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EDITORIAL NOTES.

A clear call comes to the people of the United States to pray with all earnestness and importunity at the present time that God will give victory to the right and will bring speedily upon the earth a righteous peace. As soon as word was received that the great battle now raging on the western front was on in France, a call of prayer was sounded in the town of Clayton, Alabama. Merchants, mechanics and professional men without exception agreed to close their places of business at six p. m., at which time the city bell is rung and the entire population gathers in the large assembly hall of the town for a special prayer meeting from 6:15 to 6:30 p. m. This kind of united prayer to God in all the cities, towns and communities of our country will undoubtedly be acceptable to God and will result in a great blessing to all our people.

Christian men and women to whom God has given an abundance of material wealth should not neglect to make provision in their wills for the work of the Kingdom of God. In these days of magnificent opportunities that are continually presented to the church of God, it is wise for God's people to make provision that some of their wealth may, after their departure from this world, continue to aid in the advancement of the Kingdom. If you have neglected to make some such provision in your will, why not add it now and have the comfortable assurance that, when you are called away, you will leave behind a substantial evidence of your interest in the progress of the Kingdom of God?

A generous bequest to the Southern Presbyterian Church is contained in the will of Mr. John C. Burroughs, formerly a member of the First Presbyterian church of Charlotte, North Carolina. By the terms of the will, probated recently, the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions will receive \$30,000; the trustees of the Home Mission Committee of the Synod of North Carolina, \$30,000; the Orphans' Home at Barium Springs, North Carolina, \$40,000 for an endowment fund; and the First Presbyterian church of Charlotte \$10,000 in addition to a former bequest of \$20,000 to be used in erecting a suitable Sunday school building upon the church lot. The will also contained an item devising \$3,000 to Rev. David H. Rolston, D. D., deceased, the friend and pastor of Mr. Burroughs.

The Independent Presbyterian church of Savannah, Georgia, founded in 1775, has always maintained the most intimate relationship with the Southern Presbyterian Church. While the church is independent in its organization, it was never schismatic, but always loyal to the historic faith. All gifts to benevolences from this splendid church go through the agencies of the Southern Presbyterian Church. The present pastor, Rev. Neal L. Anderson, D. D., is a member of Savannah Presbytery of our Church, as have been former pastors. A splendid view of both the exterior and interior of the beautiful building of this church, together with a sketch of its history, will be found on page 5 of this issue. The church is planning to celebrate in 1919 the centennial anniversary of the dedication of

the first building on the present lot, where stands today a replica of the original building which was destroyed by fire. The original building was dedicated May 9, 1819. James Monroe, President of the United States, and other national and state dignitaries attended the dedicatory services.

Cheering news comes from Rev. S. L. Morris, D. D., Executive Secretary of Home Missions of our Southern Presbyterian Church. Dr. Morris writes: "The past year breaks all records, showing an increase in contributions from every source—Churches, Sabbath schools, societies, individuals and legacies. The total amount received for the year was \$233,990.73, an advance of \$40,627.25 over last year. This is by far the largest increase we have ever had in any one year, being twenty-one per cent. It entirely wipes out the indebtedness incurred the first year of the European War. By close economy and scaling applications for aid, this debt has been gradually reduced each year; and the Committee now faces the new year without financial embarrassment, in the spirit of hopefulness, profoundly grateful for the cordial support and confidence of the Church."

Dr. Morris adds: "No less encouraging are the spiritual results attending the labors of our missionaries. We regret the failure to secure reports from all the fields, but those received show more than 5,300 additions on profession of faith, and 2,500 by letter. We earnestly invite the continued co-operation of pastors and sessions in the effort to evangelize and Christianize our nation. It can be accomplished only by the combined strength and unceasing activity of the whole Church in reliance upon the gracious favor of God."

The famous message of the German Kaiser to his troops to make themselves more terrible than the Huns has aroused the nations that love peace and righteousness to a determination to destroy forever the braggart boastfulness of a man who craves such power. In order to understand the Kaiser's purpose we must recall the story of the Huns. The question, "Who were the Huns?" is answered in a brief but illuminating sketch published on page 20 of this issue. Every American should read this story.

Rev. W. M. Morrison, D. D., one of our missionaries to Africa, died at Luebo, Congo Belge, Africa, on March 14. A cablegram containing the simple announcement of his death was received at the office of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions, Nashville, Tennessee, on March 30. The message gave no particulars. Dr. Morrison was born near Lexington, Virginia, November 10, 1867, and was baptized in infancy as a member of the New Monmouth church. He was a graduate of Washington and Lee University and of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. After completing his course at the latter institution in 1895, he volunteered as a missionary to Africa. He was led to take this step in answer to the prayers, as he believed, of a Sunday school class of young girls, of which Miss Annie Wilson was teacher, in the Second Presbyterian church, Louisville, Kentucky. Only in later years did he learn of the prayers of this class in his behalf and of the special

Job's family and house and cattle were to be touched, but not his skin; then his skin, but not his life. All things we are called upon to suffer, and all the oppositions we meet with, are gauged and measured, and no reckoning is made for our unaided strength. Thus the arm of God encircles us.—Arnot.

For the Christian Observer.

Providing Temperance Education

For Soldiers and Sailors.

By Arthur E. Whitney, Executive Secretary.

Never in the history of our nation has so much thought and attention been given to the moral, physical, and spiritual life of the American soldier and sailor as in the present crisis. The Government, the War Department and the Military are making careful provision for the men along this line, as is evidenced by the fact that the United Committee on War Temperance Activities in the Army and Navy is recognized as the agency to provide temperance education. Almost simultaneously with the declaration of war came a request for the establishment of such a medium. Here was an opportunity, the possibilities of which at first almost staggered the most courageous and optimistic—an opportunity for unified action, not thought alone—an opportunity to provide protection from alcohol for our men. An audience of 1,600,000 young men to talk with about the drink problem. The opportunity to reach the young manhood of this country in a short time and with minimum expense. The unequalled opportunity to set up a program with one purpose, one aim, and with no duplication or waste. And they made the most of it—which counts.

reform organizations of the country, both Catholic and Protestant. The participating organizations are: Anti-Saloon League of America, American Temperance Board, Baptist Young People's Union, Board of Temperance of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Catholic Prohibition League, Catholic Total Abstinence Union, Committee of Sixty, Epworth League of America, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, Flying Squadron Foundation, Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, International Order of Good Templars, International Reform Bureau, National Temperance Society, National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Prohibition Party National Committee, Scientific Temperance Federation, Sons of Temperance, Temperance Board of the Presbyterian Church, Temperance Committee of the Lutheran Church, Unitarian Temperance Society, United Society of Christian Endeavor. The officers of the Committee are: Daniel A. Poling, Chairman; Anna A. Gordon, Vice-Chairman; Cora F. Stoddard, Secretary; D. Leigh Colvin, Treasurer; Charles Stelzle, Chairman of Ways and Means Committee, Arthur E. Whitney, Executive Secretary.

The existing and unusual conditions provided an opportunity for this united effort, and the United Committee was

Ever since the news of the first American casualties came to us from the trenches, it has become more and

and pictures steadily several hours every day.

2. Furnishing for each stereomotor-graph a new set of slides—the finest photography can furnish—every time the machine completes a circuit of the camp.

3. Placing in every Y. M. C. A. "hut" the most attractive posters and literature that advertising men and printers can produce.

4. Presenting to every soldier and sailor a specially prepared manual, containing valuable information and carrying conviction on the drink question.

5. Sending speakers such as Hon. R. P. Hobson, Gov. J. Frank Hanly, Gov. Carl E. Milliken, Daniel Poling, Charles Stelzle, Ira Landrith, and others, to give addresses in the camps.

6. Sending short moving-picture films on total abstinence to every Y. M. C. A. "hut," reaching one million men twenty times.

7. Inspiring declarations of clean manhood devoted to a clean cause.

8. In short, do what needs to be done to fortify our fighters against alcohol.

Because of the nature of the work, only a small force is needed to carry the various items of the program to completion. It acts as an assembling and distributing bureau rather than as an operative force. Business methods are applied to the great task. The direct contact is made with the men, through the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. Secretaries and Army Chaplains. Close co-operation here eliminates a considerable amount of the ordinary organization machinery. Let it not be overlooked that this committee was created for the

the full amount of the original budget be raised in the quickest possible time, to avoid serious delay. Our men are continually coming to the camps in great numbers and going abroad by the shiploads. All contributions should be forwarded to Dr. D. Leigh Colvin, Treasurer, Care Fifth National Bank, 131 East 23rd St., New York City, N. Y.

For the Christian Observer.

THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I am in sympathy with those who think the next General Assembly could be omitted with advantage, but perhaps the legal difficulties in the way of doing this are too great. There is something, however, which can be legally done. The Presbyteries are not required by our law to elect all the commissioners they are "entitled" to. I suggest that no Presbytery, this year, elect more than two commissioners to this Assembly. Then let the Presbyteries scale their assessments proportionately.

R. A. Webb.

Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

For the Christian Observer.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 1918.

By Rev. S. H. Chester, D. D.

I would like to associate myself, not officially but personally, with those who are expressing the opinion that it would be well to omit the meeting of the General Assembly this year. In his article this week, Dr. Wells, the retiring moderator, suggests an admirable method by which this may be legally done which I earnestly hope will be adopted.

So far as the foreign missions cause is concerned, there seems to be nothing in the situation that will require other than routine handling by the General Assembly. We have had a good year financially, and we have every reason to anticipate a better one the coming year. Our people seem to be learning in the terrible school of war the great lesson of sacrificial giving, and there has never been a time when our churches and our people of means have been as responsive to the missionary appeal as they are now.

The work on the foreign field is progressing wonderfully, and so far as I know there are no difficult problems of administration coming up for solution.

If it were a question of subordinating the interests of the Kingdom of God to the interests of the State, it would be different. But as it does not appear wherein any interest of the Kingdom would suffer, and as the state is rightfully calling upon all its citizens to make every possible sacrifice for its preservation, and has called upon us especially to minimize travel on public conveyances and all personal expenses to that end, let us adopt our moderator's suggestion and at least take the sense of the Presbyteries at their forth-coming spring meetings on this question.

Nashville, Tenn.

For the Christian Observer.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PARAGRAPH 235

Of the Book of Church Order.

The proposed amendment which was by error omitted from the Minutes of the Assembly, 1917, is as follows:

First: Strike out the last sentence of the paragraph beginning, "This rule," etc.

Second: Substitute the following: "When a resident member shall wilfully and habitually neglect the worship and ordinances of the Church for a period of twelve months, and there is evidence of no other offense, and when patient entreaty and loving admonition have failed to restore him to the discharge of these duties, then the session may notify him that unless he resumes these duties within three months, his name will be transferred to the roll of non-communicating members, and the session shall act accordingly."

Why is this amendment proposed? For the following reasons, briefly stated:

I. Because of objections to Paragraph 235 as it now stands:

1. The paragraph is now a "dead letter" in two particulars. It provides: (a) That when one comes before the session and "confesses to an unregenerate heart," etc. No one ever comes and makes such a confession. (b) That "wilfully" absenting one's self from the Lord's table "is always an offense." The session never knows when one "wilfully" absents himself, etc., and never cites any one to trial for this offense.


2. There is another serious defect in the present paragraph: The session now has the power of initiative in the case of open offenders and of non-resident members, but by this Paragraph 235 as it now stands, the session is denied the power of initiative in the case of local slackers or mere delinquents. The session ought to have the power of initiative in these cases, too.

II. Considerations in favor of the proposed amendment:

1. It has been approved by two General Assemblies—1911 and 1917.

2. Although a key word "no" was omitted from the proposed amendment by mistake, in the Minutes of the Assembly of 1911, which so altered the sense that its author would not have voted for it yet thirty-six Presbyteries voted for it


"There was a time when it was a natural part of a soldier's existence to drink and carouse. That day is past with the soldier sworn to defend his country's flag and representing the power and dignity of the nation."



Gen. Pershing.

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WHERE QUICK WITS ARE NEEDED



Up 10,000 feet Guarding Observation Planes.

ALCOHOL S-L-O-W-S WITS AND CONFUSES ACTION

ready for field operation very soon after the President's declaration that a state of war existed. Splendid progress has been made, and the results obtained have more than justified the leaders, who have given gratuitously of their time and unselfishly of their energy in the effort to fortify our fighters against the evils of alcohol. The story of the development of the United Committee on War Temperance Activities is the story of a series of meetings, conferences, councils and investigations, looking forward to some organized effort on the part of the temperance organizations of the country to promote effective temperance education among our soldiers and sailors during the war. Only on such a basis would the War Department recognize any work relating to temperance. A story of many meetings, numerous conferences, formulation of plans and changing plans, of trips and calls, of doubts and misgivings, but harmony and team-work as well, is wrapped up in the sentence: "The various temperance organizations of the country came together and formed the United Committee."

"The United Committee on War Temperance Activities in the Army and Navy" was proposed by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America at its emergency session in Washington, D. C., early in May of 1917, and the Committee was permanently organized very soon afterward, and has its headquarters at 289 Fourth Avenue, New York City. From this it will be readily seen that the organization had been perfected and was actually in operation very soon after war was declared.

This Committee represents all of the leading temperance and many of the

more apparent that, if we are to win the war, our fighting-machine must be kept in perfect running order. This cannot be done if we allow our men in uniform to become debauched by drink, as these pointed statements clearly indicate: A sergeant in the French army said, "Several of my comrades who have allowed themselves to drink too much were excellent soldiers at the beginning of the war, but, under the influence of alcohol, they have become discouraged and insubordinate. I have also noticed that those who drink too much get tired more quickly." John Gallishaw, author of "Trenching at Gallipoli," says: "In the early part of the war the regiment of which I was a member was kept for months from going to the front because the men were rendered unfit for service because they were allowed to drink and carouse, and when we finally got into the thick of it at the front, it was very apparent that those who were addicted to the use of alcohol were much less apt to recover from serious wounds. Much disease was also contracted by our men while in the trenches, caused by drinking poisonous water. This was brought about by the fact that the men who were used to drinking alcohol and could not get it would drink anything they could get to quench their thirst." And there is no limit to the amount of substantiating evidence which we might offer in support of our statement, "Our fighters must be kept fit to fight in France for freedom."

The Committee has announced and put into operation a comprehensive program which includes the following:

1. Installation of a stereomotorgraph unit in every great army and navy training camp, showing temperance charts

special purpose of providing temperance education for the Army and Navy, and confines itself strictly to this work. It specializes. It is not another competing temperance organization. Materials used are uniform and of the highest order. The program has been built to meet the purpose and is adaptable to special needs.

The expressions of hearty co-operation and praise for such a program which have come to us from the Y. M. C. A. and K. of C. secretaries and the Army and Navy chaplains, plus the generous response and eagerness displayed by the men in uniform, have convinced us all that this program is decidedly successful in every way. Because of the nature of the work, only a small force is needed to carry the various items of the program to the men.

Dr. Daniel A. Poling, who is Chairman of the Committee, is now abroad conducting a series of investigations and making compilations of first-hand information, which will further enable this Committee to increase its efficiency. Organizations which are participating in the Committee's program are making direct appeals to their local units for funds to carry on this work which they all believe to be of exceptional moral and patriotic value, yet it is hoped that many individuals will be interested enough to give their financial assistance to such a worthy project. For the establishment and execution of such a program, a budget of \$100,000 was asked for. Much of this has been realized, but the continued requests from the field for the further extension of this program and carrying into completion the items which have already been adopted, make it vitally necessary that



MARKSMANSHIP IMPAIRED BY DRINK

20 Skilled Soldier Marksmen Fired 17,000 Shots in 16 Days.

THEY MISSED THE MARK 3-10 POINTS MORE IN 100

Half an hour after taking a Pint of Wine or 2 Pints of Beer.

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GENERAL JOFFRE SAYS:

"ALCOHOL by diminishing the moral and material strength of the Army IS A CRIME AGAINST NATIONAL DEFENSE IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY."

