when brute force has been overthrown, when the German people have been freed from autocracy, then every husbandman in the fields will have the right and joy of reflecting that he helped destroy these enemies of liberty and that he safeguarded democracy because he did his "bit" and worked like a knight of the new chivalry, seeking by war to destroy all war and then enthroned peace, justice and liberty forevermore.

ELOQUENT PREACHER AND ZEALOUS PATRIOT

Rev. Dr. Hillis, Author of a Notable Series of Sermons About the War.

The remarkable series of patriotic sermons preached by the Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, one of which is printed herewith, is attracting attention all over the United States.

Dr. Hillis is not only a very eloquent preacher, but he is intensely patriotic and is throwing himself with zeal and enthusiasm into the work of arousing America to the perils that confront her and of making plain to the people the titanic task that confronts them today and that will confront them in the near future.

A great many prominent men, including Theodore Roosevelt and General Horatio King, who have read the sermons already delivered, want to see them read in every town and city in the country.

Sir Thomas More's Head.

When the wise and witty Sir Thomas More was beheaded his head was stuck on a pole on London bridge, where it was exposed for fourteen days, much to the grief of his daughter, Margaret Roper, who resolved to secure it. "One day," says Aubrey, "as she was passing under the bridge, looking at her father's head, she exclaimed: 'That head has lain many a time in my lap. Would to God it would fall into my lap as I pass under! She had her wish, and it did fall into her lap.'"

Probably she had bribed one of the keepers of the bridge to throw it over just as the boat approached, and the exclamation was intended to avert the suspicion of the boatmen. At all events, she got possession of it and preserved it with great care in a leaden casket until her death, and it is now inclosed in a niche in the wall of her tomb in St. Dunstan's church, Canterbury.

DESTRUCTIVE ANIMALS.

Cause Millions of Dollars Annual Loss to Farmers and Stockmen. Control Measures.

Millions of dollars' worth of produce in the field and in storage are destroyed each year by rats, mice, pocket gophers, prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and predatory animals. As an instance of the harm that has been done in this way, it may be said that if prairie dogs were stamped out in the area which they now infest, at least a million more sheep and a million more cattle could be fed on the land.

Rat-proof construction of buildings and the judicious use of poisons and traps are the most effective means of getting rid of destructive animals. The character of the poison employed, however, and the methods of distribution vary considerably, depending upon the pest to be destroyed. Detailed information in regard to rat-proof construction and the control through other means of the various pests can be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington.

In general, it may be said that prairie dogs, ground squirrels, and jack rabbits can be destroyed successfully by the intelligent and systematic use of strychnine properly prepared and applied to oats, barley, milo maize, alfalfa hay, and other baits. Just which bait should be used depends upon the kind of animal being dealt with and on the location and season. The damage done by prairie dogs has been already mentioned. The ground squirrel, it is said, destroys annually \$3,000,000 worth of grain in North Dakota alone. This must be only a small part of the total loss, because one or more forms of ground squirrel are found very generally throughout the territory west of the Mississippi River, and many of them concentrate and increase in farming areas. In the dry-farming districts and elsewhere through the Great Basin region jack rabbits, in some cases, have destroyed the entire crops and compelled the inhabitants to move out.

As for the pocket gopher, there is a case on record in which one animal has destroyed more than \$100 worth of trees in a single orchard. Fruit trees and nursery stock, as well as farm produce, are eaten by this pest. Field mice, too, feed upon the bark of young fruit and shade trees, as well as on forage plants. In a Nevada valley they have been known to destroy all of the alfalfa. This meant not only the loss of that particular crop, but an expenditure of many thousands of dollars in replanting. Strychnine placed on sweet potatoes and other baits will, to a large extent, control the ravages of both pocket gophers and field mice.

Among the larger animals which do great harm are wolves, coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions. The loss from these to stock owners is estimated at from \$15,000,000 to \$18,000,000 a year. The skillful use of steel traps will reduce materially the number of these animals, and, under the direction of trained men, strychnine poisoning is sometimes resorted to.

In the use of any form of poison bait, to make it effective it should be properly prepared and properly distributed, and, on the other hand, it is necessary that precautions be taken to prevent the bait from becoming a menace to either live stock or man. For this reason it is recommended that all who contemplate measures of control against noxious animals communicate with the Bureau of Biological Survey, to obtain detailed instructions appropriate to local conditions.—Government News Letter.

Proposed Tax on Cotton Is Killed.

Washington, May 21.—Two sharp contests during consideration of the war revenue bill in the House today resulted in Southern members killing a proposed tax of \$2.50 a bale on raw cotton and representatives of automobile manufacturing districts limiting the five per cent levy on automobiles, motorcycles and their tires to plants paying annual profits of about \$5,000 and eight per cent on capital invested.

House leaders said tonight they were determined to bring the bill to a final vote some time tomorrow night.

New York State is said to contain 30,000 mentally defective persons, 23,000 of them running at large.

MAYR'S WONDERFUL REMEDY for STOMACH trouble ONE DOSE WILL CONVINCE

Gall Stones, Cancer and Ulcers of the Stomach and Intestines, Auto-Intoxication, Yellow Jaundice, Appendicitis and other fatal ailments result from Stomach Trouble. Thousands of Stomach Sufferers owe their complete recovery to Mayr's Wonderful Remedy. Unlike any other for Stomach Ailments. For sale by HOOD BROS., Smithfield, N. C., and druggists everywhere.—Adv.

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To take its niche in the body politic of the South alongside of other great industries, with no more, but with equal liberties, equal rights and equal opportunities.

"The Southern Serves the South."

Books for Children

The average child likes a Book, and the parent who provides his child with a good Book, is doing a good deed. We have in the list below a few Books suitable for Children from four to ten years of age. We have one copy each of the following:

- Pilgrims Progress, in words of one syllable.....25c
- The Tale of Brownie Beaver.....40c
- The Adventures of Reddy Fox.....50c
- The Adventures of Johnny Chuck.....50c
- Mr. Possum's Great Balloon Trip.....50c
- Mr. Rabbit's Big Dinner.....50c
- Making Up With Mr. Dog.....50c

For Older Children

- Waste Not, Want Not Stories.....50c
- Bird World, by Stickney and Hoffman.....50c

Books for Boys

- The Woodcraft Manual, by E. S. Thompson.....50c
- Lives of the Presidents, by E. S. Ellis.....50c
- Civil War Stories—From St. Nicholas.....50c
- Life of Thomas A. Edison.....50c
- George Washington, by W. O. Stoddard.....50c

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Fares from other points in same proportion.

Tickets will be on sale June 2nd, to 7th, inclusive with final return limit to reach original starting point by midnight of June 21st, 1917, or if you wish to remain longer, by depositing ticket with special agent at Washington and paying a fee of fifty cents final limit will be extended to reach original starting point by midnight of July 6th, 1917.

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