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### A COMMUNICATION.

Pastor Barber, of New York, Answers Questions About Pastor Russell.

Pastor R. H. Barber of New York, representing The International Bible Students, gave two very interesting discourses at Madry's Opera House, Wednesday and Thursday nights. His subjects were "The Judgment Day" and "The Masterpiece of God's Creation," much interest was aroused, and many friendly comments made.

In view of the fact that a public criticism and condemnation of the work and character of Pastor Russell, was recently made in this city, a citizen of Scotland Neck asked Mr. Barber as to the truth of these assertions, and the questions and answers follow:

Is it true that Pastor Russell believes in and teaches a "Second Chance?" Most emphatically no. Nothing in Pastor Russell's writings ever gave such an intimation. He teaches only one chance for each and all. Pastor Russell shows, from the Bible, that nobody has a chance, until they have a knowledge of the object and necessity for Jesus' death, and he maintains that but few have such a knowledge now, and points out that those who have this knowledge, are having their first, last and only chance now, while all the rest will have their first, last and only chance during the thousand year day of Christ, when Satan will be bound, and all will be awakened from death in order to get this chance. No second chance for anybody.

Does Pastor Russell teach there is no hell? Pastor Russell teaches most emphatically that there is a hell. But he shows what all bibles commentators agree upon viz: that hell means the grave, and that there is not the remotest thought of torment in the word. He shows that the bible says, that both good and bad, at death, go to the bible hell, and that the bible further says, that Jesus, at death, went to the bible hell, the grave, and not to the hell of the dark ages. Fully one-half of the preachers now admit, that hell does not mean eternal torment.

How does Pastor Russell know the meaning of Greek and Hebrew words, since he is not a Greek or Hebrew scholar? He has in his library all the best scholarship of the world, representing all denominations, and these unanimously agree, that hell means the grave.

How does Pastor Russell get the money to carry on his very extensive religious propaganda? We notice that he never takes a collection, and we never heard of the I. B. S. A., raising money by means of socials, festivals, fairs, etc. Pastor Russell has repeatedly explained that the money comes from voluntary donations from those who wish to give. This money is all expended in the work, and an annual report rendered through the Watch Tower, showing every penny received, and how expended. And no contributor to the society has ever found.

Why, then, is there so much criticism of Pastor Russell along financial lines? This criticism is always by Pastor Russell's enemies, who have never given a cent to the society. I know not why they criticize, except that they are jealous of him, because he gets money enough to carry on his work without the usual begging methods.

Now as to Pastor Russell's character, is it true that his wife divorced him? It is not true, and she has no divorce yet, because there were no grounds for one.

Was he ever charged with immorality in any court? Never. But his jealous enemies have made such charges through secular and religious newspapers, but without a scintilla of proof. I have known Pastor Russell personally for about eighteen years, and from a personal knowledge, I know all these charges to be false and slanderous.

Pastor Barber, can you tell who is responsible for circulating these false statements and why do they circulate them? I am sorry to say that most of them are made from the pulpit, and by those who claim to represent the meek and lowly Jesus, and who are paid most, however, support fair average sample of his soils with which to find out their lime need.

statements to be true since they come from such high authority.

Now in answer to your second question, Pastor Russell is the author of a series of scripture studies, published in 19 languages, sold all over the earth, at actual cost, and these have reached a circulation, larger than any other book except the bible, nearly nine million now in circulation. His sermons have been published in over 2,000 newspapers, all over the world, reaching over 15 million people, and many hundred million religious newspapers are put out by the I. B. S. A. absolutely free. Pastor Russell cannot get a theatre or hall large enough to hold the crowds which come to hear him.

He never takes a collection, and his name is a household word throughout the world. He has also taught the bible to over 15,000,000 people by the use of moving pictures, using therefor the largest available theatres, and the best pictures in the world, and charging no admission to these, and he is acknowledged even by many of his enemies to be the foremost bible student in the world. All this seems to anger his enemies, and not being able to dispute his teachings, they resort to that last weapon left to a man without an argument—slander.

### Soil for the Next Corn Crop.

Seedlings of corn are not nearly so easily affected by acid water, than are those of wheat and especially clover and the legumes. It is a matter of extensive observation that corn grows well on much land that is imperatively in need of sweetening for properly growing wheat and producing any of the nitrogen fixing crops. From these circumstances, there is a wide belief among farmers that corn land needs no lime. This belief is confirmed by official bulletins which class Indian corn among "plants but little benefited by liming." The observations upon which their belief is based are perfectly correct and can both be seen, at the proper season, in many sections and confirmed in records of experiments by several State colleges. And yet, it is a misconception that has caused farmers a great loss.

In all cases where corn thrives on a sour soil, that soil contains an appreciable amount of lime, derived either from limestone by which it is underlain or from decomposing minerals rich in lime, which is thus being added in sufficient amount to the soil, although the amount is insufficient for sweetening it. An inexpensive chemical test will show this and every farmer should be informed about the "available" lime in his soil. This simple fact has come to light through comparing corn growth on sour soils at experimental stations, where it failed, with those of stations where it succeeded without lime. The fact is, that corn is very much in need of life, both as a plant food and for developing the best possibilities of all the other plant foods, potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen, added as mixed fertilizers. But it is best that corn land do not have too much lime, for its presence in liberal amount further bacterial activity unduly, and with it, a wasteful consumption of humus not necessary for corn growth.

If then a farmer limes his clover, to just the extent required for sweetening the soil, the latter will still contain enough lime generally speaking for the needs of the corn, when it is reached in a rotation that is not too long. But, he can only be safe on this point by having the corn land tested. The agent for lime can have a test made by the Lime Service Bureau at Washington telling if a sample of soil submitted for the purpose is sweet or sour, and if sour, if it still contains enough lime for corn. Where this is not the case, the soil must have lime in right amount with the other fertilizers. The increase, in the extended Ohio experiments, both with and without fertilizers, in all possible combinations, and for six year averages, was ten to twelve bushels per acre. Farming is a business that is full of chances and uncertainties. But, a number of these can be overcome if the farmer sees to it, that he learns about his own soil what is already known about soils in general. The lime manufacturers are giving every aid to this end as far as their commercial knowledge is concerned. The farmer, however, should have a fair average sample of his soils with which to find out their lime need.

### CONVICT CAMPS NEED IMPROVING.

Gov. Craig Issues Statement Made on Investigation of Dr. Rankin.

Governor Craig has just issued the following statement in regard to an investigation of convict camps in Nash county made by Dr. W. S. Rankin at the Governor's request:

Dr. W. S. Rankin, secretary of the State Board of Health, has filed with the Governor a report on the condition of the convict camps of Nash county. Dr. Rankin went to these camps under commission of the Governor. He was treated with the utmost courtesy by the officials of Nash county, and given every opportunity to investigate the camps. It had been reported that these camps were in bad condition. Dr. Rankin finds in his reports as follows:

"In my judgment the conditions of the Nash county camps are fairly representative of the conditions in convict camps of the State as a whole; there are some better; there are some worse."

He reports that the prisoners do not have sufficient air space, that the beds are not clean, that there are vermin in the camps. He reports that the prisoners are well fed and in healthy condition. He grades the camp in the Rocky Mount road district, W. B. Rose, supervisor, 41.5 out of a possible one hundred. He grades the camp of the Nashville road district, Joseph Collins, supervisor, 52.0 out of a possible one hundred.

Dr. Rankin concludes his report as follows:

"I beg to respectfully suggest that you direct the State Board of Health to make an inspection of the county convict camps of ten counties in North Carolina, first submitting to you the method of inspection and scoring, for the purpose of making a full report to you on convict life in this State. The State Board of Health in the last six months has gone to considerable trouble and some expense in ascertaining conditions governing convict life in other States and in preparing complete plans and specifications in several different forms for housing and caring for convicts. We have also worked out a complete, and we believe very reasonable, set of sanitary rules for dealing with convicts."

"I would recommend, therefore, that you request the county commissioners of Nash county to confer with the State Board of Health with reference to the improvement of sanitary conditions in their convict camps. I think your request of the commissioners will be timely, inasmuch as I have been informed by a letter from Mr. Thomas Battle, since my inspection on May 1st, that the county commissioners contemplated making some very important changes in their camps, including the installation of running water."

Dr. Rankin, under the commission of the Governor, will thoroughly examine other convict camps in the State and make report of the conditions exactly as he finds them.

### Going After the Doctors.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics is going after the delinquents among the doctors, undertakers, midwives and local registrars of the State. During the past six weeks twenty-five prosecutions have been made. The doctors seem to be the chief offenders as only two of the twenty-five prosecutions were undertakers. Still others, it will have to be admitted, were guilty of negligence and carelessness in regard to their duties to the State as a whole. Three of the Rowan's doctors, one of Wilkes', three of Stokes', three of Forsyth's, two of Duplin's, two of Rockingham's and two of Davidson's, have recently been called to answer the charge of failure to report births and deaths. Cabarrus, Wake, Cumberland, Cleveland, Orange, Harnett, Martin, and Yates follow with one prosecution each.

Perhaps the reasons some of the doctors were caught napping is due to the recent amendment, made by the 1915 Legislature, to the Vital Statistics law. It changes the time of reporting both births and deaths to the local registrars from ten days to five days.

To those acquainted with the Vital Statistics law and its importance to health work, it may appear that the difference of five days would be of little consequence and that just so births and deaths are reported, it should be sufficient. But the department that keep the books for the State's life and deaths interests (not financial, however) must deal with accurate figures and must, in the case of a doctor, be able to do accurate and efficient work.

## KNOW THY COUNTRY

### II—Railroads

In discussing the commercial achievements of this great age, we shall approach the subject as the historian chronicling events. This series will endeavor to record in writing the supremacy of American men and industries in the world's affairs and perpetuate an appreciation of our marvelous industrial achievements by presenting simple facts, figures and comparisons that are overpowering in their convictions.

America holds her proud place among the nations of the earth today on account of her supremacy in transportation facilities. The mighty minds of the age are engaged in the problems of transportation, and the greatest men in the history of the world's commerce are at the head of the transportation systems of the United States.

In the discussion of transportation, let us consider separately our Railways, Telegraph and Telephone, Express, Public Highways, Steamships, Street Railways, Interurban and other forms of transportation, and this article will deal with railways.

The United States has the largest mileage, the best service, the cheapest rates, pays labor the highest wages, and we have the most efficient management of the railways of the world. They stand as a monument to the native genius of our marvelous builders, and most of the railroads in foreign countries have been built under American orders.

The railroads represent a larger investment of capital than any other branch of human activity. The mileage in the United States exceeds

the accepted distance from the earth to the moon. We had in 1911, the last year in which figures for all countries are available, on the earth's surface, 639,981 miles of railway divided as follows: United States 241,199, Europe 207,432 and other countries 191,350. The United States has 33 per cent of the world's mileage, seven per cent of the estimated population and about five per cent of the area. The total capital invested in the railways of the world is \$50,000,000,000, divided as follows: United States \$13,000,000,000 Europe \$25,650,000,000 and other countries \$11,350,000,000. Reduced to a mileage basis the capitalization is as follows: The world \$78,000, United States \$54,000, Europe \$124,000, and other countries \$59,000. A comparison of rates is equally as interesting and the United States takes the lead in economy and service. The average rate per ton per hundred mile haul is as follows: United States 76c, Great Britain 25.5c, France 1.44, Germany 1.44, Russia 92c, Austria-Hungary 1.30, Italy 2.30 and Switzerland 2.82.

The average yearly pay of all railroad employees in the principal countries is as follows: United States \$757, Germany \$392, Italy \$345, Austria \$322, Great Britain \$279, France \$260 and Russia \$204.

About 30 per cent, or 188,000 miles, of the railways of the world are government owned. About half the railway mileage of Europe is government owned.

A comparison of the economy, in time and money and the convenience in travel, will be made in a later article.

## INCREASED TAXES ON ALL LIQUORS

IS PROPOSAL OF DAVID LLOYD GEORGE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

### SOME OF MEMBERS PROTEST

There is Some Opposition to the Measure.—First Division in House Since War Began.

London.—Resolutions introduced in the House of Commons by David Lloyd-George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to double the duty on spirits, quadruple the duties on wines and to institute an increase by graduated tax on beer—to encourage the use of lighter beers—were strongly opposed and it is generally believed that the new taxes will have to be moderated before Parliament will accept them.

The O'Brienites, as protest against an additional taxation on Irish whiskies and beers, brought about the first division in the House since the outbreak of the war, by voting against the provisional resolutions which would bring the taxes into force at once so as to prevent spirits being taken out of bond while Parliament is dealing with the resolutions.

The resolution relating to spirits was passed by a vote of 89 to 5, the minority being composed of O'Brienites. The Nationalists also protested against the measure, but did not vote. The Unionists who withheld criticism until all the facts could be placed before them also abstained from voting.

The provisional resolutions imposing taxes on beer and wine also were passed, the Unionists abstaining from voting and the O'Brienites opposing the beer tax.

Usually these provisional resolutions are carried without division, for should Parliament refuse, to sanction the taxes, they are refunded to those who may have paid.

### COMPLETE ANARCHY IN LISBON.

Fighting in Streets Between Loyal Troops and Mutineers.

Madrid, via Paris.—Complete anarchy reigns in Lisbon, according to news reaching Madrid. Fighting in the streets continues between the mutineers and the loyal troops. The bombardment was stopped during the night owing to a lack of ammunition. The number of persons killed or wounded is said to have been considerable. Many buildings were burned and the homes of known loyalists pillaged.

Premier Dato announced that the Spanish battleship Espana would arrive at Lisbon soon to protect Spaniards and other foreigners. He added that it was probable another warship would be despatched to Portuguese waters.

Dispatches from Vigo announce that Portuguese people arriving there declare that the uprising is the beginning of civil war in Portugal. Reports from Oporto state that revolutionists met by the police in the city and that the civil authorities have given over the reins of government to the military.

## FRENCH CONTINUE ADVANCE TO NORTH

HIGH OFFICIALS SAY GERMANY WILL NOT REVERSE HER BLOCKADE.

### ITALY'S ACTION IS DELAYED

British Repulse All German Attempts to Reach Ypres.—Some Momentous Battles.

London.—The American note to Germany and the new turn in the Italian situation resulting from the resignation of Premier Calandra and his Cabinet overshadow other features of the war news.

The firm attitude the American Government has taken over Germany's submarine action has met with the highest approval here and the question now is not what the United States will do, but "what will Germany's answer be?"

It is believed in high official circles here that Germany will not agree to reverse her submarine blockade policy, and the conclusion is drawn that the United States will be compelled to sever diplomatic relations with her. The hope is everywhere expressed that the United States will not be drawn into war, as it is considered by observers of the situation that she is of greater assistance to the Allies as a neutral than she would be as a belligerent.

The Italian situation is badly confused. Resignation of Premier Salandra's Cabinet, it is believed, must delay Italy's action over the war, and it is thought that nothing in this respect will be decided upon until after the Chamber of Deputies meets next week, unless in the meantime King Victor Emmanuel induces the Government to retain office, which step the Premier might take as assurance of the people's confidence in his policy.

Meanwhile the belligerents on both the East and West fronts are engaged in most momentous battles. The French, who already have gained possession of what was thought to be impregnable German positions north of Arras, are reported to be continuing their victorious advance while the British are asserted to be holding a large force of Germans in their front and repulsing all German attention to reach Ypres, which has proved the graveyard of so many thousands of men since the opposing lines were established there last Autumn.

### Deny Bank Charges.

Washington.—Specified denial of charges of conspiracy and malice against the Riggs National Bank of this city was made by Secretary McAdoo and Comptroller Williams of the Treasury Department in affidavits filed in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in reply to injunction proceedings brought by the bank in which it was alleged the Treasury officials had conspired to wreck the bank.

"I specifically deny the charges of having conspired or combined with the defendant Williams or any one else to injure the plaintiff bank or its business," Mr. McAdoo declares.

Bombs Dropped at Ramagete. Ramagete, Portugal.—Some 40 bombs were dropped in an air raid here. So far as ascertained three persons were injured.

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