



EDITORIAL



To Our Subscribers

* We are now sending out statements to *
 * our subscribers who are in arrears, and *
 * we earnestly ask for a prompt response. *
 * If you cannot send the money, please *
 * write and let us know when we may ex- *
 * pect it. If you think the statement is *
 * not correct, kindly tell us what you think *
 * is correct. We do not wish to collect *
 * anything that is not due us. Do not con- *
 * clude that we are in error because you *
 * have sent a remittance in the spring. *
 * Many paid then whose renewal has fallen *
 * due again by this time. Look at your *
 * label and see what it says. Usually it *
 * conforms to our books. If it says that *
 * your renewal is due and you have not re- *
 * ceived a statement, you can save us *
 * trouble and expense by remitting at once. *
 * Please give this matter your kindly atten- *
 * tion.

Notes and Comments

Money for War Work will be urgently needed despite the order for the exclusion of camp pastors. We have an important communication from Dr. E. O. Watson upon this subject which we hope to get in this issue. We call special attention to it that our readers may look it up and give it careful attention. It is highly important that the Church measure up to its responsibilities in all matters pertaining to this war, and we trust that our Church will not fall behind at any point.

Conserving Gasoline. In order to save gasoline for war purposes, the government asked the American public to cut out joy-riding in automobiles on Sunday. The response to that request of the government, so far as our observation goes, has been encouraging. It was not made mandatory, but was simply a request; yet the small number of automobiles on our public thoroughfares on the Sabbath has been quite noticeable. This because the government requested it in a time of national peril to help win the war. God has requested a reverent and devout observance of the Sabbath day to help save the soul from the peril of eternal death. That is a peril infinitely more real than the one that threatens America today, and He who makes the request is greater than our government. He has a more unchallengeable right to make the request and the need is infinitely more dire. Shall we not hear this higher voice, and respond to this more urgent call? Especially will not those of us who profess to be disciples of Christ hear it?

Kill the Rats. This may seem a small matter for which to start a campaign; but, yes, we must have a rat killing campaign. This is a time when it is unusually important to conserve food, and rats are great consumers. We are told that the rats and mice in the United States destroy each year crops and other property to the value of \$200,000,000. This is equivalent to the gross earnings of an army of 200,000 men. It is also stated that on many a farm, if the grain eaten and destroyed by the rats and mice could be sold, the proceeds would more than pay all the farmer's taxes. And it is no easy job to get rid of them. We are told that the common brown rat breeds from six to ten times a year and produces an average of ten young at a litter, and that the young female rat begins breeding when only three or four months old. Some one has figured it out that one pair of rats, breeding uninterruptedly

and without deaths, would at the end of three years be increased to 359,709,482 individuals. Some rats these. Yes, let us have a campaign of rat killing.

The Course of Study for young preachers in the Methodist Episcopal Church continues to come in for criticism. The Christian Advocate (Nashville) brings us the following information: "The dissatisfaction with the Course of Study in the Methodist Episcopal Church is growing. Ever since the adoption of the present course, in 1916, there have been serious criticisms of a number of the books, and one at least has been eliminated from the course. Six of the Annual Conferences have passed resolutions objecting to the books. It is charged that some of the books are Unitarian in theology, denying the essential attributes of Deity in Jesus Christ. There seems to be no doubt but that the teachings of several of the books are contrary to the accepted standards of Methodism." This criticism is serious. It is like poisoning the water at the fountain head. It is time to raise objection when the Church itself puts into the hands of her future leaders an instrument with which to cut her own throat. It would be far more to the point to put into the hands of these young men books that are so thoroughly saturated with the old truths of the Bible that they will be armed against the insidious influences of error that they will inevitably meet on the highways of the world.

Shall We Have a Publicity Service? We believe that it is one of the great needs of the Church, and that some day it must come to enable the Church to marshal its forces and direct its activities. We find the following in the Western Christian Advocate of September 11: "It is to be hoped that some day the Protestant world will awake to the necessity of publicity. The different denominations have taken their journalism only half seriously. Notice what the Roman Catholic editors did recently at their eighth annual convention. They voted to raise an endowment of one million dollars to found a Roman Catholic publicity service. It was suggested in carrying out the plan that central offices should be established at New York, London, Paris, Rome, and later in Germany, and then in other large centers, as the growth of the work should demand. That is a world-grasp of a situation that requires statesmanship. If the Roman Catholics beat us to a great world-idea and place it in operation to our embarrassment, we need not say we were not warned." In this enterprise the Roman Catholic editors are showing consummate skill. Our Church, in common with many others, has been trying to get its publicity work done without making any investment in it; and, as usual when we try to get something for nothing, the Church is getting cheated in the undertaking. We have been trying to ride private enterprise, and get our Church periodicals circulated as though they were only another paper the people are called upon to take, long enough. We need more statesmanship in our publicity work.

The Great War continues to absorb the thought and energy of our people, and the battles on all fronts continue to go in favor of the Allies. In Palestine the British army has suddenly sprung into renewed activity and almost annihilated the Turks on the western side of the Jordan. The news reports indicate that the Ottoman army there has practically collapsed. Some 25,000 prisoners had been sent to the rear

and counted, and a large number of guns and munitions of war had been captured. On the Macedonian front also the Serbs have made great advances against the Bulgarians. The collapse of the enemy at that point seems almost as complete as in Palestine, though the booty is not so large. Something like 10,000 prisoners have been reported from that front. On the Western front the progress has been slower. The Germans are there making their determined stand, but the Allies are reported to be eating their way into the heart of the Hun's defenses. All the news is encouraging and reports indicate that the thing to be done is to continue the pressure with constantly increasing force until victory is achieved. The next few weeks are going to witness another great subscription of Liberty Loan bonds that will show to our soldiers that they have the undivided support of the people back home, and that will show to the Germans that America is in to win.

Stewardship--The Centenary Movement

The Church has ever held the doctrine of stewardship as a theory; shall we come to recognize it as a fact? Shall our conviction of this truth reach the level of the Psalmist's faith when he said: "I believed, therefore have I spoken;" and shall our speaking be not only in word but also in deed? There is no higher doctrine of man's relation to his earthly possessions than this of stewardship, as we have pointed out in two preceding editorials; but how faithfully are we living up to our professions?

The Church is at last awaking to its task and making plans that will call for a larger practice of this doctrine. It will not demand that we carry this doctrine to its limits. The full recognition in practice of the truth that we and all our possessions belong to God, and all alike should be used with an eye single to His glory, would swing the Church far beyond anything that is being planned even in this day of big undertakings. But the time has come when the Church simply must move in that direction. We must take some long steps in advance of what we have been doing. Anything short of this would be to fail in this hour of world-crisis, and failure on the part of the Church is not to be thought of for one moment. In comparison therefore with what we have been doing, the Church is planning for a great forward movement.

Thirty-Five Millions for Missions.

It is conservatively estimated that to sustain the men and women necessary for the work, and to equip them so that they can do efficient work, will call for thirty-five million dollars in the next five years. This is not a rash guess at what it will require; it is not an estimate that is subject to discounts. The field has been gone over carefully by men who are familiar with the situation. The urgent needs have been itemized and the cost of supplying them has been figured; then these items have been summed up in order to determine the total sum that will be needed. This amount is more likely to increase as we advance in the work than it is to decrease. Initial successes that will accompany this movement on the part of the Church will inevitably lay the foundation for still larger expenditures; but this may not call for an added burden to anybody. The resources will also increase. What we need to do now is to make up our minds to put ourselves, as