

WORLD DOMINION

The World Dominion Movement advocates Informed Continuous Co-ordinated Evangelism to reach everyone at home and abroad. Its basis is belief in the Deity and Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the World's Only Saviour, and in the Final Authority of Holy Scripture.

Editor: THOMAS COCHRANE.

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- REV. E. MOREIRA is a poet of distinction, and the author of numerous works. He was formerly Private Secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs and for six years was Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Portugal. He is closely associated with the World Dominion Movement, and has been doing a special service in the interests of all the missions in Portuguese East Africa.

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Bible Convention. Dr. Scroggie's Correspondence Course has at present 274 on the register. This is a most helpful Bible Study Course which has now been taken by thousands. Further enrolments will be welcomed. For particulars write to National House, Mildmay Conference Centre.

The Rev. John Scroggie has joined the Honorary Secretarial staff at Mildmay. A welcome meeting was held on 5th March for the Rev. Stanley A. Baker (author of *An Adventure for God*). He, with the Rev. H. C. C. McCullough, Captain of the 'Essex Five' (who will be joining the group of Mildmay leaders in the near future) will form a Mildmay Evangelistic Team.

Special prayer is asked for the important campaigns in Wales in which the Rev. Lionel B. Fletcher will shortly be engaged.

For all the activities of Mildmay, which, in addition to the above, include Bible-classes, lectures, prayer circles, etc., prayer is earnestly requested.

The Story of the World To-day

THROUGHOUT the winter months the Government of the United States has been greatly concerned with the burden of its 16,500,000 unemployed. Alongside of this alarming figure stands the curious fact that the receipts in the beauty parlours of New York State alone totalled £6,000,000 for the year 1933.

At a Conference on Crime and Crime Control, the Attorney-General described the situation as 'an intolerable breakdown of law and order,' and said that there are more people in the underworld carrying deadly weapons than there are in the army and navy of the United States. As a contrast to this sombre picture it is cheering to find the forces of righteousness protesting against interference with religious liberty in various countries, including Mexico, and a growing agitation against questionable films.

The Mexican Government is determined to free education and culture 'from all religious bias and dogmatism.' The Government, of course, is left free to indulge in dogmatism! The dogmatism of such a dictatorship cannot continue; the dogmatism of God's laws will vindicate itself in the long run.

Brazil, to which, Sr. Moreira proudly refers in his open letter, is so large that, as we have mentioned before, if it were as thickly populated as Belgium it could accommodate the population of the world. The survey* of this huge territory was written for the World

* *The Republic of Brazil*, by Erasmo Braga and K. G. Grubb, World Dominion Press. Price 5/6, post paid.

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Dominion Movement (in conjunction with Mr. Grubb) by the late Dr. Erasmo Braga, to whose fine personality and great gifts of mind the Rotary Club in Rio de Janeiro recently paid a warm tribute. The Japanese are still emigrating in large numbers to Brazil. The quota for the last year was 27,000. The Brazilian Evangelization Society is deeply and practically interested in the evangelization of Portugal.

The strides with which Colombia is advancing out of medievalism are remarkable, but, like progressive movements elsewhere, the important question of the spiritual condition of the nation receives little attention.

In Cuba there has been a strike of doctors. This is surely unique. Suppose that in the middle of an operation the surgeon were suddenly to 'down tools,' what an outcry there would be! And yet many strikes have imposed the most cruel hardships and endangered life. All honour to the men and women in the medical profession! Their works of charity are legion and their unpaid bills are numerous enough to overcome their altruism which, however, never flags.

Serious efforts are being made by Liberia to remove the evils to which the League of Nations called attention in 1930. The export of labourers to Fernando Po and the punitive operations against the Krus have ceased. The eradication of slavery in the hinterland will, however, be a slow business.

The problems of North Africa are delicate and difficult. Added to the perennial one concerning the status of Italian nationals in Tunisia, the French are faced with unrest among Tunisian Arabs and a movement for autonomy which was characterized by riots. Our own correspondent, writing recently, says :

' There has been no serious recurrence of disturbance through the agitation for reform or more self-government. But towards the close of Ramadan (which ended here on 5th January) there was a disorderly demonstration during the Bey's visit in the chief mosque. A number of leading agitators are still banished to the extreme south of the country, and the causes of unrest remain. During Ramadan, ill-feeling has been stirred up against the few converts from Islam, expressed in insults and even blows. The missionary band has received a few additions this autumn, but is still much smaller in number than it was a few years ago. No forward movement! From time to time various newspapers published here or abroad in Arabic and other languages are prohibited.

' As regards the hold of Ramadan on the country, it is impossible to give any definite opinion. At the one extreme we may be told that half the Moslems do not fast, which, even as regards Moslem *men*, is certainly a great exaggeration; at the other, we see out-

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wardly practically no sign of the fast being broken, and recently a French paper stated that four Natives who began to smoke before sunset were attacked and had to be taken to the police station for their own safety. The truth may lie in the statement that somewhere between ten to twenty per cent. break the fast, fear and custom holding many more back from following their example.'

A World Dominion Survey recently called attention to British Somaliland* as a field without a Christian missionary. Its population is small, about 300,000, in an area about the size of England. The Government is developing the country by means of roads, wireless and hospitals. If there are some keen Christians among those from Christian lands who work there, then Somaliland is not without a witness. Non-professional missionaries are needed everywhere; if there were enough of them, our missionary task would soon take on a different complexion. Two missionaries who were not allowed to land in Somaliland are now settled at Aden, and are working happily among Somalis there. Perhaps Christian Somalis will carry the Gospel to Somaliland just as the Moslems carried Mohammedanism! At Tamale, in the Gold Coast, a chapel has been built by a number of educated English-speaking Africans from the coastal tribes where the Gospel has been preached for a number of years. This chapel will be used for work amongst the Dagomba people.

Problems connected with 'black' and 'white' and 'poor white' still await solution in South Africa. The new United Party of South Africa, formed by the coming together of the Dutch and British parties, is of far-reaching importance and may help towards ultimate complete racial harmony.

Ten full-blooded aborigines waited on the Australian Minister of the Interior on 23rd January last to complain that their children were growing up as heathen. It is hoped that something may be done to give them some form of representation in parliament.

In India, the year 1934 will be remembered as marked out by two great catastrophes, an earthquake and floods. The earthquake affected an area of about 300,000 square miles, and was of an intensity unparalleled in the history of India. The people, beholding the demolition of thousands of ancient holy shrines and temples, were convinced that the hand of God was not for them, but against them. The result has been a remarkable breaking down of ancient barriers; the caste barrier, the religious barrier and the race barrier. Who could have thought it possible, that any one barrier, which has been part of the life of a nation for at least two millenniums, could be broken down? But in this catastrophe we see not one, but three

* *Light and Darkness in East Africa*, World Dominion Press. Price 3/10 and 5/6, post paid.

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barriers shaken to their foundations. If the loss in property due to the earthquake was on an unprecedented scale, the loss in produce of the fields and in livestock owing to the floods was equally severe. It will surely be asked, what is the present effect of this twofold visitation and what does it portend? New doors for the Gospel will be opened everywhere, so that the missionary enterprise will receive a new impetus throughout the length and breadth of this land. What is so hopeful is that room is made for Christian laymen to help in the distribution of the Word of Life on a scale hitherto unknown.

Indigenous ideals are taking a firmer hold upon missionary thinking everywhere. In Burma the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has handed over its work at Toungoo to the Karen Church, and is attempting the evangelization of an unreached area on the Salween River, and, after establishing local Churches, hopes to pass on to new centres. The paucity of American Baptist missionaries for evangelistic work among Burmans is causing concern. Some are doubting whether the many schools under the control of the Mission are of sufficient evangelistic value, especially in view of increasing Government restrictions. The Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society is now occupying four centres in Arakan. Akyab and Minbya (among Arakanese), Paletna (for the hill tribes of Khumis and Mros) and Buthidaung for the 300,000 Bengali Moslems in Arakan.

The political outlook in China is largely unchanged. The attitude of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, communists in Kiangsi now driven out and moving west, and the ever-present menace of Japan in the north are the chief political anxieties of the Central Government. In China, the pendulum swings between pessimism and optimism. The transfer of the Chinese Eastern Railway is of the greatest importance in the Far East. It has been associated (as *The Times* reminds us) with political complications ever since it was constructed. There are between 6,000 and 7,000 Russian employees on the railway, and the Japanese cannot replace the whole staff at a moment's notice, so probably the process will be gradual, and there is danger of friction. The whole railway is in need of repair, which will cost at least 100,000,000 yen. It can never be run as a commercial enterprise, but will be invaluable in the case of war. Large orders for rails and rolling stock will probably be placed in Europe and America, and so members of the League of Nations will find themselves supplying 'military material' to a State outside the League, to be employed in possible warfare with the League's newest member.

Japan is suffering from a wave of nationalism. She feels her isolation on the question of China and Manchukuo. On grounds

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of prestige she claims a right to build ships which may never actually be built. Indigenous faiths are identifying themselves with the rising tide of nationalism and are, therefore, popular. Christianity, because of its international character, is losing favour. The Japanese Christian is more patriotic than his Buddhist and Shintu neighbour because his patriotism is sane and of the quality which must become universal if the world is to be saved from chaos and catastrophe. Japan is problem-weary. The combined expenditure on army and navy is forty-seven per cent. of the total budget.

Jews now form twenty-three per cent. of the population of Palestine. This is the largest Jewish percentage in any one country. The importance of Palestine will be enhanced when the proposed air ports for England-India traffic are established at Lydda and Haifa. The authorities of Syria and the Lebanon have decided to permit Jewish immigration.

In the General Election which took place in Turkey on 8th February, seventeen women were returned to the new Grand National Assembly. Twenty years ago every woman was veiled, now they are not required to wear hats in the Assembly. The law forbidding priests to wear their own distinctive dress has caused a storm of protest from the Greek ecclesiastics in Turkey. It is now proposed to do away with Sunday rest and Saints' days. Outward changes without inward grace, however, will not make for true progress. As a matter of fact, the present régime in Turkey seems to be as anti-religious as that in Soviet Russia.

Arabia, which we have often termed the keystone of the Moslem arch, is of growing importance, and the World Dominion Movement is keeping in close touch with the situation. American financiers are prepared to invest a large amount of money in developing Arabia's resources. The motor-car, the wireless and the aeroplane are changing Arabia and its Bedouin life. The pilgrimage to Mecca will be greatly affected by improved communications.

There are two tremendously important centres of influence in the world to-day : one is found in Eastern and Central Asia, and the other in the Latin world. The pulsations of the first reach from Japan, west, north and south, through Korea, Manchukuo, Central Asia and China, and directly affect from one-third to one-quarter of the human race. The other affects south-east Europe, the Near East, and huge regions in Africa, and is directed by France and Italy, with the following results, actual or impending : a guarantee of Austrian independence ; the settlement of colonial difficulties in Africa ; a concession of territory to be added to Italian Libya (which is already huge) of 43,000 square miles ; a strip of French Somaliland to be added to Italian Eritrea ; France to give Italy shares in the railway running from the coast to the Abyssinian

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capital ; the solution of the fifty-year old problem of the status of Italian subjects in Tunisia.

If the proposals now being considered for the economic unity of France and her colonies succeed, they will prove the triumph of co-ordination and will point the way for a world-wide economic plan.

Germany takes a big place in the world story of to-day. Herr Hitler greets the results of the Saar plebiscite as a step towards Franco-German reconciliation. God grant that it may be so ! The greatest gift to Germany to-day would be a sense of humour, a good cartoonist, and liberty to laugh. The great German nation, by its political denunciation and racial ravings, its new deities and its deliberate attempt to create the impression that Germany is surrounded with jealous enemies, is spreading bitterness at home and abroad.

Towards the end of last year rumours were persistently circulated of serious dissensions existing under the orderly surface of things in Germany. In view of the strict censorship, however, it is difficult to arrive either at the facts, or at a correct estimate of their importance. Superficially there is little to suggest that, after two years, any serious danger threatens the existence of the Nazi State ; but as it exists and as it is likely to develop, the picture is one that differs from that which filled the imagination of the young Storm Troopers in the days when they wandered and fought in the wilderness. What *The Times* calls ' moderate influences ' are growing stronger, which means that there is a more staid and conservative spirit in the leadership. For all the difference that the Nazis have wrought, it seems ever more likely that the new Germany will not be so unlike the old as at one time seemed probable. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.*

There is a ceaseless effort by Roman Catholic priests in Italy to defend the faith from Protestant inroads. The Waldensian Church, being Italian, and, therefore, more able to do so than foreign missions, has decided to act vigorously in defence of its liberties. Its life is vigorous and although its home contributions have increased, its activities have been greatly curtailed owing to diminution of gifts from abroad, especially America. We wish it were possible for this Church to extend its activities to various parts of Italian Africa, but we fear its vision as well as its purse is limited. The ' Brethren,' ardent and active, are handicapped more than other communities because the State makes difficulties for Churches which are not organized. The Pentecostal Church is no longer recognized, because the authorities did not like the character of its meetings. On the 1st February Signor Mussolini swore in 10,000 instructors for the newly-formed juvenile Fascist Army of 1,000,000

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youths. Militarism at home, together with professions of peace abroad, mark both Germany and Italy.

The 'Riddle of Russia' might be used as the title of the news which reaches us from various sources. A perusal of Russian magazines shows the large place which anti-religious propaganda takes in such literature. The war budget estimates for a thirty per cent. increase over that for 1934. This year sees a return of the famine conditions which prevailed in the Ukraine and elsewhere in 1933. Four very illuminating articles appeared in *The Times* of 2nd to 8th January. In the concluding article, analyzing the foundations of Soviet rule, the writer points out the drawbacks of Marxist education. The 170,000,000 citizens of the Soviet Union are governed by fear. Russia's hopes are based on the rising generation, and this fear-psychology can only affect the young people adversely. 'The young communists,' says Mr. Fleming, 'are as full of Marxism as an egg is of meat; and as empty of anything else.' It is declared that in Russia 100,000 churches of all sects are still open.

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