

THE COUNTRY CHURCH

By G. C. HEDGECOCK

I have on my desk a copy of "A War-time Program for Country Churches." It was prepared by the committee on war-time work, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, New York City, and was issued more than a year ago. It was appropriate for country churches during the war, but now that President Wilson and the British and French premiers and representatives from their and other nations have succeeded in forcing Germany to sign the peace treaty, it seems that country churches need to map out a program for peace times.

During the recent world war our farmers were told by the President and others that the favorable conclusion of the war depended largely upon the farmer. President Wilson said: "Upon the farmers of this country, therefore, in large measure, rests the fate of the war and the fate of nations." The farmer was asked to raise more corn and wheat and livestock. The rural pastor and teacher and farmer were asked to invest in Liberty Loan Bonds and Thrift and War Savings Stamps. They were also asked to give their sons. And the farmer and teacher and rural pastor and country churches heard the man calls, and what is more, answered them all. From almost every rural community, as well as from the cities in America, country boys dedicated to the cause of human freedom and the independence of all nations, by country fathers and mothers, lie buried in French soil. Besides this, the country people gave liberally and freely to the Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. work, both at home and overseas. They also contributed to the support of the Salvation Army. Service flags were placed in country churches and millions of farm homes. Such was our war-time program. Now we are needing a peace-time program. What shall it be? In what way shall we proceed to carry it out and what will be the result of such a program?

In the first place the program ought to include the re-enlistment of the returned soldier and sailor boys in the Sunday school and young peoples societies. A memorial service in memory of the brave laddies who gave their lives to stop German aggression and atrocities in Belgium and France should be conducted in all our country churches. The writer conducted such a service in one of his churches the other day, which resulted in the marvelous conversion of one of the leading citizens of the community. To be sure, it would be dangerous to teach as some have that men dying for their country are saved from their sins, but we can make the memorial service one of great and high spirituality if we go about it with a desire to help not only the returned soldier and sailor boys, but all the people and to glorify our Heavenly Father through our Lord Jesus Christ. In peace times it would be no bad idea to observe such an occasion in each country church in America once every year.

In arranging for our peace-time program we should not forget the Sunday school annex. This could be made a memorial to the boys who have given their lives for the cause of world-wide democracy and the establishment of a better understanding and a more friendly attitude between the nations

of the earth. Country churches have long been handicapped by the lack of sufficient room in the teaching of the Bible on Sabbath mornings. And who would not give twenty-five, fifty, one hundred, five hundred or even a thousand dollars to the building of a suitable memorial to his son, or his neighbor's son? And besides, we are living in a day when it is easy to build memorials. And it is certainly the best way to honor our dead. Why can't we as we plan for our peace-time program, include the memorial ideal? It would certainly bring blessings to hundreds and thousands of rural communities in the South.

If the country church is to become the center of the community in peace times we are going to need to put the people to reading. Why not have a reading room in the rural church with a nice selection of the best books and keep the room open one night in each week. A pastor can accomplish wonders if he has a reading and a thinking people. But if he has got to do their reading—all of it—his congregation will grow slowly and accomplish next to nothing.

But while we will need the library and reading room in the rural church during peace times we do not want to establish a pool-room or anything that has the appearance of evil. The tendency in some places is in that direction now. But we must guard against it.

The peace-time program ought to include a united effort on the part of all our country churches in the building of parsonages and the increasing of the salaries of country ministers. Our peace-time program for country churches should challenge the rural people to larger giving to missions, especially to foreign missions. Country churches that do not think of and pray for and give to missions that the heathen may have the gospel, will, within a few years, cease to function in an effective way in spiritual things.

Our peace-time program for country churches must not overlook soul-winning. Just as banks are established to loan money and merchants go into business to sell goods and farmers farm to produce cotton and corn, so the church is organized to bring men and women to Jesus. We need during peace times to give larger emphasis to this kind of work. If this holy occasion be-

gins to wane, then the country church will be on the decline and will immediately lose its grip and power on the people. The peace-time program must give prominence to the importance of country churches, pastors encouraging the building of better schools, roads, etc. Such a program for peace times if formulated by the country people themselves, will result in a wonderful and marvelous improvement in the social, economic, intellectual, moral and spiritual life of millions of people in America.

Stock Company May Buy Road. Asheville, July 12.—Since the recent announcement that the present owners of the Mt. Mitchell railroad, which has been used for the past five years to carry thousands of visitors to the top of Eastern America, 6,700 feet above sea level, will not operate the railroad for the business of carrying passengers during the ensuing season, steps have been put on foot to take over the road. It was suggested yesterday at a meeting of prominent business men of the city that stock company be formed to purchase the road and operate it both for the sake of this section in an advertising way and also as a business proposition. An option has been obtained on the road at a price over \$150,000 and it is probable that a stock company will be formed in the next few days.

State "Y" Workers Meet. Asheville, July 12.—Today and tomorrow a convention is in progress at Blue Ridge for all the "Y" workers of the State for the purpose of re-organizing the North Carolina Association.

SPENT FORTUNE IN SEARCH. "I spent \$1,800 in 7 years treating with physicians, some specialists costing me \$10 a visit, only to at last say that nothing could be done for me, that I had cancer or ulcers of the stomach. I suffered awful pains in my stomach, but after taking a few doses of Mayr's Wonderful Remedy these all disappeared and for 3 years am feeling fine." It is a simple, harmless preparation that removes the catarrhal mucus from the intestinal tract and allays the inflammation which causes practically all stomach, liver and intestinal ailments, including appendicitis. One dose will convince or money refunded. For sale by Parker Drug Company and druggists everywhere.—Ad.

tion. During the war period the State association was not kept up because of the fact that there was not sufficient time for activities. At this meeting the association will be revived again. Dr. O. E. Brown, state Y. M. C. A. chairman of Tennessee, will be the leading speaker of the convention.

Some women are so fond of harmony that they will even become green with envy if green is becoming to them.

LEMON JUICE FOR FRECKLES. Girls! Make beauty lotion for a few cents—Try It!

Squeeze the juice of two lemons into a bottle containing three ounces of orchard white, shake well, and you have a quarter pint of the best freckle and tan lotion, and complexion beautifier, at very, very small cost. Your grocer has the lemons and any drug store or toilet counter will supply three ounces of orchard white for a few cents. Massage this sweetly fragrant lotion into the face, neck, arms and hands each day and see how freckles and blemishes disappear and how clear, soft and rosy-white the skin becomes. Yes! It is harmless and never irritates.—Ad.

For BARGAINS in Oxfords. Come to Our Store. Guess & Ward. 11 E. Hargett Street.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CONDITION of The Commercial National Bank At the Close of Business June 30, 1919. RESOURCES. LOANS AND INVESTMENTS \$4,436,264.33 CASH ON HAND AND DUE FROM BANKS 1,040,240.47 \$5,476,504.80 LIABILITIES. DUE DEPOSITORS \$3,560,771.27 DUE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK ON ACCOUNT OF BONDS AND CERTIFICATES 1,180,000.00 BILLS PAYABLE 125,000.00 CIRCULATION 126,850.00 CAPITAL, SURPLUS AND UNEARNED DISCOUNT 483,883.53 \$5,476,504.80 Watch Us Grow. Deposits 1917 \$2,059,700.18 Deposits 1918 2,810,385.51 Deposits 1919 3,560,771.27 We Invite You to Do Business With Us. B. E. JERMAN President, A. W. Thompson, Vice-President, E. B. CROW Cashier, A. F. BAUMAN, B. H. LITTLE, Asst. Cashiers.

SMOKE ELNECO CIGARS. Mild, Rich in Fragrance and Soul Satisfying. Not to be compared with Ordinary 7c Cigars. Is equal to most 10c Cigars. Made of all Porto Rico Long Filler, Shade Grown Wrappers, Broad Leaf Stems. The Best for 7 Cts. FOR SALE BY ALL DEALERS. KING-FERREE CO., Inc., Mfgs.

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Mrs. JOE PERSON'S REMEDY. ALCOHOL 20%. ESTABLISHED 1876. RECOMMENDED FOR BLOOD DISEASES. USED AS A General Tonic, Alterative and a Purifier of the Blood. Recommended for Tetter, Eruptions and Diseases that come from Impurities of the Blood, also Indigestion and Stomach Troubles. This remedy represents the Pure Juice of Sillago, Paddy Ad, Sassafras, Pimento and Peppermint. The plant are gathered and the juice extracted with a fresh, green condition, and only enough pure spirit added to prevent fermentation. PRICE \$1.25. MANUFACTURED BY PERSON REMEDY CO. CHARLOTTE, N. C.

The Ultimate Climax To a Successful Remodeling Sale All Odds and Ends That Are Left Must Go. Ladies' Pumps and Oxfords in All Leathers. Sizes 2 to 6. Values \$4 and \$6. SPECIAL AT \$2.25. Bernard L. Crocker. Phone 235. For Quick, Neat and Satisfactory Printing. M. J. CARROLL.

\$45,000.00—TOWN OF SPRING HOPE, NORTH CAROLINA—WATERWORKS, SEWERAGE, AND STREET IMPROVEMENT BONDS. Sealed bids will be received by the commissioners of the town of Spring Hope, North Carolina, on bonds to be sold for purposes as follows: \$45,000.00 for water improvement, \$20,000.00 for sewerage system, \$20,000.00 for street and sidewalk improvements, in said town of Spring Hope, until noon, Tuesday, the 5th day of August, 1919, said bonds to be sold by special act of legislature of the 1919 session, and is certified (H. B. 1055, S. B. 1651), an act to allow the board of aldermen of the town of Spring Hope to issue bonds for waterworks, sewerage, and street improvements. Said bonds will be sold as coupon bonds maturing in thirty years. Interest payable semi-annually at 5% per cent. Bonds dated July 1, 1919. Deposit of \$1,500.00 required. Right reserved to reject any and all bids, and none of said bonds shall be sold for less than par. O. B. MOSS, Attorney. Spring Hope, N. C.

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