

TESTAMENT OF ZION

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

VOLUME FORTY-EIGHT

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1924

NUMBER THIRTY

THE CHURCH AND THE VOTER

If there were any doubt in a minister's mind concerning the propriety of his supporting the Homiletic campaign, the signatures below (the latest to arrive at this office) should clear away the doubt. When men of such conceded leadership as Doctors Jefferson, Barton (William E.), Reiser, MacCallum, Remensnyder, and the two Burrell's (to name only these few) recognize the importance of the campaign, warmly endorse the Review's plan, and go on record as supporting the effort, there need be no faint hearts among our clientele, who should be willing to register practically en masse. The management and editors, from the very beginning, were both convinced of the need of the campaign and confident that the clergy would see and respond. Our confidence was not misplaced—the response from governors of States and even from the Cabinet, from leading educators and the eminent among the clergy, has surpassed our sanguine expectations. We can but reaffirm: the object is worthy, the method workable, the results must be beneficent.

Some of the ministers who have signed and returned the registration blank feel the matter so important that they supplement signature by comment and commendation. Many of them are not now for the first time aroused to their opportunity in this service to the nation—they have long been urging upon their congregations the obligation not merely of voting but also of attending the primaries, thus aiding in the selection of candidates worthy of civil office.

Among those who write along with their names are: Arthur Van Dyke of the Park Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City, who says:

I am heartily in agreement with your "Get out the Christian Vote" campaign as a non-partisan effort, not intended to influence the voter's individual preference for candidates and not intended to bring the Church as an organization 'into politics.' It has long been my custom to appear to the members of my church from the pulpit concerning their responsibilities as citizens, both at the period of party primaries as well as before election day. I think nothing is more important than to get out the vote that is based on the support of Christian conviction. This business of being afraid of getting the Church "into politics" seems to me a frank confession of a divided state of mind in our dealing with life. The one thing I quarrel with is any endeavor to form blocs of any sort, whether they be economic, religious or professional. I trust that your campaign will have a real success, and I congratulate you on your undertaking an important service for the well-being of our country.

Doctor William Horace Day (Congregational) United Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut, has this to say:

It seems to me The Homiletic Review has again put itself behind a vital reform. Please allow me to wish this movement the greatest possible success. If the churches of the country will "go to work to Get Out the Christian Vote" and do so without partisan bias, the disgraceful fifty per cent of non-voting citizens would be materially reduced.

From Cleveland, Ohio, Doctor Paul E. Estep (Church of the Covenant, Presbyterian) writes cordially as follows:

I am heartily in sympathy with the effort of The Homiletic Review to get out the full church vote irrespective of party, and shall be glad to use my influence to induce my congregation to meet their responsibility at the polls.

Doctor David James Burrell (Marble Collegiate Church, New York City, writes:

expression to his loyalty the country would be safe.

Doctor A. Edwin Keigwin (West End Presbyterian Church New York City, writes us that he devoted the entire sermon on June 9, "to an effort to get my people back from their summer homes in time to register." We regard that as real service, and we do not doubt that the doctor will continue his efforts when he and his people meet again in September.

Dr. W. S. Abernathy (Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D. C.) has this to say:

Even tho we can't vote in Washington, I am for this proposition from the standpoint of principle.

Perhaps it is a sign of better things to come when the speakers at the party conventions call attention to the apathy of voters and its dire effects on public business, and do this as a national duty and not as partisans. One example of this kind of utterance was in the speech of the Hon. Theodore Elijah Burton, who at Cleveland said this:

In nothing is the effect of existing conditions more manifest than in disregard of the political obligations of the citizen. The proportion of electors who take an active interest, especially in preliminary contest, was never so small. When such indifference exists unwholesome forces poison our public life. A well-organized minority is often more powerful than that inert mass of citizens whose patriotism is only aroused in times of grave emergency.

To these causes are traceable the formation of blocs and the vehement assertion of individual or sectional interests.

It will be noted that some of our correspondents quoted in the July number made the same points.

It is interesting to find men in positions of high authority other than those of the university and the pulpit, speaking wholeheartedly and with emphasis on the importance and opportunity of this service. Such an utterance as that of Harlan Flake Stone, Attorney General of the United States, who affirms:

I quite agree with you that it is of the greatest importance that there should be brought home to the voters in this country the responsibility which rests upon them and the necessity for the intelligent exercise of the franchise if our most cherished institutions are to be preserved. This is especially true in the case of those who are members of or associated with Christian Churches. Performance of duty is one of the first essentials of a Christian life and those who fail in the first, and most important duty of citizenship fail in their duty as Christians.

No less outspoken is Governor Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania. Here is his pronouncement:

I am in the very heartiest sympathy with your plan to induce the churches to get their members to vote. If I choose one and only one change in the handling of our public affairs it would be just that—to get all the people to vote. There is no other reform known to me that would compare with it in results.

My experience in Pennsylvania leaves me under no possible doubt in this matter. There has not been an election in this State for many years in which there were not enough people who would have voted right if they voted at all, but who did not vote to make the victory of righteousness overwhelming, or to prevent the victory of the gang.

There is no corrupt political machine known to me that is not a minority, and there is no city or town where it is in control where it could not be driven out of power in a single election if the people who would vote right, if they voted at all, would do their duty as citizens.

I believe the Christian Church could do few things that would promote righteousness in the community as to induce the members to

NOTES ON THE WORLD'S NEWS

Rebellion in Brazil

Brazil has a rebellion on her hands, insurrection having broken out in the State of Sao Paulo. The latest dispatches indicate that the Federal government has the matter well in hand, and that it is only a question of a short time when the motley will be suppressed. The rebel headquarters, in the Luz Barracks of Sao Paulo were attacked by the Federal troops. The outbreak seems to be restricted to the city of Sao Paulo, and the entire population of the country is supporting the government in every possible way," says an official report. On the other hand, there seem to be indications that the revolt is wide-spread and that the States may become involved, and that there is a good deal of restlessness even in Rio. It is stated that Parana and a considerable portion of Rio Grande have joined the revolutionary movement." It is evident that a rigid censorship is in operation, for news dispatches are fragmentary and far from reliable. It was reported that the rebel forces had advanced to within a few miles of Santos, but the Rio de Janeiro government denies this and contends by this indefinite statement that the Federal troops had won an important action against the rebels, capturing many prisoners. Heavy reinforcement reinforcements have reached Santos, and the Federal forces are getting ready "for the execution of a very large operation which is expected"—which would seem to indicate that the government regards the situation as grave.

A conference of the highest importance to the peace of the world, and especially to the welfare of Europe, opened in London on July 16. Ten nations were represented: Great Britain, France, Belgium, Japan, Rumania, Italy, Portugal, Greece and Jugoslavia, while the United States is sitting in as an unofficial observer—and more. The fact that the American ambassador to Great Britain is seated at the left of the presiding officer—Premier MacDonald—indicates the relation of this country to the conference, even if we are not technically there as a fully accredited participant. Premier MacDonald welcomed the representatives of the nations that fought by our side while the war was raging and that now share with us the responsibility of bringing peace and security to Europe." and he addressed the following remarks to the American representatives: "I wish to extend a special welcome to the American representatives. I know they are not here as full delegates. The position in America prevents that. But they are here as evidences of co-operation and good will. America was a great partner of ours in the days when we were at war; her mind illuminated the report which brought us here together. We shall ask her, not as a government, but as a people with many resources and with good hearts, to take a share in the financial schemes which will have to be put in operation if there is to be a speedy reconstruction of Europe. Moreover, as a spectator, withdrawn a little from the feelings and emotions which stir in us Europeans, she may be able at critical points to help us with views and with a calmer judgment than those of us who are in the midst of wrecks and dangers may be able sometimes to command."

Work of the London Conference

One piece of work lies before the London conference of the inter-allied nations—the consideration of the report made by the Dawes commission of experts and the discovery of ways and means for its execution. The main item in the report has to

there will be no relinquishment of that territory to Germany until the reparations matter has been adjusted in a manner satisfactory to the nations now in occupancy. The Dawes commission made a number of recommendations, and its report has been accepted by the present Berlin government. It has also been accepted with reservations, by France and Belgium, and Great Britain has acquiesced. The conference in London will try to find a way to make the recommendations effective. It is a difficult problem that confronts the body. Premier MacDonald declared to the conference that some of the proposals of the report may be debatable, "but we have been warned by the experts that it must be taken as a whole. We must not try to alter its details or we shall be back in the disagreement where we have been so often before." The two main things that the report aims at are the restoration of the economic and fiscal unity of Germany, and the giving of adequate securities to the creditors who are to be asked to advance very large loans to Germany. Premier Herriot of France admitted the difficulties lying in the way, hoped they would all be overcome, but took occasion to remind the conference that "France desires to maintain her right of independent action as well as her power to cast the deciding vote in the Reparations Commission."

France Upheld

Premier Herriot's insistence regarding the full recognition of the rights of France in connection with the reparations awards seems to carry weight in the London Conference. The committee that has been trying to formulate the procedure concerning reparations in the event of Germany's default has agreed to the French view. It decided unanimously 1, to assure investors in the proposed loan to Germany priority on all German resources, and 2, to preserve all the rights enjoyed by other nations which signed the Treaty of Versailles. Under the second decision the right of France to take separate action, if it should be deemed necessary, is conceded and strengthened.

Plottings of Moscow

A rather disquieting report is sent to the New York Herald Tribune by its Berlin correspondent. If it is based upon fact it is portentous. The correspondent says that he has perused the documents in the case. The statement is made in Moscow that "Russia's economic and financial condition is today more desperate than ever and a new famine threatening the country will be much worse than the official Soviet spokesmen care to admit." Confidential information covering this general statement has been lodged with the German government. A further statement is to the effect that the documents "show that the Soviet government has virtually abandoned all hope of obtaining desperately needed credits abroad, and that it believes that its only hope now rests in world revolution." Acting upon this belief (elaborate preparations are now being made by the Soviet government, in co-operation with the Third Internationale, for communist uprisings in Germany, Poland, Rumania, Bulgaria and Jugoslavia). The Moscow government is confident that the negotiations now pending in London over the report of the Dawes commission will prove utterly futile, and that the opportune moment for the launching of the program of world revolution has arrived. The projected uprisings are to be accompanied by a Russian military attack on Rumania and Poland.

Disquiet in Greece

With the recent overthrow of the Gluckberg monarch in Greece, the exclusion of the king from the country, the setting up of a provisional government with the sanction of the

CRUSADING FOR AFRICAN REDEMPTION

By Bishop C. C. Alleyne, D. D.

"Africa is as large as the whole British Empire, and two hundred and forty one times the size of New York State. It has three times China's area, one third her population, and a far greater wealth of raw material.

Half the world's gold has buried in Africa. It has therefore become a cynosure for the white man. He is, in Africa largely in quest of gold, diamonds, ivory, rubber, and other valuable products which abound in this land of untold riches.

The white traders have been conducting what has been called "The University of Crime." The main subjects in the curriculum are amoralness, and commercialized prostitution. These are the two most blighting influences in what is called "the dark continent."

Among the crude native African are ignorance, superstition, poverty and neglect. Their greatest curse is the "witch doctor," who is both physician and priest. One of their greatest needs is the presence of trained physicians. Medical skill will mean much to Africa, the population of which is being decimated by diseases, the heritage of contact with white civilization. Here is a field which should invite the young Negro physician. Here is an opportunity to serve where the need is greatest and the call loudest. Hundreds of thousands of native Africans are in need of trained physicians.

If we have digested the lessons of the late war and cogitated on the future we must realize the value of man power. The Negro physician must arrest the spread of disease in Africa; he must save the babies of Africa. He must conserve the man power of Africa, the country which did so much to save white civilization from self-destruction in the world war.

Another great need is Agricultural knowledge and adequate valuation of industrial enterprises. No people can rise without the basic knowledge of how to cultivate and get the maximum results from the soil, with the minimum effort. Scientific agriculture must be taught in the schools and its value demonstrated by the agricultural missionary. Sowing and reaping, seed-time and harvest are without such interruptions as come from autumn and winter. Nature smiles perpetually in this respect, every prospect pleases, and only man is deficient.

In this connection much can be done for African women. The simple hand-loom will relieve African womanhood of its greatest physical burden. It is evident that one loom can do more work than ten women. Sisters of America, it is nothing to you that African women fall under the burning rays of a tropical sun, sometimes with a baby strapped to her back—the picture which you see? And you, her sister, and you should do something to end her woe. Give of your sons, trained in Agricultural knowledge. Give of your means, to found and equip the necessary schools. Give of yourselves to carry and diffuse the light of industrial relief.

Only two per cent of the vast millions of Africa are members of organized churches. Our own Missions have been operating in Africa since the days of Cartwright. And in British East Africa, the late Rev. J. P. Finckh labored long and successfully. Our own Missions, the words of the late Rev. J. P. Finckh, "There is much to be done in Africa."