

# NEW ERA MAGAZINE



This Month the  
Presbyterian Church  
Raises \$38,014,339  
Its Victory Fund  
For 1919

# NEW ERA MAGAZINE

(Continuing the Assembly Herald)

Official Medium Of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

MARCH, 1919

**S**UBSCRIBERS to NEW ERA MAGAZINE are entitled to know why their January Magazine was so late in reaching them. In the first place, it was not possible to get it to press on time. Second, the continuous stream of subscriptions coming in made it impossible to provide stencils and other mailing facilities speedily. We were confronted by the pleasant task of meeting "overnight," so to speak, an emergency of no small proportions. The tardiness ran on somewhat into the February edition, but we think we can promise to be in the mails, at least, on time from now on.—Editor.

## Our Trade Journalism

**I**T would be a serious misfortune for Presbyterians to get the idea that NEW ERA MAGAZINE was designed to take the place in whole or in part of any of our Presbyterian weekly papers. There are six of these, the *Presbyterian* of Philadelphia; the *Continent* of Chicago and New York; the *Herald and Presbyterian* of Cincinnati; the *Presbyterian Banner* of Pittsburgh; the *Presbyterian Advance* of Nashville, and the *Christian Work* of New York. Every one is doing a good and necessary work and everyone deserves the best possible support.

NEW ERA MAGAZINE is a monthly publication. It could not if it would and would not if it could, supplant any one of these weekly papers or undertake to do the work that they are doing. They have a function and a province of their own. No Presbyterian would be justified in giving up his weekly paper because he had subscribed to NEW ERA MAGAZINE, any more than would any of the women be justified in abandoning their special periodical because they desired to read NEW ERA MAGAZINE.

There are more than 1,600,000 members of this great church. Their interest is that of the kingdom. That is a big constituency and a bigger domain. Altogether it is an enormous business and is not only capable of supporting all of the publications now in the field, but

it cannot possibly afford to do without any of them. Interests as large as this necessarily are diversified in certain detail. They must be dealt with from that angle and it would be utterly hopeless to imagine that they could be so dealt with by any one journal.

What business of a secular character is without its adequate trade journalism? What great business commensurate in numbers and volume and interest would think of suppressing its weekly periodicals because it had reached the time when it found a monthly periodical to be necessary for certain phases of its work? Trade journalism is just as vital to the interests of religion as to the interests of anything else, indeed, it is far more vital. Church people, Presbyterians, are doctors, lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, tradesmen, etc., and as such they have their trade journals and properly so. Why should they as Christians not also have their trade journals and why should they be less insistent upon the adequacy of them than they are with reference to their secular journals.

We have felt from the first that the chief influence of NEW ERA MAGAZINE, so far as the field of reading was concerned, should and probably would be, to increase the area of interest. If that were the case, we believed that in turn each one of these six weekly papers would derive its proportion of this enlarged volume of patronage. We are certain of one thing—the Church requires adequate journalism. We believe it can get it not by cutting off, but by adding to.

We are all by now quite impressed with the fact that we are in a new era. These words, "new era," are on the lips of statesmen in and out of the Church; of diplomats; business men. Men everywhere are re-adjusting themselves and their plans to meet the exigencies of this new era. We believe it is most essential that the Church must do this very thing. Let us be careful about fixing limits too low in such a day as this, when the Church like every other living entity is rising to a new and enlarged conception of its task and opportunity. We can do very little toward embracing the opportunities of a new era by narrowing our vision of them.

We leave off as we began that in our judgment it would be a grave misfortune to the people themselves if they let down on their patronage of the weekly church papers simply because they feel the need of NEW ERA MAGAZINE.

distinctively denominational message, it cannot be a Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal or Methodist message; it must be the message of the essentials of Christianity to win the people of France. Therefore, if all the denominations co-operating in this movement will help to spread this purely Christian message they will be doing a great work for France. France has a strategic position in the social order of the world. If Bolshevism should capture France the chances are that it would soon spread to the rest of the world. Pastor Chastand in his experience has known good men who were anarchists and Bolsheviks. These men were perfectly willing to use bombs or any such weapons against capitalism, which to them represented pure evil; but the pastor found when these men came in contact with the principles and teachings of Jesus they became good citizens and fine men. They retained their socialistic belief, they continued to work for a social order based on justice and right, but they substituted for methods of violence and terrorism those of reason and persuasion. The reason for this is that whereas before the workmen saw the injustice and evil of the existing

system, but saw no method of remedying this except by violence and by bombs, now, as a result of his own personal conversion he became convinced of the power of Christian principles when socially applied to bring about the results he wished.

Q. In regard to the standing of the dispersing committee in France of the funds sent during the war?

A. Pastor Chastand says there is no danger of one denomination being preferred above the others because the committee in France who will dispose of the funds will have a different representative for each of the denominations that contribute, and therefore the denomination will be assured against this danger.

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By landing his airplane on a small roof-space in Paris, in the heart of the city, a French aviator has accomplished a genuine bird-like feat. The airship is steadily being tamed to domestic use.

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After thirty-three years of consideration, the House has voted with the Senate to establish 996 square miles of land in the Grand Canyon as a national park.

## Third New Era for the Negro

\*By S. J. FISHER

THERE have been three new eras for the Negro in this country. When in 1619 twenty slaves from Africa were landed at Jamestown, it was the beginning of a new era. Transplanted from Guinea to America, a new experience, a new existence, a new future opened to the African. It was full of cruelty, sorrow and bitterness, but God is able to make the wrath of man to praise Him. The Negro can now say to the cruel slavetrader, as Joseph did to his brethren, "As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good." God gave the oppressed and enslaved a contact with a growing civilization and by years of toil a new nationality and a large future.

In 1863 when the Emancipation Proclamation gave freedom to more than 4,000,000 slaves, a new era dawned. Helpless, ignorant, moneyless, as unfit for freedom as Casper Hauser was for a world of light, after his years of darkness, they entered a new path, they began an ever-widening experience. Many of them have proved worthy of it. Many of them have found knowledge, skill, money, refinement, happiness, and a blessed Christian life. Emancipation has been justified. No race has ever made a greater progress in fifty years from such adverse conditions, as the Negro who has followed the path marked out by the Civil War.

Another and more terrible war is bringing to thoughtful Christians the vision of a new era. And to the Negro especially it seems to offer a great opportunity. The unsurpassed loyalty of the Negro soldier, and his courage, obedience, and patriotism; the devotion and consecration of his entire race in this land, to follow our flag, and meet our national respon-

sibility; his ungrudging and unbargaining enlistment, despite a justified consciousness of much injustice and denial of rights, have shown him worthy of our confidence and praise. He has the right to think a new era has dawned. He has the right to have visions of more schools, more aid for the illiterate and unguided, more preachers and better, to offer the true Gospel and turn the one-roomed, miserable cabin into a neat and attractive home, to train men and women to be pure-hearted parents, to help the race to clean ambitions, to pure amusements, more elevating conditions, and the privilege of developing fully, and without unlawful restraint every talent and every power.

Because of this new era the Freedmen's Board of our Church asks for the small sum of \$400,000 from living givers this year, to assist churches, to employ more teachers, to erect better schools, and build dormitories, so more of the youth who are seeking our schools can be admitted, and fewer denied. If this new era for the Negro is to be successfully used, the Freedmen's Board is one of the most valuable, reliable and hopeful instrumentalities Christians or unbelievers can employ. Will you help the Negro to find this new era created by the war a blessing, or shall he continue in his ignorance and unevangelized state, feeling he was willing to die for a country that would not help and would not sympathize?

It is hoped that as the importance of this new era for the Negro is realized, kind and generous friends will resist the temptation to assist the race, through agents and leaders, whose trustworthiness and responsibility are unknown. Make your sympathy and gifts effective and certain through your own Board, whose knowledge of each need, and wisdom in assistance, are the result of ceaseless watchfulness and care.

\*Rev. S. J. Fisher, D.D., writes as President and Publicity Secretary of the Presbyterian Board for Freedmen.