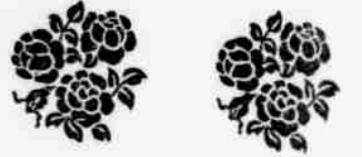


EDITORIAL



THAT WAR ORDER!

We trust that none of our readers will fancy that the order of the War Industries Board may be passed over lightly. It brings us face to face with another crisis in our work. We are doing all that we can do here in the office to meet the situation, but the greater part of the work must be done in the field. Corrected lists brought down to as recent date as it is possible for us to handle them will be sent to our pastors in a few days. Of course, some renewals are coming in all the time; and in soliciting the pastor may find a few who have recently sent in their renewal to the office; but this need cause no confusion or embarrassment. It is easy to explain to such that your list was sent from the office before his remittance reached it, and nobody can justly feel any offense.

We again appeal to our readers to send in their renewals, if they are due, without delay. Do not wait this year until Conference; that may be too late. We shall be compelled to cut off delinquents after due notice has been given, and the farther in arrears you are the quicker the knife will reach your name. We do not wish to cut off a single subscriber; still less do we wish to oppress any one in forcing collections. Write us frankly about your case, and we will give you all the consideration possible under the circumstances. But—the government has given its instructions and these are war times!

Notes and Comments

The United States Food Administration has postponed its proposed campaign until the first of December. This has been deemed necessary because of the prevalence of Spanish influenza in the country at the present time. This will affect all notices that may have been given of a campaign to begin the 27th of this month, and the distribution of home cards, as well as the observance of Conservation Sunday in the Churches will likewise be postponed.

The Russellites on the Move. Ex-Judge Rutherford and his associate leaders of the Russellite sect since the death of "Pastor Russell" have been imprisoned at Atlanta for twenty years, so an exchange reports. Our understanding is that the charge is sedition. The Russell headquarters in Brooklyn is being closed. The Brooklyn Tabernacle has been sold to the Cameron Machine Co., and the Bethel Home has been almost completely dismantled. It is said that the Russellites are leaving Brooklyn and are contemplating set up in Atlanta. It may be that they want to be near their leaders. The Wesleyan Christian Advocate thinks that Atlanta can get along without them.

Higher Rank for the Chaplains is being considered by the War Department, and a bill has been introduced in the Lower House of Congress, providing that one-fortieth or less of the chaplains may be made Lieutenant-Colonels; one-tenth Majors; four-tenths Captains and the remainder First Lieutenants. Some of the chaplains going into service, if this bill becomes law, may be commissioned in grades higher than First Lieutenants from the beginning of their service. This general increase in rank for chaplains will be of great service to them and to the boys in the trenches. First of all, the chaplain is the boy's friend at court, and

the chaplain who is a Captain or a Major will probably be given a more responsive hearing than one who is a First Lieutenant only. Again, increased rank means increased pay—greater opportunity for service both in the trenches and back at home. Yet again rank in the army is the symbol of honor, the approved method of showing appreciation.

Buenos Aires Leads World Methodism. That is the rather surprising headline that is shown in a recent bulletin of the Missionary Centenary issued by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Buenos Aires is out on the mission field. It is down in belated South America. We had not expected a company of saints down there to step into the lead of this leading movement of Christendom. But they have a First Church down there. Yes, sir, and that First Church, Buenos Aires, has already completed its drive for securing its financial quota in the great Centenary Movement. O, well, you say, What was its quota? The figure stands at \$200,000 Argentine. That doesn't look so bad either. How many First Churches in North Carolina will be able to stand up by her side when the drive is over? The mission field is showing us the way.

The Fire-Friend is a genuine enemy of society, and it is a more numerous class than it is generally supposed to be. Those who have made a study of the subject divide them into five classes: (1) Enemy fires; (2) Fires for fraud; (3) Pyromaniac fires; (4) Spite fires; (5) Fires accessory to other crimes. Of course these can be dealt with by law, provided they can be discovered and the evidence produced. But they all fail to account for a great many fires that actually occur from carelessness and neglect. We ought to come to recognize that this also is criminal. Millions of dollars worth of property and many lives as well are destroyed every year by preventable fires. The individual whose property goes up in smoke may have an insurance policy covering it that will repay him, but that does not change the fact that it is a property loss to the world's wealth, and the insurer has only divided the loss among all the people who insure plus enough to enrich the company that does the insuring. The remedy for it all is to prevent the fire.

The Closing of the Breweries by the government will meet with the approval of the general public. Of course, there will be persons who have private interests in them, or who are influenced by those who have, that will do more or less kicking; but the great moral sentiment of the country will strongly approve. The action was not taken hastily, or without due consideration, as the following letter from H. A. Garfield, United States Fuel Administrator, to United States Senator Wesley L. Jones, of Washington State, will show: "I have your letter of September 21st, enclosing copy of telegram sent you by business men and hop growers of Yakima, Washington, with reference to the closing of breweries. I am sure that no one regrets more than I the financial loss restrictions of this kind entail, but I can assure you that this restriction was not imposed until after the matter had received the most careful attention. The entire matter has been under consideration at Washington for many months, and it was considered of such importance that practically all of the various governmental departments were consulted. After studying the matter most carefully from all its angles, it was decided that brewing ran counter to the war needs in so many important directions that the

best interests of the war called for the action taken." It must be remembered that this was not the action of a prohibition enthusiast, but of a great nation that is right up against the cold facts. Brewing is against all the highest interests of the nation in times of war or peace, but it took a terrible war to bring the fact home to the people.

The Centenary Celebration at Columbus, Ohio, will be one of the greatest religious gatherings that has ever been held in this country. It is being scheduled to meet June 20-July 7, 1919. It is expected that 100,000 delegates from all parts of the world will be there, together with thousands of visitors from the United States and Canada. It will be the great celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of American Methodist Missions. This great celebration will afford thousands of persons, unable to make a tour of the world, the opportunity to visit and study the world's races as they will be brought together in Columbus at that time. Seven great buildings will be filled with missionary exhibits from all parts of the world. Natives from every mission field will be there, showing the village life and customs of their people. An unsurpassed program of lectures, pageants, stereopticon lectures, etc., will be presented, the theme of which will be "The Christian Crusade for World Democracy." It will be a great event, and every one who can possibly do so should plan to come under the influence of that mighty gathering.

The Intercollegiate Prohibition Association has put itself on record in favor of world-wide prohibition. At a meeting of the Executive Committee held October 1, it stated its creed, so to speak, in the following words: "The Intercollegiate Prohibition Association believes that the approaching culmination of the campaign for national prohibition should be followed immediately by the launching of a united and world-wide crusade against beverage alcohol." This is only one unit, so far as numbers go a comparatively small unit, that will enter this world-wide fight. Of course, the politicians will shrug their shoulders and prophesy failure. Others will characterize it as a movement to try to force on the whole world the personal habits which a few enthusiasts have chosen for themselves. Still others will charge that these people are trying to force on others restrictions to which they are unwilling to submit themselves, and raise the old cry of hypocrisy. All these things but grow out of the fact that a great many people persist in looking upon the prohibition movement purely as a political measure, while at bottom it is the eternal protest of righteousness against evil. As a mere governmental expedient, it would have been abandoned years ago, but the proddings of a conscience that abhors the wrong knows no let up in its imperious demands. This imperative of an awakened conscience is behind the demand that the beverage liquor traffic must go.

This Epidemic of Spanish Influenza is a serious thing in many ways. First and foremost the health and life of our people are endangered by it. It is costing us far more lives than the great war that is raging in Europe. A striking illustration on the front page of the Health Bulletin for October issued by the State Board of Health, reveals the fact that between January 1st and August 1st of this year 94 North Carolinians were killed in France, while 172 were killed by typhoid fever and 2,071 died of tuberculosis. How many have died in this epidemic has not been counted, but we shall expect it to exceed