

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE TRENDS OF HISTORY

By W. Edmund Smith

The situation in Palestine is terrible. In dealing with it the UN is up against a stone wall. It looks like an all-out war between the Jews and the Arabs. The UN is reluctant to send an international force into that country to maintain peace, for that would give Russia an opportunity to send troops to take a hand in the affair, and to open up a line of occupation towards her coveted destination, the Dardanelles and the Mediterranean.

Because of Russia's aggressiveness in absorbing smaller nations, the western powers are organizing for economic and military defense. Unless Russia becomes more tractable and conciliatory, another war looks to be inevitable. There is something in the heart of democratic peoples, that says slavery is worse than war. If Communism were to become dominant in our land, all the freedoms that have come to us as the price of blood would be abolished. We would be compelled to labor and to worship according to the will of an atheistic power.

Some will say, "it is war! war! war! When will it cease? Well, war began in heaven we are told, and has been rampant in the earth from early history. We have read of the "Hundred Years" war; the Thirty Years" war; the "Seven Years" war, and the two World wars of four and five years each. These are only a few of the wars that have devastated the earth. Christ said "I came not to bring peace on the earth but a sword. He meant that He came to introduce those principles of righteousness and holiness that would arouse the hostility of the carnal mind against those who stood for God and right. That conflict began at Bethlehem's manger, when Herod sent soldiers to slaughter all the male children of tender age, hoping to slay Jesus, whom he regarded as a threat to his power and rule.

In the early centuries of the Christian era, England was divided into seven independent states, making war with one another with awful barbaric cruelty. They finally became united under one king. Then there was incessant war between England and Scotland, till the union was accomplished in 1605 when James Vth of Scotland became James the Ist of England, founder of that unfortunate Stuart line. But there was for a long time war between Wales and England till the reign of Edward II, the Plantagenet, who defeated the Welch and offered them his eldest son to be their prince. They accepted the offer, and since that time the eldest son of the British king has been called the "Prince of Wales." But think of the bloody wars between England and Ireland! But now we see these once ever hostile countries united in what is called Great Britain. They have their problems and their differences but we cannot think of the old-time war spirit being revived. America won her independence in a great war and not long after Britain and America clashed again. But there is one blessed prospect in this warlike world, and it is that of the peace that has been maintained between these two countries for more than one hundred years. Orators, poets, statesmen and preachers have exulted in the harmonious relations that exist between America and Canada. Two great wars have bound the two great democracies and their colonies more closely together in mutual confidence and cooperation. We cannot conceive the possibility

of Great Britain and America ever fighting each other again. They stand together a mighty bulwark against the monster that has risen in the East. Some say this is the coming dictator. But think! this old world has never been partial to dictators. Alexander and his kingdom, world-wide, did not last long. Napoleon ended disastrously and so have Hitler and Mussolini. Can we think that Stalin or his successor will fare any better? Never in the history of nations has there been in the hearts of men such a passion for personal liberty. And stronger and stronger is the moral conscience that every man, white, black, yellow or brown, has rights that must be respected. The preamble of our Constitution declares "that all men are created equal, to them belong certain inalienable rights, as the pursuit of health, wealth and happiness." We in America have fallen far short of that ideal, but thank God today, we are approximating it more than ever before. We see 13 millions of people who 80 years ago would have been held as goods and chattles, bred like cattle and sheep, no right to order their own lives; but today millions of these share in the opportunities and liberties of this great land. Multitudes of them would die not only for their country but for Jesus. There is today a loud protest in pulpits and in legislative halls against race prejudice and discrimination. The President of the Union has risked the chance for his re-election on the principle of "human rights." I think we are in a brighter day than when in the sixties we were torn for four long years of fratricidal strife. We all feel the liberty given the black man was worth all the blood it cost.

I am encouraged by what I choose to call the moral cohesion of nations today, in contrast with the loose and uncertain relations between even allies in early days. When Rome or Greece entered a contest, and had on their side certain allies, they could never be sure of them. They feared that in the contest these allies might turn to the enemy and help them win the victory. We remember the Philistine princes could not trust David when he wanted to be their ally. Think of the great World wars, with all the conditions involved, how steadfastly the allies stood together. It was not the enduring of a single battle, but the prolonged struggle of years, and, the worse test that came after the war. Look how the allies have stood and do stand together! Treaties to them are more than "scraps of paper": they are solemn obligations, and will be fulfilled. The larger and stronger nations are more and more inclined to respect the right of the smaller groups. What small nation fears the might of America or Britain? Britain and America have fast been giving their colonies independence. In view of this spirit, so dominant outside the Russian sphere of influence I cannot see, in the near future, any world dictator, or rather a man with world dictatorship in his programme, ever gaining allegiance of the millions who today are headed in another direction—the integrity of individual rights and national independence.

God forbid that there should be another World war. It is terrible to think of. But we may quote Patrick Henry in that great oration on the liberty of the American colonies: "Is life so dear or peace so sweet that they must be purchased at the price of chains and slavery! Forbid it Almighty God! I know not what others may do but as for me, give me Liberty or give me death". That is the spirit that God has put within the human breast. It is alive there today as never before. "God has made

of one blood all nations that dwell upon the face of the earth. He has determined the bounds of their habitation." "There is no power but of God and the powers that be are ordained of God." Paul said this, under the rule of the cruel Nero. But God ordained that Persia, Greece, Rome and other nations should be blotted out. No armies nor atomic bombs can ultimately save us. The great need is for national repentance. While all the nations do acknowledge their god (Even Hitler declared that his great initial victories were given him by God). "Our God is the Lord." If He for the sake of ten men would have spared Sodom and Gomorrah in that stern dispensation of law, can we not expect him to have mercy upon the democracies today with their millions who fear Him with a filial fear and accept his Christ as their Saviour?

Letters from Our Pastors

Presque Isle, Maine

Dear Highway Friends:

We are requesting a space in The Highway for a brief interview with our friends. Since coming to Presque Isle we have realized a real opportunity for the Lord's work. Our church has increased in its attendance. Sunday School attendance is from 75 to 80. We are in need of a larger church. Our people here have carried a heavy financial load and the good people of Presque Isle, Fort Fairfield and Perth have done so well, they deserve to be commended on their fine work. Visiting preachers have spoken highly of their work, co-operation and their faithfulness to us, their pastor.

We plan on enlarging the church 20 feet in length by 12 feet in width with basement.

This will require a considerable amount of money, and you may be waiting to invest in such a fine work, and to assist in its progress. We have found it necessary to have two classes of our Sunday School in the parsonage.

We had the privilege of seeing two new converts and a backslider at our altar last Wednesday evening at the schoolhouse, Spragueville Road. Remember us in prayer for a gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit there.

Any contributions, large or small, will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged in The Highway. Please send to:

Mrs. Woodburn McIsaac,
12 North Street,
Presque Isle, Me.

Yours in Christian love,
REV. H. O. McGEORGE

Port Maitland, N. B.

Dear Highway:

Greetings in Jesus' name.

We have just had another revival campaign at Port Maitland with Rev. N. M. Israelson, of Berry, Alabama. He was with us here last year, but God wonderfully blessed his ministry with us again this year. We felt his preaching surpassed that of last year and a goodly number found their way to the altar of prayer, either to be saved, reclaimed or sanctified. Our crowds were good all through and finances came easily. Son Paul was with us as our song evangelist. We praise the Lord for these good meetings. We look forward to another revival campaign this spring at Brazil Lake, with Rev. H. E. Enty as our evangelist, with

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