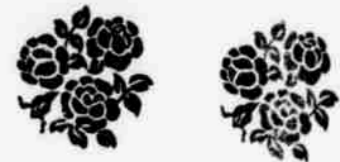




EDITORIAL



Notes and Comments

Louisburg College has secured the "B" rating from the State Department of Education, which will give to its graduates the right to teach in the high schools of the State without the necessity of the examination for certificates. Louisburg College is entering upon a period of expansion and development, and it proposes to give every advantage possible to its pupils. It is the purpose of its President and Faculty, as well as of the Board of Trustees, to make of it a strong Junior College for girls, and the outlook for its future was never brighter than it is now. Our people who are considering the question of sending their daughters off to college should not overlook the opportunities which this institution affords.

The Eleventh Annual Conference of the North Carolina Conference Epworth League will be held in Louisburg College July 4th to 7th. The opening service will be on Thursday evening and the closing service will be on Sunday evening. Rev. F. S. Love is president of the Conference, Mr. H. S. McGirt is vice-president, and Miss Lizzie Hancock is secretary. Splendid program has been arranged, and the event promises to be both interesting and profitable. Among the speakers from out of the State may be mentioned Dr. C. G. Hounshell, of Nashville, Tenn.; Rev. Arthur Moore, of Macon, Ga.; Rev. Ralph E. Nollner, Assistant General Secretary of the Epworth League, whose headquarters is Nashville, Tenn. Besides these, some of the best speakers of our Conference will take part in the proceedings. The Conference Quartette is announced to be present and assist in the singing. Our Leagues should elect delegates at once, if they have not already done so, and send the names to Rev. F. S. Love, Louisburg, N. C.

The National Child Labor Law has been held to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States. It was a close decision, as only five of the nine judges on the bench concurred in the opinion. It is none of our purpose to discuss the righteousness or unrighteousness of the decision. We have often felt that the agitators on the question of child-labor have been unwise; but there is a strong sentiment in this country, and it is a growing one, to put some very stringent regulations upon the employment of children. It goes without question that children should not be confined at labor in unwholesome surroundings, nor for sufficiently long hours to injure their health. We believe that some work for a growing boy is a very wholesome thing, and the same thing is true of a girl, if the work is of the right sort; but the opportunity for self-culture and the best physical development ought not to be denied to them. Public sentiment, we believe, will see to it that some legislation will be put upon the statute books that will safeguard these interests and that will stand the test of the courts.

The Fifteenth Quadrennial International Sunday-school Convention will be held in Buffalo, N. Y., June 19-25, 1918. This convention will be composed of about 3,000 accredited delegates from the United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba and the Isle of Pines, besides hundreds of speakers and officers. The plan of the convention, as announced by the committee, indicates a little change from former gatherings. The morning sessions will be devoted to reports and business,

the afternoon to departmental conferences, and the evenings to inspirational addresses. Saturday will be recreation day, and in the evening the "Pilgrims" who have attended one or more of the World Conventions will have a reunion; the Canadian delegates will have a banquet or social, and the elementary workers will have a "Patriotic Birthday Social." There will be no session on Sunday, but a "Morning Watch Service at 7:30 a. m. in the Asbury-Deleware Methodist Episcopal Church. In the afternoon there will be a great temperance mass meeting, and in the evening the World's Sunday School Association work will be presented. Officers will be elected Thursday or Friday to serve until the next Quadrennial Convention in 1922.

The Coal Consumed by Railroads is far greater than one would naturally suppose who has not studied the question. A report recently sent out from Washington by the Southern Railway brings the information that "it took 136,000,000 tons of bituminous coal, or over one-fourth of the total production of the mines, to transport freight and passengers on the railroads of the United States in 1916. This was an increase of 14,000,000 tons over the amount consumed in 1915, or 11.5 per cent." This reveals the importance of the coal question in the prosecution of the war. Doubtless a larger amount will be needed than in times of peace, and the necessity for running these trains is still more imperative. Just think what a protracted strike on the part of the miners would mean for this country at this time! For laborers to take advantage of this situation would be treason of the highest order.

The Spiritual Dynamic

The world has been rudely hurled into the midst of a veritable cataclysm of material forces. The power of the sword, the destruction wrought by cannon and bursting shells and powerful explosives, the force that makes itself felt by the massing of men and rushing them forward wave on wave—this type of force has been thrust upon the world's attention for these last years. And it has forced the world to take knowledge of it. It has strewn the battlefield with the dead—the very flower of the world's life. It has broken through barriers that were thought to be impregnable. Thousands of men, as well as women and helpless children, have been driven from their homes. It is estimated that something like five millions of people have starved to death because of the ruthless exercise of this kind of power. It is throwing its dark shadow over the world and leaving ruin and desolation in its wake.

It is true that the greater part of world has been shocked by the awfulness of it all. The very thought of it has recoiled with tremendous force upon the moral sensibilities of men. They have felt a sense of outrage and an inexpressible disgust with the spirit of it all. The most professional linguist lacks words to express the fulness of his condemnation. The whole moral sense of right thinking men has been stunned and amazed that men should be capable of committing such outrages. All this is true, and yet the exercise of this brute force is changing the face of the world before our eyes. It is bringing things to pass—most undesirable things it is true, and yet it is accomplishing results. Is there not danger that in the upheaval of the old order that is upon us we shall come to think more than ever that the higher and finer things of life cannot stand

against this onslaught of the physical and the material? We have for a long time been accustomed to worship success. We have stood for that which will bring things to pass—thing that our eyes can see and our hands can handle. Shall the present world commotion increase this tendency among us, or shall it open our eyes to the awfulness of it all?

Those of us who believe in Christ must believe that in the end the spiritual forces are the mightiest. Revealed truth has ever sought to impress this fact upon the consciences of men. The Psalmist stood amidst the commotion of his day, and considered the boastful claims of the heathen. David was a man of war and knew the strength of the sword, but he recognized a higher power. He calmed his soul in the hour of peril with the assurance that nothing could finally succeed, if his God was against it. In terms of poetic beauty he said: "The heathen raged; the kingdoms were moved." The nations surrounding Israel exerted their utmost power. They brought into play all the forces at their command. With a desperation bordering upon madness, they threw themselves into the exercise of the power that the sword represents. What were they able to accomplish? The boundary lines separating one of the nations from another were changed. A city here and there was taken from one sovereign and made to obey another. In larger or smaller degree, this was all that they could hope for. Power of a material and political sort did not reach any farther than this; it did not move upon any higher plane. But the Psalmist knew of another sort of power entirely. It was eminently superior to this earthly power, and even in this material world it exerted a more tremendous influence. He spoke of it in terms of personality: "He uttered His voice; the earth melted." Here was no seeming strain upon His reserve force at all. There was no desperation in His action; no exhaustion of His resources hinted at. He simply uttered His voice, and yet "the earth melted." The boundary lines of the nations were not simply changed here or there but there was a complete collapse of every element of resistance; not simply a transference from one allegiance to another, but also a complete change of character in the substance itself.

There is a principle involved in this that will be well for us to remember in these times that tests men's souls. The power that is to save the world is not material; it is not physical. The deepest needs of a human heart are never met by any changes in his material and physical surroundings. These things affect the physical life. They contribute to our physical comfort or discomfort, as the case may be. They make a strong appeal to the sensuous nature, and sometimes cloud our vision to the real character of the inner life; but the power that would transform the nature of the soul must come from another source; it must move upon another plane altogether. For this purpose, we must call into exercise the spiritual dynamic. It must proceed from God, as He is revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ. It is not a power that moves in the realm of space, but it moves in the realm of character. It does not manifest itself in the commotion that it causes among men, but it reveals itself in the changed attitude of men toward God and toward one another. It may not make us better fed, or better clothed; but it creates within us purer thoughts and holier affections. We may not be able to lift a heavier weight, but we can resist a stronger