

The Modern Crusade

Addresses and Proceedings of the
First General Convention of the
Laymen's Missionary Movement,
Presbyterian Church in the U. S.,
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Edited by
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THE TITHE IN ACTION.

By REV. ROBERT HILL, D. D., *Dallas, Texas.*

I am asked to speak about the success of the tithing system, as I have known it and experienced it in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas, of which I am pastor. Ten years ago, my church knew almost nothing about the tithe as God's appointed means for the support of His gospel, and I began to preach upon that subject to the congregation. I had occasion the other day to make up some estimates in comparison. I wanted to raise five hundred dollars for home missions, and I made a comparison between the work now and the work five years ago. A little over sixty per cent. of my church members practice tithing.

Our offerings to foreign missions this year are more than six times as great as five years ago, and our offerings to home missions are seven times as great as five years ago. We have had no large financial gains in our church; I mean no rich men have come into our membership. There has been a tremendous deepening of the spiritual life and a strengthening of the practical power of the church. A large number of the men lead in anything along the line of Christian work; a large proportion will pray in public, or lead a public meeting, or go and lead a service. And while away I have no concern whether there will be anybody to go down and preach on Sunday or not. Some one will lead the service, and that is because of the growth of the spiritual life in our congregation.

The session has for the last four or five years declared that no fairs or dinners, or pay entertainments of any kind shall be given by any organization in our church. When we have socials, they are entirely free, everybody is welcome, and we pay the bills by putting our hands in our pockets.

Incidentally, and with this I close, I began without any individual thought of self at all, without any suggestion as to myself. In the last ten years the pastor's salary has been voluntarily increased five times, and it is two and a half times as large now as it was ten years ago.