

"OUR EXTENSION PROGRAM AND A SCHOOL"

Three years ago our Extension Program was inaugurated. Much enthusiasm was manifested by our leaders and laymen. In the midst of trying times our people, in the usual and distinctive way, subscribed a tidy sum to buy tents and equipment. Two tents were bought, equipped, and put into the field. Since then these tents have been put to good use in new territory or in weak fields.

Today, as the result of the enthusiasm and self-sacrifice manifested three years ago, our denominational spirit has been strengthened and built up to a very encouraging point. Within this period, we have organized two new churches, have re-organized three or more others, and have strengthened and revived the work in several other communities.

Brethren, our efforts are being re-paid. . . . if we remain true to our standards and continue our aggressiveness and self-sacrifice our sphere of influence is bound to expand and grow.

The present economic condition of the world today is throwing out a great challenge to the Church. The world is being humbled and is being made to feel the weakness that has resulted from an over-emphasis on materialism, rationalism, and humanity. The Church, in general, feels that our country is reaching the point where its people must confess their sins, return from their back-slidings, and call upon God for succor and guidance. Only recently, the Anglicans, Baptists, Presbyterians, and United Churchmen have assembled in solemn conference to discuss the present trend of religious affairs. As a result of their deliberations, these large and influential denominations came to the conclusion that each and every denomination should co-operate and prayerfully lay plans for a Dominion-wide revival and spiritual awakening that would stir the churches to their very foundations. They further concluded that they could not effectively inaugurate this revival until early in 1933.

The challenge comes to us: "How are we going to co-operate and bear our share of the load in this spiritual awakening?" Probably we can give no better answer than to say that we as a denomination pledge ourselves: (1) To revive our own strength and seek to live more Christ-like, (2) to expand our prayer life and live a life of self-denial and self-sacrifice, (3) to strengthen our zeal and enthusiasm in carrying on our Extension Program, (4) and to acquire a broader vision and a deeper faith that will enable us to strengthen our home fires and also to take new ground for Christ's Kingdom all over this fair land of ours.

Some may be inclined to be skeptical of further Expansion at this period, but why fish in rice fields when the broad lakes and deep rivers are calling us? Opportunists in business must wait for the up-swing of "the times", but the Christian Church is given marching orders every morning.

What we all need is the courage and faith of the early church, or even of our denominational founders, who went out "everywhere" and looked only to God for their bread and shelter. Too many of us are afflicted with 'stick-tights' and enjoy routine and ease when we might be blazing new trails and making new conquests for the Kingdom. The early church could ever report that much people were added to the church; what can we say?

The advancement made during the past three years has been creditable; much credit is due our

self-sacrificing ministers and laymen who have made this expansion possible.

A study of the Maritimes will readily convince us that our opportunities for further expansion are relatively limited. Our only excuse for encroaching upon other denominational territory is that the doctrines of Holiness may be furthered to a greater extent.

The logical sphere for us to expand our borders is towards the West. Nearly every denominational report that mentions the West refers to the fact that this section of Canada is practically a virgin field for Church Extension. Hundreds of villages and hamlets are without a church or church privileges of any kind. When pioneer work is carried on properly, the results are gratifying.

At one place in the Peace River District, Mr. X., of a prominent denomination, began work at a certain village in September of 1929. The congregation then consisted of one man. Before a year passed, a building comprising a church and parsonage worth \$4000 was built and half paid for, a church of 35 members was organized, and a Sunday School of 40 pupils was started. The report further stated: "Opportunities such as this exist without numbers! Dare we neglect the opportunities?"

If other denominations find there "an open door" why can not we as Reformed Baptists go in and help possess the land? Surely our efforts in helping to give the light to those who are without the light would yield us greater dividends and would much more further the cause of the Gospel than if we only concentrate our efforts in the East where the ground is burnt over and where nearly everyone enjoys Gospel privileges!

With all our churches provided with pastors and with so many young men preparing themselves for our ministry, have we not reached the stage where we may profitably look further afield and plan to extend our borders?

Our Canadian West provides exactly the opportunity for adventure and spiritual investment that virile, progressive, and far-sighted young men demand. Here they would find new lands to explore, new fields to cultivate, and a new harvest to gather in; there would be plenty of chance for hard work and to pioneer for Christ.

Why should we not consider this field and work towards the goal of establishing a new work in this territory? As soon as we can muster some well-equipped young men of the right calibre and can develop a faith that moves mountains and dares floods and famines so soon will we be ready to launch this forward movement. We can be sure that any expenditure in this venture would yield fat spiritual dividends and would invigorate and vitalize our present work in a way nothing else could.

What connection has all this with a School? The inter-relation is close and vital. The Extension Program is necessary to strengthen and expand our work in Canada to the extent that we can "carry on" with our Foreign Mission work and can support a training school for the ministry; the school is of vital importance in giving our young men the necessary equipment they need for their life's work, in training leaders and supporters for the individual churches and in developing a denominational consciousness.

Perhaps our greatest lack is right here; we are without a School in which our ministry can adequately prepare for their great task and in which they can imbibe our spirit and ideals.

As we all already know, the nearest accessible and satisfactory Holiness Schools and Bible Colleges are situated in the United States, Toron-

to, or Ottawa. These are not less than 500 miles away and are strongly denominational.

Some time ago we mentioned the fact that every worth-while organization needs a School of its own. We owe it to the cause and to our young ministry to have one.

Many may be inclined to think that the day of establishing new and small schools is over. It is not! The Seventh-day Adventists have a school of 40 pupils manned by 3 teachers at Memramcook, N. B. A few United Baptists started a Bible School at Kingston, Nova Scotia, about two years ago. It has twelve regular students and the pastors of the vicinity as teachers. The Churches of Christ in Canada (Disciples) have a college in Toronto with one teacher and seven students. An independent Bible School was started near Calgary four years ago by a Baptist minister from Kansas. Today it is alive and has fifty or more students. The Northern Bible College was located at Red Deer, Alberta, by the Nazarenes four years ago. This School aims to graduate fifty workers each year in the near future. Further elaboration is unnecessary.

We do not advocate a School of our own because we are afraid of being denominationalized by attending other schools, but because we think that such a School would be handier, cheaper, and more in tune with our policies and ideals.

It seems very un-business-like for us to urge our young men and women to go "on" and get an education when they are given practically no help except a few dollars a year. The result is that these young people are forced to "hoe for themselves" and to go so far from their homes that the cost of their education breaks the ambition of all except those of unusual determination. No wonder so many have left school before they were adequately prepared and are handicapped because of our lack of faith and vision!

Our future success as a denomination depends on the spirituality and man-calibre of our ministry. These qualities, in turn, depend to a large degree upon the spiritual environment and educational advantages that are available. Just as every gun depends upon its spark, powder, and shot for its effectiveness, so every servant of the Lord needs shot as well as powder and fire in order to be at his best for God. Fire comes by prayer and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, powder is God's original endowment, but shot comes as the result of years of work, study, and practice. May we be far-sighted enough to help our future workers to add shot to their fire and powder!

EUGENE A. M. KIERSTEAD

THE APPLE WITH THE WORM

You have seen many times an apple with a worm-hole in it. But did you know whether the worm began to bore the hole in the apple from the inside or from the outside? Many would say from the outside; but the scientist will agree with the common observer who declares that the worm began on the inside. As a matter of fact they tell us that the egg was laid in the blossom and that the worm hatched in the heart of the apple, whence he bored his way out.

And that is precisely the way the worm of sin starts work in the human life. He begins in the heart and bores his way out. We know it is true that out of the heart are the issues of life. Nor must we ever forget that the heart must be sound or the life will be mutilated.—Unknown.

"When a sinner is dying, he finds no comfort in counting the hypocrites in the church."—Selected.