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**FOR THE BENEFIT OF ILLITERATES**

Bill Introduced In Senate and House In Their Behalf--The Church Organization Will Also Give Practical Aid.

**WILL PROMOTE EDUCATION**

The Significant Movement of the Times Is That of the Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church South--Will Spend Millions Among the Uneducated.

The fact that several thousand soldiers were unable to understand the orders given them from their superiors and that many, many thousands could not sign their own names to their questionnaires brought to light a condition so serious that two Southern Representatives at Washington are now introducing bills to promote the education of illiterates throughout the length and breadth of America. Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, has introduced a bill in the Senate "to promote the education of illiterates, of persons unable to understand and use the English language, and other resident persons of foreign birth," and the same measure has been introduced in the House by Hon. William B. Bankhead, of Alabama.

The introduction of this important bill means a great deal to the South, which, because of its negroes and mountain whites, has long borne a reputation for illiteracy out of proportion to that of the rest of the country. Just what steps will be immediately taken as the result of the passage of the education of illiterates bill at Washington cannot be stated at this time, but, certainly, practical measures will be put into operation for the establishment of schools in both rural districts and cities.

Other organizations besides that of the government are at work on the same problem--the establishment of schools in the heart of tenement districts and rural communities being a matter of first importance with all of them. One of the most significant movements of the times in this connection is that of the Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, because that denomination will expend within the next five years over \$3,000,000 among the uneducated classes in the Southern and Western States. The church is to raise a fund of \$35,000,000 in an eight-day drive in April, the financial campaign being a part of the Centenary Celebration of the denomination. The money is being raised with a view to putting the work of the church on a business basis, the church considering its duty to the illiterates here in America to be among the matters of first importance which it should undertake. A survey has been made and the result of the campaign will be the apportionment of \$3,000,000 among the various illiterate populations as follows: Mountain population, \$750,000; immigrant, \$900,000; negroes, \$500,000; Indians, \$150,000; cotton mill population, \$150,000; Christian literature for all of them, \$100,000.

With the definite step undertaken at Washington, with one denomination already completing its plans for furthering the work among them, and with other churches and organizations getting ready to join hands in their behalf, it is more than possible that the illiterates of the South are in a fair way to soon become educated citizens of the United States.

**METHODIST LEADERS RETURN FROM FRANCE**

Three prominent leaders of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, have just returned from Europe, after spending two months in Europe, where they went for the purpose of investigating actual conditions and deciding upon a program for the expenditure of \$5,000,000, which sum will be allotted to European rebuilding by the Centenary Commission of the denomination. The three church leaders are Bishop Walter Lawson, Chairman of the Centenary Commission; Bishop Walter Lawson, who has been in Europe for some time in the interest of his church; and Mr. W. W. Pinson, General Secretary of the Mission Board.

Dr. Pinson, Bishop Atkins returned to the headquarters of the denomination in the latter part of the week. Bishop Lambuth went directly to Oakland, California.

While in Europe for the European work has been announced as yet, the return of the members of the commission says they have mapped out a very definite program and that five million of the Centenary fund will be used in upbuilding schools in the devastated lands of Europe and France.

**SAVING AS A HABIT.**

Habit is stronger than precept or morality or prudence or almost anything. We get the habit of doing certain things, and go ahead, doing the same things day after day, year after year until the end, says Florida Times-Union. Something will break into our routine and we may be forced to make changes, but whatever we are required to do or desire to do and are allowed to do for a space of time--more or less--becomes fixed in our systems and we take pains and work hard to comply with the impulse that comes at a certain time of day or week or minute and keep up our habits. During the war period we have gotten into the habit of saving something. It may not be a great amount or we may not save it every day, but once a week or a month we feel that some money must be put aside to pay for Liberty bonds or War Savings stamps. A great many of us have had a real hard time trying to make the money we received buy sufficient food for the family and something in the way of clothing. But in spite of that we have saved a little, somehow, to pay our installments, and obligations made to the government and for war work of various kinds have been met.

Very little has been said as to the probable attitude of the peace conference toward the submarine. It seems rather surprising that so far there has been no agitation for its absolute abolition, says Philadelphia Record. There are many who think the nations should agree to scrap the tin devil fish. In the control of unprincipled people it is a potent instrument of wrong, and no decent fighters should be asked to subject themselves to the danger of frightful and ignominious death for the sake of its doubtful rewards. The experience of a British submarine which was almost destroyed by depth bombs dropped by a friendly destroyer, a watchful American mistaking it for an enemy U-boat, is enough to sicken even stout hearts. Some agreement surely can be reached to put out of commission such soul-searing, devilish devices.

Newspapers and newspaper men are sometimes accused of failure to practice what they preach, but this can never be said about the people who work on the newspapers of London, England, says Winnipeg Free Press. This striking fact in connection with recruiting was mentioned in a recent speech of Sir Auckland Geddes: Of 10,000 men and boys employed by London newspaper offices 5,000 joined the colors, and at the moment of the armistice being signed there were not thirty men fit for general service in all the London newspaper offices. That was a record, said Sir Auckland, which placed the press ahead of every trade group in the matter of recruiting.

From all parts of France have come tributes like this. They have fallen as thick as the flowers showered on our passing regiments by the hands of women, little children and all the weaker, more helpless ones left in war's brutal wake. "Inborn gentlemen, all of them!" Surely that is the cap-sheaf of all the laurels our splendid fellows have won! Men they proved themselves in all their contact with those toward whom courteous respect and helping kindness are rights no real man ever yet has failed to honor.

How much of the spread of influenza is due to carelessly washed dishes in public eating places and to unsterilized glasses at soda fountains? Cleanliness is the price of safety; and those permitted to dispense food and drink to the public should be required to devote a small portion of their generally exorbitant profits to the observance of such rules as common decency and sanitation require.

The head of a family who has an income of \$5,000,000 a year will have to pay an income tax of \$3,783,030, whereas a head of a family with an income of \$2,500 will have to pay only \$30. How fortunate it is for one to be poor. It is merely because we so earnestly desire to help our country that we wish we were in a position to pay the \$3,783,030.

Russia is to be permitted to manage her own affairs. But she is to understand that if she persists in making bonfires of her domestic reconstruction material the conflagration must be confined to her own borders, or the surrounding nations will be ready to turn on the hose.

Enemy aliens who conspired to make a farce of our neutrality or later to help our enemy, can't complain much if they are deported and permanently debarrred from returning. A pure atmosphere is invaluable to any republic.

German war profiteers have taken their loot out of Germany by airplane. Modern version of the old saw about riches having wings.

Paderowski, it develops, can do something more than finger a piano.

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- ★ 10. Made by "Makers of Good Goods Only."