

The WITNESS

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TALKING IT OVER

By

WILLIAM B. SPOFFORD

THE Federal Council of Churches, through Dr. Ivan Lee Holt, its president, expresses amazement that Mussolini should press his insistent demands upon Ethiopia, thus precipitating in all probability another world war. There is no reason for being surprised. The dictator of Italy, being a wise man, has the sense to know that something must be done to take the minds of his people from their own troubles, ever increasing under Fascist rule. A war is an effective way of doing it, and I hazard the guess that this is one of the prime reasons for Mussolini's stubbornness. Give them a circus, and what is a better one than a war with bands and the sound of marching men. So, likewise, should we not be surprised that Great Britain in all likelihood will lift her embargo on exports of war materials to both belligerents. A large part of England's much heralded recovery has been due to activity in the munitions industry, but it will be of short duration unless an active market is found for the gas and bullets. This Benito Mussolini is supplying and you may be assured that British statesmen will find a very righteous reason for lifting the embargo.

The executive commission of the Federal Council does urge vigorous support for the mandatory neutrality legislation now before Congress. This provides that the United States should withhold aid from all belligerents in this or any conflict that may arise, particularly placing an embargo on the shipment of war materials. In this most of us I'm sure heartily concur and it might be well, if Congress has not adjourned by the time you read this, for you to write your Congressmen and Senators telling them so.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

THE WITNESS, commencing with the next issue, will again return to sixteen pages each week. That number will also carry a two page announcement setting forth the details of the series of articles announced on the back page of this number. Within a few days every clergyman of the Church will receive a folder from us, containing several suggestions. To those clergy who are already subscribers we respectfully urge that you give careful consideration to the suggestions there set forth. We are not putting on "a drive" in the ordinary sense of that word, but we are offering an exceptional series of articles on topics that concern every Church man and woman. We believe therefore that you will consider it to be to your own interest and that of your parish to act on the suggestions we are about to make.

AT THE last General Convention it was proposed that lay readers be licensed to pass the chalice during the service of Holy Communion. The matter was considered by a special committee, consisting of Bishops Page, McDowell and Stevens, who reported that the subject should receive more consideration before being acted upon by General Convention. The proposal was therefore referred to the synods "with the request that they give this whole subject careful study and consideration and report their findings to the next General Conventions." Since a number of synods are to meet this fall we call

the matter to the attention of deputies. Incidentally it is interesting to note that the Church in China at their last General Synod adopted a resolution approving the request of the Bishop of Hongkong to license lay readers to assist with the administration of the chalice.

THE League of Clergy for Peace, a Church of England organization, held a conference at Westminster this summer with those present unanimously favoring support of the League of Nations. Indeed the majority of those present seemed to agree with the Rev. Dick Sheppard who declared that he was unable to take part in, or to support in any way, any war whatever. Another speaker pointed out that the real issue was not whether force was justified in any situation, but rather whether force should be used by individual nations to further their national policy or collectively to maintain peace in the world and justice in international relations.

THE Presbyterian Churches of Rochester, N. Y., mean to see to it that their people write proper wills, meaning no doubt that the church is not left out. So they are putting on a will-writing campaign for two months this fall, under the direction of an expert. Their aim is to enlist lawyers and prospective clients in an effort to have Presbyterians realize the "importance of bequeathing their property while they are able to do so wisely." It all sounds to me as though some clever promoter had sold an idea.

THE Church of England, like our own, is bothered by a multiplicity of youth organizations. The two archbishops have therefore approved

a scheme for the setting up of a Central Youth Council, hoping that through its efforts the existing youth organizations may unite their forces. The functions of the newly organized council are to survey existing youth work in the Church; to coordinate it and help it in its development; to initiate future work mainly by referring matters to appropriate bodies; to collect and publish accounts of successful experiments and finally to arrange conferences for youth leaders and the young people themselves.

THE Christian Century of August 14th contains an interesting account of how a flock of Methodist big-shots got together behind closed doors in the Union League Club of Chicago for the purpose of planning how to "keep a watchful eye on radicals within the communion" and devising ways and means of cracking down on them if they should raise their heads. A permanent organization has been set up and plans are under way to conduct a national campaign to convince Christians generally and Methodists in particular that the message of the church is personal and individualistic and has nothing whatever

to do with social and economic matters. Among those attending the session according to the Century were Henry S. Henschen, president of one of the city's closed banks; Arthur M. Hyde, secretary of agriculture in the Hoover cabinet; Wilbur Helm, head of a bond house; Fred Sargent, railroad president; Hugh S. Magill, head of a federation of utility investors; Burt J. Denman, manager of a utility company and T. W. Appleby, president of an insurance company.

As The Christian Century editorial points out, it is more than likely that this movement will be welcomed by wealthy laymen of other churches, many of whom have long been convinced that the clergy generally have too much to say on issues "about which, not being business men, they know nothing." Well, this point of view has been met before and more than effectively answered by such outstanding Christian thinkers as Bishop Gore, Archbishop Temple, Pope Leo XIII and scores of others, to say nothing of a mass of official pronouncements issued by the Church. So if there are laymen of the Episcopal Church who are disposed to join these wealthy Methodist brethren in tell-

ing the clergy what they shall teach and preach, we would respectfully suggest that they do a bit of reading first.

IMPORTANT PEOPLE are meeting this week for the Williams-town Institute of Human Relations. "Lessons for the United States from intergroup relations in other countries" is the chief topic under consideration, with a morning each devoted to Germany, Mexico, Canada and the United States. In addition there are five lecture courses, all handled by experts, and "Evening Talks," rather prematurely advertised as "Popular." It is an important conference which will be reported in THE WITNESS by the Rev. Gardiner M. Day.

MR. MOHR, who is editing the news, is a dignified young man, not given in the least to flippancy. In reading over his items this week I suggested that he might bring a smile by quoting Mr. Upjohn in his heading on the Trinity Church item by making the caption, "Trinity Church Leans Towards Wall Street." However the suggestion rather horrified him so I did not press the matter.

THE NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Edited by
EDWARD J. MOHR

The Social Security Act, signed by President Roosevelt on August 14, will not affect employees of the Church, or the Church Pension Fund, Bradford B. Locke, executive vice-president of the fund, has pointed out. An amendment was inserted in the bill which excludes from its provisions employees of all organizations which are engaged in religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational work, which is not carried on for profit. This means that the taxes which are levied against profit-making corporations for purposes of unemployment and old age insurance will not be levied against organizations of this type, and their employees are not covered by such insurance. When the bill was first introduced its provisions threatened the continuation of the Church Pension Fund because it would have taxed the churches and duplicated the system. With the changes made, Mr. Locke feels, the Church may look with confidence upon the continued successful operation of the fund. Mr. Locke also pointed out that the Social Security Act will not lessen the value of legal re-

serve life insurance companies, such as the Church Life Insurance Corporation, a subsidiary of the fund. The act does not eliminate the need for life insurance as a means of protection for dependents. Its benefits, Mr. Locke said, are distinctly limited, and, although they will afford income to many who might not otherwise be protected, no one should fail to maintain any existing insurance or other similar protection. This applies particularly to church workers, since they are not covered by the provisions of the act.

* * *

Trinity Church Tower Leans

The tower of Trinity Church, New York, leans 18 inches to the east and north. This was discovered in the course of the work now going on to strengthen the foundations of the tower, which was built some one hundred years ago. While the tower can not be straightened, the work now being done will stop further leaning. Seventeen caissons are being sunk seventy-five feet down to base rock. While this is a delicate operation the tower is

not in danger, either from the work or the lean. Although the lean may be seen upon careful observation, it does not approach that of the tower of Pisa, which leans sixteen feet out of perpendicular. "Apparently little movement took place from the time of its completion in 1846 to the time of the building of the New York subway on Broadway," Hobart B. Upjohn, architect in charge, explained. "At the time when the church was built no methods were in vogue for drilling down to the depths where base rock might be found. In this case the rock exists at a depth of seventy-two feet below Broadway, but the borings taken show that from the level some twenty-five feet below the church to a level of sixty feet there exists a strata of alluvial mud saturated with water. Apparently as long as this mud remained undisturbed no appreciable settlement took place, but with the building of the subway the tower began to lean in a very slow movement toward Wall Street." The tower, inspection showed, is in excellent condition, and no cracks were found in the stonework. The old con-

crete and rubble masonry foundation also was found in good condition and 90 per cent of it will be left in place to support the caissons.

* * *

Bishop Parsons' Wife Dies

Mrs. Edward Lambe Parsons, wife of the Bishop of California, died in the forenoon of August 19th, at St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco. Mrs. Parsons was the former Bertha DeForest Brush, of New Haven, Connecticut. Bishop and Mrs. Parsons were married in 1897. She had been ill for several weeks.

* * *

Clergy Endorse Constitutional Amendment

A Churchmen's committee for the workers' rights amendment has been formed, with Bishop Paul Jones, of Antioch, Ohio, as national chairman, and the Rev. Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union Theological Seminary, New York, as national secretary. The purpose of the committee is to campaign for the passage of the amendment which has been introduced in Congress, designed to give Congress power to enact welfare and labor legislation. The amendment has also been endorsed by the Ministers' Union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, which also plans a campaign for support. The amendment has received wide support from labor organizations.

* * *

Methodists Plan Merger

An important event in American Methodism occurred in Evanston, Illinois, at a meeting recently of representatives of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, who drew up a proposed constitution calling for a union of the three bodies. If the combination is finally effected, it will form probably the largest, numerically, Protestant denomination in the country. Constitutional procedure for effecting the union will probably require five years. Under the proposed constitution, six jurisdictional conferences would be set up. The constitution proposed regional administrative units and regional election of bishops, a departure from traditional Methodist policies. Present Methodist bishops will remain in office, under the plan, but several new bishops will necessarily be elected. Greater autonomy for foreign mission jurisdictions is provided for under the plan. Leading representatives of all three units of the Methodist church involved in the proposed union were present at the



REV. DICK SHEPPARD
Opposes All Wars

three-day session, held at the First Methodist church, Evanston. The plan for a union of the groups has been under consideration for a quarter century. The break between the northern and southern groups resulted from the Civil War. "The Methodist Church" was chosen as the title for the united church.

* * *

Committee Finds Labor Exploitation

The department of social service of the diocese of New Jersey was represented on a citizens investigation committee which disclosed in a report just issued a shocking state of labor conditions on the King's Farms, Morrisville, Pennsylvania, a large producing unit just across the Delaware River from Trenton. The Rev. Canon S. G. Welles cooperated with labor leaders and social workers in a first-hand examination of the operations of these farms. They discovered children eight years of age working in competition with adults, at the same jobs. Sanitary conditions were found to be dangerous to the moral and physical welfare of the workers. No drinking water was provided for the workers during the time the investigators were in the fields. Workers were kept waiting during the pay-off period every day for as long as three hours. The combined earnings of a mother and two children varied from \$1.50 to \$2 per day. Despite high speed work from sunrise to sunset no worker earned more than \$2 a day, with rare ex-

ceptions. The local courts appear to favor the management. The report of the committee deals extensively with a trial in which a discharged worker was prosecuted before Justice of the Peace Neal Nolan, of Morrisville. The report declares that the worker was convicted "on two charges of which the evidence plainly showed that he was not guilty." The committee further states: "Mr. Nolan conducted the trial in a manner prejudicial to the defendant. At one time, before any defense evidence had been given, he bullied the defendant into silence, and remarked that the latter was guilty of trespassing. He frequently assisted the attorney for King's Farms in questioning the witnesses." It is noteworthy that a representative of the Church was among those taking steps in such a situation.

* * *

Philadelphia Layman Dies

Harold Goodwin, prominent layman of the diocese of Pennsylvania and a member of the Philadelphia bar, died August 17, in Philadelphia, in his 85th year. He was active in the Evangelical Education Society and was for many years a trustee of the Philadelphia divinity school.

* * *

Mobile Church To Honor Rector

St. John's Church, Mobile, Alabama, will honor its rector, the Rev. Gardiner C. Tucker, on the fiftieth anniversary of his institution in the parish. A celebration has been arranged for September first, second and third.

* * *

Trenton Rector Ill

The Rev. Milton C. Craft, rector of Grace Church, Trenton, New Jersey, underwent an operation for appendicitis earlier this month. He has been in a serious condition since then, but is reported to be improving. Hopes are entertained for his recovery.

* * *

Hyde Park Rector On Worship

The Rev. Frank R. Wilson, rector of St. James Church, Hyde Park, New York, of which President Roosevelt is senior warden, preached last week in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York. He spoke on the duty of regular worship of God. "The fulfillment of the first commandment is one of our most important obligations," Mr. Wilson said. "Worship was ordained as a means whereby acceptable offerings and grace might be made. It is through regular worship at the church that we build up a relationship with God without

which no future successful relationship is possible." "Jesus was a man who loved to join people in their services at the synagogue, their prayers at home, and their songs and hymns," Mr. Wilson continued. "He spoke directly to the poor of his day, the unemployed who looked for work and could not find it, the man or woman who labored from dawn to midnight. Yet today we are neglecting the lesson he taught of regular worship."

Bishop Cross Gives Five Affirmations

Urging Christians to live on the affirmative side of religion, Bishop Edward M. Cross, of Spokane, preaching last week at St. Thomas' Church, New York, gave five affirmations to which a Christian must subscribe. They are as follows: "That Christ's revelation of God as our heavenly Father is true and dependable. That when we speak of ourselves as children of God, we mean what we say. Because we are His children, we are necessary to Him as He is to us. Because we are His children, we ourselves are His purpose. That the fulfillment of His purpose, which we are, is not possible without effort on our part to be at one with Him."

Church Linked to Literature

Among the historical markers erected recently by the State Education Department of the State of New York is one for St. Luke's Church, at Richfield, which reads:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, organized May 20, 1799. Father Nash, first Rector, noted Missionary mentioned in Cooper's "The Pioneers."

St. Luke's is a chapel in the countryside in charge of the rector at Richfield Springs, the Rev. Allen Webster Brown.

Church School Officers Conference Planned

A two day conference for Church school superintendents, teachers and clergy is to be held at St. Peter's Church, Chicago, September 7 and 8. "Bridging the Gap for the Child" will be the theme of the conference, which is being held under the auspices of the diocesan department of religious education, Vera C. Gardner, director. The Rev. John B. Hubbard, St. Mary's, Park Ridge, will give the opening address. Other speakers and leaders will include: Marcella Prugh, Winnetka; Mrs. Ada Cordick, St. Bartholomew's; Mrs. Norris Boehmer, St. Mark's, Evanston; Katherine Martin, St. Joseph's; Mrs. Gowen C. Williams, Glen Ellyn; Mrs. Cleon Bigler, Western Springs;

Rev. John Heuss, St. Luke's pro-cathedral, Evanston, and the Rev. Alfred Newbery, Atonement. One of the features of the conference will be the first showing in the middle west of the motion picture, "The New World," depicting the history of the Church in the United States and prepared in connection with the last General Convention in Atlantic City.

* * *

Praise for Berkeley School

The Berkeley Divinity School, New Haven, receives a boost from The Catholic Transcript, Roman

Catholic paper published in Hartford. Commenting on the proposed merger of the school with the Cambridge Seminary, thus depriving the state of Berkeley, the paper says:

"Without passing on the orthodoxy of that institution it would be easy to maintain successfully that, outside of the Catholic Church, Berkeley Divinity School has done more to spread and maintain the religion of Christ, as He founded it, than any other college or university in this commonwealth. In these days when religion is receiving, not encouragement but deep opposition and reckless ridicule at the hands of

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Evelyn Spickard, Atonement; the many of our professors, the departure of a center of religious instruction has about it the flavor of catastrophe."

* * *

Memorial Held for Will Rogers

The Rev. Charles T. Hull, rector of St. Paul's-by-the-Lake, Rogers Park, Chicago, was the leader of a memorial service for Will Rogers and Wiley Post, held at Rogers Park on August 19. The service was a community affair, and was attended by the vested choir of St. Paul's.

* * *

Quiet Day for Prayer

Armistice Day, November 11th, is again to be a quiet day for prayer for the women of the Church, according to Miss Grace Lindley, executive secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary. A new pamphlet has been prepared for use on that day which may be secured from the Church Missions House.

* * *

Announces New Council Publication

The Rev. B. H. Reinheimer, executive secretary of the field department of the National Council, has announced that a four page bulletin is to be published by the department during September, October and November, to be used during the every member canvass. It is to be published twice a month during this period and mailed to the parochial clergy.

* * *

Roman Church Burns, Accepts Use of Ours

Some time ago the Roman Catholic Church of the Blessed Sacrament at Allegan, Michigan, burned to the ground. The vestry of our Church of the Good Shepherd, of which the Rev. Albert Linnell Schrock is rector, with the advice and consent of Bishop McCormick, offered the Roman priest the full

and free use of the church. He gratefully accepted, and since that time his congregation has been using our church and our altar, with all the ornaments and equipment, for one or more Masses every Sunday and on the principal Holy Days, and for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A fine spirit of friendship between the two congregations has resulted. The Roman Catholic congregation is building a splendid brick and stone church to be completed in the early autumn.

* * *

Vermont Rector in Michigan

The Rev. Hugh H. F. Morton, rector of Holy Trinity Church, Swanton and St. John's, Highgate, Vermont, was in charge of St. Luke's Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan, during August. The rector of St. Luke's, the Rev. A. Gordon Fowkes, is spending the summer in Europe.

* * *

Michigan Daughters of King Meet

The annual meeting of the Daughters of the King of the diocese of Western Michigan was held in All Saints' Church August 13th. At a corporate communion all the members present renewed their vows as members of the Order. Officers for the year were elected as follows: president, Georgia R. Russell, of St. Luke's Church, Kalamazoo; vice-president, Mrs. J. A. McNulty, Emmanuel Church, Hastings; secretary and treasurer, C. Falkingham, Benton Harbor; extension secretary, Mrs. M. V. Burlingame, Grace

Church, Grand Rapids. The session closed with an admission service for new members and installation of

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officers. The Rev. J. A. McNulty, rector of Emmanuel Church, Hastings, was in charge of the services, assisted by the Rev. A. L. Schrock, vicar of All Saints' Mission.

* * *

Service for Deaf-Mutes Held

A service for 700 deaf-mutes from 14 nations was held recently in St. Paul's Cathedral, London. They were athletes attending the fourth international games for the deaf and mute. The service was conducted in the international sign language. It was a touching service, the congregation joining in singing and praying without a sound being heard. One after the other, chaplains and missionaries, some of them also deaf, mounted the lofty pulpit and voicelessly acted out the prayers, hymns and songs with eloquent looks and gestures.

* * *

School Adds to Faculty

St. Alban's School for Boys, Sycamore, Illinois, of which the Rev. Chas. L. Street is headmaster, will add Harold Holt to its faculty during the fall term, which opens September 19. Mr. Holt is a candidate for Holy Orders. Walter McNeil of Elgin has been appointed assistant business manager.

* * *

Church Army Gets Results

Mission Sister L. Sherman of the Church Army, stationed near Scottsboro, Alabama, recently reported that on visiting the home of one of the children of the daily vacation Bible school, the mother said, "My husband drinks and sometimes we don't dare go to church. He threatens to kill us. We try not to do anything to oppose him. We like the Episcopal Church. I'm willing for the girl to be baptized, but don't dare do so. Perhaps the mission will in some way help my husband." Capt. Conder, who is preaching a mission here, visited the home and found the man under a tree reading the Bible. At the close of the mission during the singing of "Stand Up for Jesus," the man and wife and children all came forward to be baptized.

From South Dakota, Mission Sister C. Gunton tells of one new family with six small children brought into contact with the Church. "Three of the children attended Bible School and the whole family turned out for the service and the picnic. The oldest child, a girl of ten, quite surprised me one day as I was walking down the road with her. She said, 'You know I like that prayer you say beginning "Our Father." Mother had a copy of it

on a paper and the other day she sent me upstairs to take care of the baby and I took that paper with me and learned it'."

* * *

Youth Conference to Be Held

A conference for young people of Northern Illinois, sponsored by Gamma Kappa Delta, will be held Aug. 30 to Sept. 2 at Lake Geneva, Ill. The conference will seek to determine youth's outlook for 1936, and will be marked by open and frank discussions with relation to the Church's program for youth, Leigh H. Hunt, president of G.K.D., announced. Courses of special interest to young people will be offered. The Rev. James McN. Wheatley of Fort Wayne, Ind., the Rev. Ray Everett Carr, St. Peter's, Chicago, the Rev. John B. Hubbard, Park Ridge, and the Rev. John Heuss of St. Luke's pro-cathedral, will be among the instructors.

* * *

Liked Prize But Not the Picture

The Minnesota diocesan publicity director, Miss Gwendolyn G. Thomas, walked away with the first prize offered by the Minneapolis Tribune for a news story on one session of a conference called by that paper for press women of the state. Miss Thomas attended the conference as press chairman for the Woman's Auxiliary. At the last possible moment she decided it was her duty to submit a story for the contest. Some 500 stories were entered and Miss Thomas, wise to ways of newspapers, soon concluded that she had not won because the paper had not asked her for a picture. On the day the winner was to be announced she opened

the paper to be confronted with her own name as winner "and a terrible picture they had dug out of their files."

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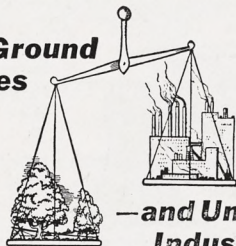
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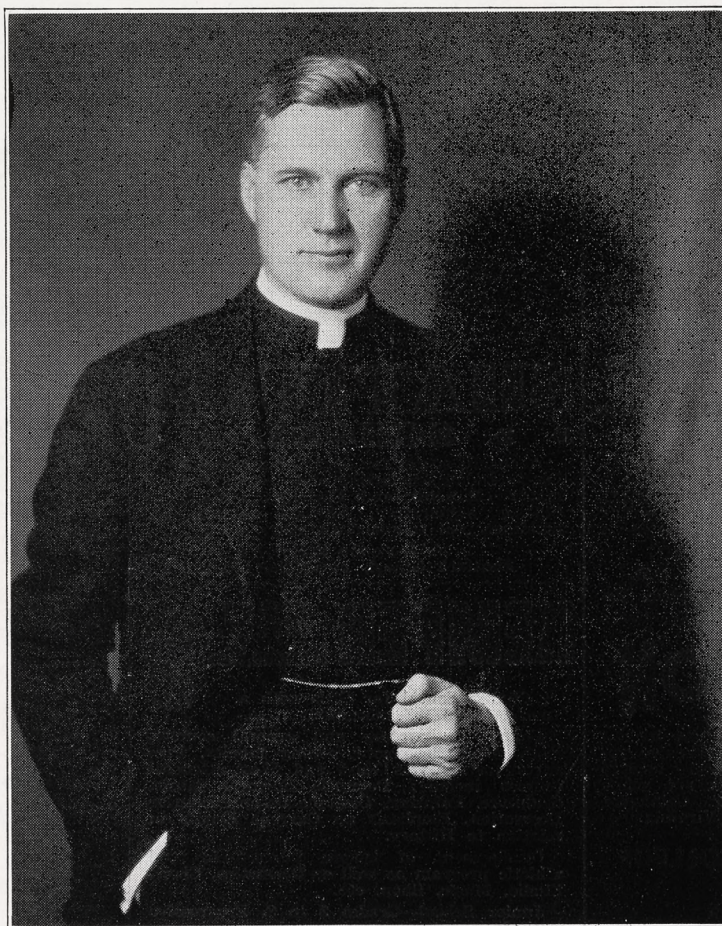
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