

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

HARA KIRI.

The various countries of the world are being drawn closer day by day. In 1914 a murder in Serbia started the World War, and a little country—Belgium—became a deciding factor. A small country, Korea, because of political rivalries, changed the whole course of history in the Far East. In the years of the Great War a submarine bobbed up under the Statue of Liberty and America realized that she could not segregate herself from the rest of the world. When in 1911 Bleriot crossed the English Channel without touching water the 'Silver Streak' lost tremendously in defensive value. If all this proved then that the world was shrinking, this truth is much more evident to-day when one can start from England in the early morning and dine in Egypt the same night. Soon, a week-end visit to America and *vice versa* will be a commonplace experience.

The Spanish War is creating repercussions everywhere. Talk about the vast scheme of British re-armament has been throbbing through the ether and echoing in every radio set. Let us hope that it is having a sobering influence and creating, as its spokesman Mr. Chamberlain said, shame and disgust, and that it will contribute to the conviction that modern warfare is suicidal folly.

In all this talk and fear of war, an anticlimax, which savours of a touch of humour, is reported by the *Manchester Guardian* which says that, in the midst of fire-eating dispatches which have been recently received, comes one reporting a Japanese Imperial New Year's Poetry Contest, held in the Emperor's palace. The theme, selected by the Emperor himself, was 'A Farmhouse in Snow,' and 41,496 poems dealing with it were submitted for reading and judgement. Thus, over 40,000 bards were singing of snow-flakes drifting around the thatched eaves of a farmhouse, when the military and civil powers were challenging each other to *Hara Kiri!*

FAR EAST.

While all the world is going mad there is a call for courage of a far finer and more testing quality than that which to-day's dictators demand. The response to Christianity of the aboriginal tribes on the remote borders of China's Kwangsi and Kweichow provinces has been very encouraging, and little wonder, because the Chinese who accompanied the missionaries of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in their difficult task were chosen for their steadfastness under persecution. Publicly beaten with bamboo poles, kicked and thumped, or held by robbers who daily threatened their lives—

CURRENT HISTORY

this was the school in which they were trained and fitted for their exacting pioneering journeys into the mountains of the aboriginal tribes.

This recalls the outrages which were perpetrated when pioneer attempts were made to enter the province of Kwangsi. Riots broke out and a French priest was murdered, but he was not the only martyr. We remember many years ago travelling up the West River to Wuchow and, when lying ill in a bunk on the river steamer, we discovered several round holes in the panelling. Upon enquiry we were told that they were made by bullets when a fellow medical missionary, Dr. McDonald, was murdered.

In a tense situation such as this, Alliance missionaries, with the aid of a colporteur of the National Bible Society of Scotland, toured the province for three months, and in 1896, secured a house in the city of Wuchow. The missionaries got it because it was reputed to be haunted. The wildest rumours regarding them, however, were circulated, which extended even to the smoke from their stove-pipe which, it was asserted, was caused by cooking children whose eyes had been used for medicine. There is now on that site a great self-supporting church and a Bible-school to which students from twenty missions come.

The challenge to a display of moral and spiritual, as well as physical courage, to a complete loyalty, and an utter abandon to the interests of the Kingdom of God, is abroad to-day as it ever was. Alas, to many, as someone has said, a famous hymn would read :—

They climbed the steep ascent to Heaven,
Through peril, toil and pain,
O God to us may grace be given
To follow by the train.

Moslems, who in China number anything from ten to twenty millions, came from the uttermost limits of China by air, water, rail, mule-back and on foot to Shanghai to be taken on a British cargo-boat to the Red Sea whence they would travel to Mecca. Among them were very old men intent on seeing Mecca before passing into the beyond. They welcomed privations and separation from kith and kin although knowing, some of them, that they would fall by the way.

Nearly a hundred delegates attended the annual meeting of the National Christian Council in Japan recently. The majority were Japanese ministers and laity. Much emphasis was laid upon the primary need of the Holy Spirit. At this meeting, attention was directed to Manchukuo, and it was suggested that the Manchurian Christian Movement, instead of being tied up with the National Christian Council of China, should have a Council of its own. Indeed, the first preliminary meeting of such a Council has already

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been held. It was urged that the Japanese churches of Manchukuo should have a Council related to the Japanese Christian Council. If all these Councils could be closely related a Christian community spirit would be fostered. One speaker at the Japanese National Christian Council said, 'Until we have the Spirit of Jesus we cannot expect peace.' And a resolution was adopted urging the Christians in China and Japan to show a united spirit in the bond of peace. Contention between the civil and the military elements in the Government of Japan creates the present problems in that country, and has slowed up much social legislation. The problem of raising new taxes in Japan to cover the increasing expenditure under Army and Navy items is causing the statesmen in Japan much concern. The plan for settling one million Japanese households in Manchukuo has been accepted in principle.

In India caste Hindus are doing their best to stop the movement of the Ezhavas away from Hinduism. Around the Travancore area these members of the depressed classes number nearly nine million. Among them the movement towards Christianity is very marked. Moslems, Buddhists, and even atheists, are trying to capture them, but with no great success. The Maharajah of Travancore proclaimed on the 13th November last that Hindu temples controlled by his Government should be opened to the Untouchables. This decision will have wide repercussions. Many will be likely to follow the lead thus given, and so attempt to satisfy the claims of the depressed classes and thus stop the threatened disintegration of the Hindu community.

British rule in India tends to increase the population through its various services, notably the medical. Better nutrition, the saving of child life, lengthening of adult life, are factors of population increase. The latest estimate of India's population is 360,000,000. This is said to exceed that of China, Tibet, Mongolia, Chinese Turkistan and Manchukuo by 18,000,000. Moslems in India number seventy-seven-and-a-half millions, which exceeds the combined Moslem populations of Arabia, Persia, Turkey, Egypt, Syria and Palestine.

NEAR EAST.

The Arabs seem to be quite unwilling to recognize Zionists, and are only willing to treat with Jews if they are Palestinians. One of the factors of the situation is that the Arabs are being out-classed because the Jews are building a civilization whose chief characteristics are European, not Levantine. The Arabs cannot measure up to the efficiency and technical knowledge of the Jews who are making a new Palestine.

★ Prepare for the Rejoicings



Coronation Souvenir !

King George VI's Coronation will soon be here. It will be—judging by the preparations on all sides—the greatest Coronation Event in Britain's history. Long live the King !

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What is the significance of it all? A charming Souvenir explaining in simple language the deeper lessons of the Coronation Celebrations has been published by the Lord's Day Observance Society, and we are reserving a copy for you as a memento of the great occasion. It is entitled **The Royal Law**. It is written by Mr. H. H. Martin.

The little book tells of our beloved King and Queen, and of the progress of Britain's wonderful Empire. It makes plain what our Nation owes to God's Word and God's Day. When you see **The Royal Law** we believe you will say as many are saying that the little book has the message so much needed in these days.

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EUROPE.

The population of Russia grows at the rate of three millions a year. On the Christmas Day kept by the Orthodox Russian Faith all the available churches in Moscow were full. The number of these churches now is probably not more than twenty-five. Before the revolution in 1917 there were, it seems, over thirteen hundred churches and chapels in that city. The present Jewish population of Poland is 3,500,000, which, it is said, is one million more than the country can support under modern conditions.

The Mediterranean Agreement between Great Britain and Italy seems to have improved the atmosphere in which Protestant work is carried on in Italy. New legislation prohibits miscegenation between Italians and Abyssinian women. The existence of half-castes in Eritrea has already created grave social problems.

AFRICA.

The Roman Catholic missions in Belgian Congo are doing their best to occupy the whole territory and to win people before they are reached by others. The Roman Catholic missions stake their claim for favoured treatment on being regarded as Belgian Nationals, notwithstanding the fact that their Papal Legate in Congo is an Italian and the seat of most of their missions is not in Belgium.

The religious trend in Egypt is to adapt Islam to modern needs while guarding its integrity as the faith of the people. Efforts are being made to bring the Azhar University into line with European learning, and promising students have been sent to European Universities. There has been a debate in the secular press as to the lawfulness of translating the Koran into English. The authorities are trying to get round the difficulty by affirming that the Koran itself cannot be translated, but that what is to be attempted is to translate the meaning and teaching of the Book, and this for the special benefit of the English-speaking people. There is a large increase in the number of religious articles in the secular press and religious societies flourish. Feminine reform comes much more slowly, because it encounters obstacles which are deeply embedded in usages hoary with age, and sanctioned by the authority of religion.

Recent information states that a group of Ethiopian Christians, who were doing good work among the people and leaders of the Coptic Church in Abyssinia, is still intact and that its private meetings for Bible study quietly continue. The situation in Abyssinia, as it concerns Protestant missions, will gradually become clearer. The intentions of the Roman Church appear to be to create a Uniat Church, and to achieve progressively the missionary occupation of the land.

The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society

Its Primary Object

is to make known the **Gospel of Christ** to the **Women and Girls** of India, Ceylon, China and Singapore, and to assist in the building up in the faith of Christian women as members of the Christian Church, by means of Evangelistic, Educational, Medical and Industrial Work.

Recruits and Funds urgently needed

19-21, SOUTHAMPTON STREET, FITZROY SQUARE
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“If Thou wilt, Thou canst . . .”

Our Lord's response

Moved with compassion, our Lord promptly responded to the leper's plea—“I will . . .”

Today, in many different lands, large numbers of homeless lepers in dire need and misery, and in all stages of the disease, are coming to our Homes appealing for help. They feel sure that His servants also **can** if they **would**.

Our response

What shall our response be? In our own and aided Homes there are now upwards of 16,900 lepers and children. Many Homes are overcrowded and further extension of our work is dependent on a growing income. Will you help us to bring physical relief and spiritual comfort to more of these needy ones? 10/- will maintain a leper for a month.

THE MISSION TO LEPERS
7, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1

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Religious liberty is the rule in French Somaliland, and attention might be given to further tactfully missionary work in that territory. British Somaliland has been reluctant to allow missionary activity among its temperamental and fanatical Somali Moslems, but things are quieter to-day.

AMERICA.

Trends and tendencies suggest that for Evangelicals in Latin lands, Fascism is apt to mean Roman Catholic persecution, and Communism atheistic persecution. The Brazilian Evangelical Church feels the need of more closely adapting its message and worship to the Brazilian people to-day. It feels also that it is necessary to extinguish sectarianism and to arouse a sense of political responsibility without forming political parties.

The revised Constitution of Colombia alters the relations between Church and State. 'The State guarantees liberty of conscience. No one shall be persecuted because of his religious opinions.' Although evangelization has made comparatively little progress in Ecuador, there is a form of Christian witness which is unknown in any of the other countries of Latin America; an evangelical Radio Station has been erected for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel. It is maintained by a missionary. This broadcasting station has such a powerful transmitter that it is hoped that, in future days, it will be possible, not only to reach every part of Ecuador, but all the Spanish-speaking Republics.

MRS. SAMUEL M. ZWEMER.

We regret to record the death, since our last number of *WORLD DOMINION*, of Mrs. Samuel M. Zwemer, the wife of our dear friend, and Chairman of our Movement in America, the Rev. S. M. Zwemer, D.D.

Mrs. Zwemer, who was a nurse, first volunteered for missionary service with the Church Missionary Society, and was sent to Baghdad. In 1896 she married Dr. Zwemer and together they did pioneer missionary work in Bahrain Arabia, and Cairo. In 1930 she accompanied her husband to the United States, when Dr. Zwemer became Professor of Missions at Princeton Theological Seminary.

We are sure that many among our readers who know Dr. Zwemer, will join us in assuring our friend of our heartfelt and prayerful sympathy.