

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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Here and There

THE development of the religious problem in Germany and in the former Austrian territory is being observed by Moscow with great interest. As in Russia, so in Germany, it is considered that youth will very soon have no idea of the teaching of Christianity by the Church.

The British Committee has been commended for vigorous propaganda on behalf of the Congress of Freethinkers, held in London on the 5th September. Plans were made for delegates to attend from Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, the United States of America, China, U.S.S.R., Great Britain, Switzerland and Germany. We understand that Mr. H. G. Wells and Mr. Bertrand Russell accepted invitations to be present and to speak.

The Russian delegation was to endeavour to bring the English Freethinkers into line with themselves. Opinion in Moscow considers that the English section is not as clear-cut anti-God as it should be. Fear of the Church is considered to be the cause of this, and a determined effort to break this fear will be made. It was also intended to consider plans whereby the hold of the Church on youth might be dealt with. Much of the discussion was probably concentrated upon these two points.

It is planned to celebrate the twenty years' existence of the Soviet-Russian Godless Associations in Moscow, in the spring of 1939. International atheists from thirty-six countries will be invited, to the number of 4,000. Yaroslavsky will address the gathering on the task of universal atheism, and especially the education of youth in the principles of atheism. He recently declared that the present resistance of religion to Godless teaching is in the last stage of the struggle. He expects that by 1942 the victory over religion will be complete, and that by 1967, on the Fiftieth Jubilee of Soviet power, Russia's 220,000,000 people will have become entirely Godless.

Side by side with this it is interesting to read in *Antireligioznik* that Christians of different Churches in Russia are coming together to form 'a single front of believers', and it is stated that this is facilitated by the lessened interest in anti-religious propaganda in the Communist party organizations. The *Komsomol* (youth organization) once so zealous in this matter, are now only lukewarm, says the paper. The Central Committee is, therefore, increasing the number of Godless members. State Attorney Vjchinsky has been entrusted with powers to suppress the movement toward unification of the various Christian bodies, and Christians reported to favour the union will be dealt with as 'enemies of the people.'

* * * *

In England, at the Keswick Convention in July, 550 young people responded to the invitation to offer their lives for Christian service anywhere.

* * * *

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There are over 350,000 Russians refugees in Europe, mostly in France. Several philanthropic societies have helped them, and they have done much to help themselves. In Paris there is the only existing theological seminary for educating men for the priesthood of the Russian Orthodox Church, those formerly in Russia having been suppressed.

* * * *

Signor Mussolini apparently does not share the views of Herr Hitler concerning the relations of Church and State. The Italian Dictator considers that to combat the Church would be to combat the unseizable: it would be to fight against the Spirit. 'It has been proved,' he said, 'that the sharpest sword the State can wield is incapable of mortally wounding the Church.' He says: 'It is not the business of the State to look for new Gospels or new dogmas, or to overthrow the old conceptions of God and substitute new ones for them.'

The agreement reached in December, 1936, between the Italian Government and the British and Foreign Bible Society is working well. Colporteurs carry a copy of the agreement with them, and, in case of police or priest interference, can appeal to it.

* * * *

In Palestine a measure which may have important issues is the development of roads. One of these will run from Haifa to Baghdad and is being constructed by the Public Works in Palestine, by the Royal Engineers in Transjordan, and by the Iraq Government in its territory. 'Partition' is obnoxious to both Jews and Arabs, and Government officials, police and military, are reported to consider it to be impracticable.

* * * *

In India, missionaries working along the border of closed Nepal speak of encouraging experiences recently, so that fifteen more missionaries could find a great opportunity of service. The belief in, and desire for, Mission and Church co-operation is growing visibly in India.

* * * *

Turning to the Far East we see that in Japan, notwithstanding the critical situation created by the Sino-Japanese conflict, the Christian Church is planning to be represented by a strong delegation at the Madras Conference on 12th-30th December. The delegation will be definitely representative of the Christian forces in Japan. Among those who are sending their foremost leaders are the Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Baptist and Presbyterian Churches, the United Church of Canada, the universities and high schools, and the Y.M.C.A., and Y.W.C.A. Among a number of Japanese leaders expected to be present is Dr. T. Kagawa.