

REPENTANCE OR PUNISHMENT

World's Security Demands
Either, Says Hon. Mr.
Rowell

THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Methodist General Confer-
ence Hears Chancellor
Bowles Also

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)
Hamilton, Oct. 14.—Inspired by the news of the dim dawn of peace with victory over Germany, the Methodist General Conference this evening held a great thanksgiving service. The speakers were Hon. Newton W. Rowell, President of the Privy Council of Canada, and Chancellor K. P. Bowles of Victoria University.

In the course of an inspiring address Hon. Mr. Rowell referred to the victorious march of the British forces through Palestine, and declared that prophecy was being fulfilled in that land in the present day. From this Scriptural setting he dealt with the German Chancellor's peace overtures as follows:

Standing on the Plain of Esdraelon, what memories crowd upon the mind! Here we see Jehu riding to Jezreel.

"And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said: 'Is it peace, Jehu?' and he answered, 'What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her withcrafts are so many?'"

"When the German Chancellor asks us to-day 'Is it peace?' our answer should be:

"What hast thou to do with peace so long as the crimes and barbarities perpetrated by Germany in this war are neither repeated or punished?" The future peace and security of the world demand either one or the other.

"Repentance means confession, restitution, reparation. When Germany confesses her crimes, and makes full restitution and reparation, then there may be peace. If she will not, then the war should go on until just punishment is meted out to her for her crimes."

Wilson's Reply Applauded.

Rev. Dr. Chown opened the meeting by reading a press despatch announcing President Wilson's reply to Germany's last peace offer. The audience listened to the message in silence to the end, and then burst into great applause.

Face Problems With Hope.

Rev. Chancellor Bowles of Victoria University, in speaking of the reasons for thanksgiving, said it was because they belonged to a spiritual order that they could see the dark problems with hope of final solution. He believed the outbreak of the conflict and the suffering that had come with it had given more definite grip on great moral questions.

He had been baptized into the belief in the universality of Christianity. God would cast the world, bag and baggage, into outer darkness if it did not realize the majesty of

great moral principles, after the experience of the war.

Social Possibilities After War.

Referring to the social possibilities after the war, especially regarding unemployment, Chancellor Bowles said that no Government could ignore the men who had fought for the life and liberty of Canada.

"You remember what you said about those out-of-work Englishmen, as you said: 'Poor fellows! Those Englishmen don't seem to be able to adjust themselves.' But the war came on, and those men went, and these were they that held the line at Langemarck. (Applause.) They were splendid men; they were worthy men. I know that when the war is over there will be men out of work, but the time is past when the Government can sit down supinely and say that nothing can be done."

What the War Is Settling.

"No nation," said Hon. Mr. Rowell, in part, "has greater reasons for national thanksgiving than the people of Canada. The fourth year of the war has been one of the most difficult and trying and yet one of the most inspiring in our history, and never have our people displayed a finer courage, a purer patriotism and a more resolute determination in the pursuit of great ideals than during the present year."

"We speak of this struggle as a world-war. Do we realize how truly it is a world-war? With but few exceptions it embraces the nations of Europe, Asia, Africa, America and Australasia."

"From eight to ten million young men, the flower of the race, upon which humanity so largely built its hopes for the future, have laid down their lives. The justification, and the only justification, for continuing this terrible struggle is that it involves not only the future of our Empire, but issues vitally affecting the whole future welfare of humanity. This war is settling the questions of the sanctity of international agreements, without which there would be worldwide anarchy; of the right of small nations to independent existence, without which civilization would be impoverished and permanent peace would be impossible; of the right of free democratic government to its place in the world, without which human liberty would have no real value for us; of whether right or might shall be the controlling factor in international relationships; and of whether the Christian or the pagan conception of individual and national character shall dominate the world."

"We must see that these questions are settled, and settled aright, before we sheathe the sword which we have so reluctantly drawn. May I speak my own thought when I say that I do not think we should sheathe the sword until Germany, Austria and Turkey follow the example of Bulgaria and unconditionally surrender? We have sacrificed too much already to stay our hand until the result is decisive."

What Stayed Germany's Hand?

"All through the month of June and the first half of July, the allies daily expected Germany's supreme effort. If they could but resist the blow and hold the line for six weeks or two months, the period of anxiety would be passed, for the American troops were arriving by the hundreds of thousands, Canadian troops by the thousands, and Great Britain was sending over tens of thousands of the men who had been called up in the early spring, and who were being trained for the front. Every day's delay was a gain for the allies, and a loss for Germany. History will no doubt give us the real reason for Germany's delay."

"Some think it was the plague of the Spanish influenza which stayed Germany's hand; but, whatever the immediate cause may have been, I believe the real cause was that, under the providence of God, Germany

was not to win this war, that right was to prevail over might. Germany didn't strike until the allies had at their command the forces necessary to meet the German advance. By another brilliant counter-stroke at the Marne, Foch repeated the great victory which Joffre won in 1914, and he has since been able to follow this victory by a series of brilliant successes unsurpassed in history, which have settled the issue of this war, although its actual termination may be delayed for months."

"Let us devoutly thank God that in the hour of our Empire's and humanity's greatest need, deliverance came, a deliverance beyond the hopes of even the most sanguine of the allied leaders and commanders. The successes of these recent weeks should give us new faith and new courage to prosecute the war to decisive conclusion."

Cheerful Courage—Why?

"Another great reason for national thanksgiving is that, notwithstanding the strain and wastage of this war, Canada has been able during the past year to strike her most powerful and effective blows in the cause of freedom, and to make a really great contribution to the final victory of our army. All who visit the front bring back the same story of the cheerful courage of our men. You ask, How comes this great courage and cheerfulness? The answer is simply: They know they are walking in the path of duty and giving their lives for a cause that is worth while. There can be no peace of mind or rest of spirit for the shirker in a life and death struggle like this. For the cheerful courage and great achievement of our troops we should render humble and hearty thanks."

Sympathy for Bereaved and Maimed.

"For those who have fallen on the field of honor may we not say: no man can die a more glorious death than in the service of his country and humanity? To their friends a grateful country will extend its heartfelt sympathy and its warm appreciation of the gift they have made of their loved ones. For the men who have been maimed and broken in the struggle, we pray that under the skillful ministry of our medical men and nursing sisters they soon may be restored to health and strength again. And may we not hope that in the heart of the Canadian people there will arise a deeper sense of gratitude for the fine courage, patient endurance, and unselfish service of these brave sons of Canada who have stood between us and the barbarous atrocities which the Huns would have perpetrated upon us had they had but the opportunity?"

"Should we not also give thanks for the strength and unity of our Empire during these four years of war; for the fine and growing spirit of co-operation among the allies; for the increased participation of the United States in the war; for the redemption of Palestine, Syria and Mesopotamia from the hand of the cruel Turk; and for the many evidences that this war will be followed by still greater triumphs of democracy, and by a fuller and more adequate recognition of the place of the toiler in the social, industrial and political life of our own and other nations?"

National Unity Growing.

"Speaking more particularly of our own land we must all feel that there is great cause for gratitude in the strength and unity of national sentiment in favor of a whole-hearted and vigorous prosecution of the war, and for the fact that we are laying a new foundation of national unity in Canada on the solid basis of the common and equal obligation of every citizen, irrespective of race or creed, to serve the State by giving his life if need be in its defense."

"Another reason for thanksgiving is that Canada has so far escaped the

cruel ravages of war within her own borders, not because she has deserved more than others, but because of the heroic service of his Majesty's sailors upon the high seas and because of the valiant service of Canadian sons and those of Great Britain and her allies on the Western front. "We should also be thankful because, taking Canada as a whole, we are reaping a bountiful harvest, which will enable us to not only feed our armies and the civilian population, but to feed the people of the Motherland as well."

"We should be thankful that the liquor traffic has been suppressed at last, by a Dominion-wide measure prohibiting the importation, manufacture and transportation of intoxicating liquors during the period of the war and for one year thereafter. Great Britain found herself unable completely to defeat and overthrow the liquor traffic, but Canada during this past year has had the high privilege of leading the Anglo-Saxon world in the defeat of this great enemy by the enactment of this outstanding war measure for the conservation of national health and the promotion of national efficiency and economy. I am sure our thanksgiving is intensified by the knowledge that our great neighbor to the south is now following our example and that the liquor traffic will soon be overthrown in the United States. The practical benefits which have resulted from the suppression of the liquor traffic in Canada have been so great, and the testimony to these benefits is so universal, that I do not believe there is any chance of Canada's ever restoring the open bar. Now that the women of Canada enjoy the franchise on the same terms as men, the result is put beyond peradventure."

Unity Appeals to Church.

At the morning and afternoon sessions the Conference continued its consideration of the proposed department of finance, but no final decision was arrived at. Two amendments were passed dealing with clauses of the report, which was referred back to the committee for revision.

An amendment moved by Rev. Dr. Endicott was adopted, proposing that all the heads of departments should hold a joint meeting under the Presidency of the General Superintendent, with a view to unifying the appeals to the whole Church.

Some strong speeches were made in criticism of the past methods of spasmodic appeals for the funds of the church. Mr. H. H. Phillips of Toronto declared that the proper work of the Church was interfered with by one department after another making appeals for money. One appeal from a general board would prevent this.

Rev. C. E. Manning said that if there was anything he could do to enable them to carry on the financial obligation in a better manner he was ready to support it. He could not see how the proposed Finance Board would improve the situation. The Missionary Board was twice as large as the proposed Board of Finance, which was to have the power to cut down the estimates.

Rev. J. W. Cooley of Stony Creek moved that the Superannuation Fund be omitted from the control of the Finance Board. This was adopted.

Rev. Dr. Heartz moved that a Commission be appointed to consider the practical issues of the proposed Board of Finance. This was rejected.

Nominations.

Nominations from the Sunday Schools and Young People's Department: Rev. Frank Langford, Rev. Manson Doyle, Rev. J. P. Weston.

There was only one nomination from the floor of the house. This was Rev. Dr. A. M. Sanford of Vancouver for the position of Book Steward.

Two Treasurers Elected.

Mr. W. G. Watson of Toronto was elected Treasurer of the Missionary Society, and Mr. E. R. Wood of Toronto, Treasurer of the Educational Society.

Following an address by Mrs. W. E. Sanford, Dominion President of the Daughters of the Empire, who spoke briefly on the work she is actively engaged in, the social side of Christianity, an impressive memorial service was held in honor of the brethren who have given their lives in the great war.

Minimum Salary Not Raised.

A resolution calling for reconsideration of the clause of the Discipline dealing with ministerial salaries was voted down. The mover desired the minimum increased.

A motion by Mr. Justice MacLaren to have one delegate for every fifteen instead of twelve ministers was at present was also defeated.

Memorial Service.

A brief memorial service to the late Rev. Dr. Carman, Rev. James Allen and Rev. Dr. Griffin was conducted at the close of the afternoon session.