The Position of the Churches in the Map

The orthodox Christian Churches of all ages, following the plain teachings and acts of Christ, have accepted disease and death as physical facts.

These Churches also accept the doctrine of Science that certain diseases are communicable from one person to others, either by contagion or infection.

The local Churches therefore did not object to the recent closing order, in itself, as a means of preventing the spread of the disease; but because it did not go far enough to furnish real protection.

The Christian Church also believes, in the use of material agents to effect a cure of disease. We affirm that the use of these is entirely consistent with the religion of Christ, and that they are necessary for divine blessing upon all human curative measures.

Believing this, the Christian Church has always encouraged the prescription of medicines, from the days of St. Paul, and the Church has always supported the use of medicines, almost from the time of Christ, while all the time believing that the absence of cures was due to the Creator. Thus faith and work have been hand in hand, according to the command of the Lord.

The co-operation of divine forces with human agencies is recognized even by our greatest military leader, as was the case in the recent fighting, when the breaking of the perfection of England's preparations for war, said: "I know there was an unexpected success in the first battle of the Marne, but the events of the munities. What we need now is a nation upon its knees before God." Only God Almighty could have done it, but we do not consider it, "Somebody must have been praying."

If God may be supposed to be able to bless human effort in defeating the Hun, it is also reasonable to assume that He will add His divine power to the effort to overcome the present plague.

The local Churches, therefore, approved of the declaration of the civil authority, that it cut off all organized spiritual forces from co-operating, and directed the ravages of this epidemic, and deprived them of the opportunity to serve our community in its present distress.

There was also another reason for our decision.

No sectarian will deny that a mill-wheel is as deadly in a commercial or social group of people as it is in a church.

And yet, the churches, with their unselfish and creative services, were kept from acting by the Civil Authority, because it cut off all organized spiritual forces from co-operating with the ravages of this epidemic, and deprived them of the opportunity to serve our community in its present distress.

Since the Church is a corporation, and has all the rights and responsibilities of a corporation, it is not under the same laws that govern a private company. The Churches, therefore, could not be prevented from doing the "all" work, which operates har- nessed for personal profit, and which has to be done, for the public.

(Continued on page 7)
was greater in the daily operation of the many business places than from the weekly services of the few Churches, the Church-closing order was largely a farce as far as really safeguarding the health and lives of our people is concerned. It looked, moreover, as if a higher value was being placed upon the dollar than upon human life.

The Churches, therefore, had the right to protest this unfair discrimination against their helpful work, and they owed a duty to their constituents to use all proper means to secure more effective safety measures. We asked no special privileges, but we did want, and were entitled to, a “square deal.”

An appeal was therefore courteously made to the civil authorities, on the ground that if they were as afraid of the “flu” germ as they professed to be, they would curtail its freedom as drastically in the market place as in the churches. And our confidence was well founded, as recent developments have shown.

Believing that the proper official action is now in process of being taken to safeguard the vital interests of the community, we cheerfully bend every effort to the fullest cooperation with the civil authorities in their difficult task.

The Churches, therefore, as law-abiding institutions, will remain closed so long as such restrictions are necessary in all other places of our community life. And we appreciate the whole-hearted way in which commercial interests have responded since the public danger has been laid before them.

Moreover, the several Churches, Catholic and Protestant, desire to be advised of any ways in which they can be of direct service to families who are affected by the epidemic. A telephone call to the clergy is all that is needed.