

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.

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Current History

IN NORTH AMERICA a recent survey of one thousand Churches showed that only twenty-five per cent of registered members were supporting their Churches by personal attendance ; that only thirty per cent of the seats in United States churches were being used and that Sunday Schools are losing their appeal even faster than adult worship. Between 1931 and 1935 Sunday School attendance declined by eight per cent, church attendance by one per cent.

Four years hence, in CALIFORNIA, a mammoth slab of fused quartz, which, between now and then, will be ground, polished and tested, till it forms a mirror for a mighty telescope (twice as big as any that now exists) will be examining space 1,200,000,000 light years distant from the earth. A poor boy who left Scotland in 1848 to try his luck in America amassed great wealth and established the Mount Wilson Observatory, and now this is a further development in the same direction. Some very large gifts have lately been placed at the disposal of scientists. Would that more were available for the vital work of world evangelization ! Dr. Graham Scroggie is going to California to clarify, we believe, the spiritual vision of thousands. We wish that our power to do this spiritual extension work all over the world would be recognized as a claim upon stewardship of wealth.

As the life of nations is measured, it is not so long since the feudal days when JAPAN was governed by a war lord in the name of an Emperor, sacred and secluded. Have we not a somewhat parallel case in ITALY to-day ? The recent troubles in Japan, when young officers revolted, were really symptoms of the desire of the fighting services to be free from political control. There is a movement in Japan which seeks to synthesize the doctrines of Marx and Mussolini inside the traditional Imperial Japan—to have an Empire built on the principles of State Socialism.

Japan's continental development has extended her defence commitments to the far-off Manchukuo-Soviet frontiers. To meet her defence requirements may strain resources needed to develop productive power and Japan's population is dependent on her foreign trade. China may greatly strengthen Japan's position if good will between these two countries can be established, but the military, having aroused the hatred of the Chinese, are the last people in the world to ensure this. China accuses Japan, not only of cruelty, but of an attempt to undermine the morale of her people by encouraging the sale of opium. The Chinese Government has been so stirred up on this question that it is seeking to cope

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with the evil by making cures compulsory. In other words, opium addicts must cure themselves or be cured ; the alternative is a death sentence.

In giving world news we cannot pick and choose save from one standpoint, viz., has what we select a bearing upon our supreme purpose to get a survey of the world situation, which will help us to pray and work intelligently for world evangelization? Some readers of the *Prayer Bulletin* objected to a recent reference which was made to Kagawa and they sent a booklet criticizing his theological phraseology. Will our readers look again at the Basis on the Index page of WORLD DOMINION? If we refuse news because we do not agree with the writer's views we shall have to give up our daily newspapers. We accept the whole Bible, including the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians, which tells us that the 'greatest of these is charity.' We are inclined to think that if St. Paul were writing that epistle to-day he would include somewhere in the second and third verses 'and though I believe in the Bible from cover to cover. . .' Some of our friends are in danger of creating the impression that they are no longer Christians, but only Fundamentalists. One of the great needs of to-day is a strong body of Christian men and women who could be described as 'charitable conservatives.' There is a tendency for 'sound' men and women to withdraw from Councils at home and abroad when these Councils are suspected of 'liberalism' and 'modernism.' Should they not stay in them as loving champions of a Biblical position? Some appear unable to read anything without continuously overstraining their eyes to discover traces of 'modernism.' We have been reading one of Kagawa's speeches through our Thirteenth of First Corinthians spectacles and have found it to be one of the best things we have seen on the subject of the evangelization of rural Japan. For over twenty years we have been urging the importance of rural evangelization in Japan. We rejoice to see Kagawa's plan for a thousand rural Churches and to find him declaring that love is not the characteristic of Buddhism or Confucianism, but that Christianity is the Gospel of love, the Gospel of the Cross and that this Gospel means everything for Japan.

It is hoped that during the current year evangelistic campaigns will be conducted in some of the larger cities of Japan. There is an awakening among national leaders regarding the need of religious education in the training of the youth of the nation, and a Religious Education Number of the *Kingdom of God Weekly* will be published for distribution among teachers. The Japanese Overseas Evangelistic Association has agreed to continue the policy of assisting the work for Japanese emigrants in Brazil and in the Philippine Islands. It has also been decided to continue to co-operate with the

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Manchukuo Evangelistic Society ; this latter is a Japanese international organization pioneering in Manchukuo.

Educated CHINESE declare that the ultimate Japanese objective is to turn all China into a protectorate, and so to control the situation that all voices of opposition from the Chinese people will be silenced.

On the occasion of the visit to America in April of Bishop J. W. Pickett, compiler of the Mass Movement Survey of INDIA, a letter was sent to him from the office of the All India Adi Hindu Depressed Classes Conference in Lucknow. The letter requests the Bishop to enlighten the public in the West of the real state of the depressed classes. The Hindus in India number 240,000,000 ; of these 75,000,000 are the so-called Caste-Hindus who 'have seized and held the wealth, land, trade, political power and the leadership of the country.' The remaining 160,000,000 are divided into two parts ; the first numbers about 85,000,000, and is called *Chhut-Sudras*, or Touchable Sudras, the other part numbers 75,000,000, and is called *Achhut Sudras*, or Untouchables. The letter goes on :

'The Brahmin priests and politicians have so barred our way to progress that even in the times of British rule we cannot raise our heads. These depressed classes are the real producers of everything, they till the land, dig canals for irrigation, take out every kind of raw materials, etc., do the hardest work, and, in return, live half-starved and half-naked the whole of their days. The profits derived by the hard labour of the depressed classes, under the scorching sun of the summer and the piercing cold winds of the winter, go into the coffers of these caste Hindu Zamindars, money lenders, etc.

'But since British rule in India the Christian missionaries came to the rescue of the depressed classes and a considerable number have embraced Christianity, most of whom have reached high positions and are looked upon with respect. The few members of the depressed classes who have received education and are now in the forefront of the fight for the rights of their brethren are largely the fruits of the hard labour of Christian Missions which have done a great deal in spreading education amongst the masses.'

Finally the letter concluded :

'We are sure that the liberty of these dumb millions can only come through the Grace of the Lord Jesus. We see in the Bible that He served the poor and needy all His life and at last died in their cause.'

A meeting to welcome Bishop Pickett, as he passed through England, was held at Mildmay. Mildmay took the initiative at a critical moment and made Dr. Pickett's follow-up work of the Mass Movement Survey possible. This is leading to remarkable results.

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From Mildmay, with the co-operation of the missions working in India, a meeting is being organized in the Central Hall, Westminster, for Thursday, 8th October, when His Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury, will preside. Early application for tickets should be made to the Rev. W. H. Pratt, Mildmay Conference Centre, London, N.E. Dr. Pickett will speak and the platform will be worthy of the occasion.

A terrible possibility arises in AFRICA. *L'Afrique Française* calls attention to a statement given by Sir Abe Bailey, the mining magnate of South Africa and the spiritual successor of Cecil Rhodes, who calls attention to the keen interest taken by South Africa in the war between Italy and Abyssinia. This arises from the conviction of the danger to Africa of forming the natives into armies in the service of European nations. Italy is employing large forces from her colonies of Eritrea and Somaliland, and, given the conquest of Abyssinia, may be expected to drill the Ethiopians as France has drilled the natives of Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. South Africa would then be forced to follow the same course for her protection, and thus there would soon ensue the training of the whole of black Africa in modern methods of war. The writer points out that Great Britain contents herself with training small bodies of native military police in Africa, but not native armies.

In the ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN, at New Omdurman, there is a substitute for war. Within the great mosque square itself, in sight of the Mahdi's tomb, still standing ruined as left by Kitchener's guns, enthusiastic crowds gather to watch football matches played between Sudanese clerks and British troops from the Khartoum garrison, sons perhaps on both sides of men who fought against each other at the battle of Omdurman.

The Governor-General of the BELGIAN CONGO accepted an invitation to the *Conseil Protestant du Congo* to attend a session of the Council. He expressed sincere appreciation of the excellent work of Protestant missions and assured the Council that no confessional discrimination would be exercised in the choice of candidates for the medical schools. He commented on the fine Christian character of many of the Congo converts but, referring to trouble caused by pseudo-Christian movements, recommended missions to maintain authority. The promoters of these movements are subtle enough to make an appeal to consciences only partly enlightened by Christian teaching. But for *missions* to maintain *control* is against indigenous principles, and is likely to foment rather than to prevent trouble. The solution lies in *more* Christian teaching. In all mission fields so much attention is given to secular education that there is not enough time for Christian teaching—the education of Christians by Christians with the Bible as the text-book.

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In RUSSIA Stalin has the final word in a nation of 168,000,000 people. The echo of his voice does not resound throughout Europe like that of Hitler or Mussolini, he is said to live a simple life, but he holds Russia in the hollow of his hand. Perhaps if he had been brought face to face with the Christ of the Gospels instead of the Christ of a decadent Orthodox Church he might have been the evangelical apostle of Russia. *Le Semeur* reports that, from the pages of the Soviet press and the press of the Russian emigrants from their country, indications may be gathered as to the religious situation in Russia. In the country parts many young Communists, finding no abiding satisfaction in mere materialism, follow after occultism. Some, however, return to the religion of the Church and support it with their gifts. The Review, *Bezbojnik*, organ of the militant Godless, states that priests are numerous on the collective farms where they celebrate religious feasts, baptize the children and bury the dead. There is a movement also back to the usage of ancient Russia when hermits dwelt in the forests and caves, and it is stated that one thousand priests and intellectuals have fled into the forests in the north of the Volga, where they conduct religious gatherings during the night. *Bezbojnik* (quoted above) publishes a statement that religious faith among the people is kept alive in a notable way by travelling priests who carry on their persons what is necessary for the celebration of the Holy Communion and the liturgical service. Hopes for the reopening of churches long closed, centre in the popular influence of these travelling servants of the Christian religion.

In ITALY the situation of the Evangelical Churches remains substantially the same. Some that do not conform in all points to legal requirements have been hindered in their work. The Duce has been cordial to the Waldensian Church. The Roman Catholic priesthood shows a growing intolerance towards the Evangelicals.

THE JEWISH WORLD.

The work of co-ordinating efforts to remove 100,000 Jews from Germany during the next four years was begun in London, when Jewish leaders inaugurated a series of conferences on that subject. It has a plan to raise £1,000,000 in Britain and £2,000,000 in the United States from amongst the Jewish people in these two countries in order to finance the emigration of Jews from Germany. It also plans to settle 50,000 Jews in Palestine during the next four years and another 50,000 in other countries.