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Phone 29

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### THE HOUSE WE ARE BUILDING

(By A. B. Hill, State Superintendent.)

Recently some of us heard a speaker liken our school system to a great building whose stones are being shaped by hand, slow in growth but being built with symmetry, stability and permanency.

For a foundation, we have the absolute separation of our school districts from all other political subdivisions of the state, the election of our school boards by direct vote of the people when no political issues are involved, the dual support of our schools by the state and the local community. Let us hold to these and continue to build thereon.

Upon this foundation we have made the beginning of teacher training, of county supervision, of statewide taxation to aid the weaker districts, of rural high schools, of state institutions of higher education.

With the closing of the present session of the legislature it is not amiss to say that the session of 1923 has done well in providing for additional revenue for the common schools. True, we have felt that something more definite should have been done for the relief of local districts, but the Severance tax and the Income tax, when these shall have come into full operation, will open the way for the state to equalize educational opportunities, and these two sources of revenue will go far towards solving the problem of support of rural schools. The next most urgent need is relief for overburdened districts in towns and cities.

The discovery that Soviet Russia was exporting grain while benevolent nations were shipping in wheat for starving Russia has caused the American Relief Administration to announce that it would cease shipping any food into that country after March 15.

## WORTH KNOWING

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### "NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER AS THE MANNER OF SOME IS."—Heb. 10:25.

(Sermon by Rev. C. W. Wood in The Cumberland Presbyterian.)

There is a smaller percentage of the people of America today attending church regularly than in any age of our past history. The time is almost here when the preachers of our day will have to go to the streets and other public places to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We find that the Apostle Paul had to urge the people in his day to assemble to worship God. The church was persecuted in every way in Paul's time, but this is the greatest problem that confronts the church of God today. If ever there was a time when this text was appropriate, it is now.

Paul tells us in 2 Tim. 3:1-5 of the coming nineteen signs of the times, but in closing he says from such turn away. Why is the house of God forsaken? Will you help me answer this question today?

Everything has been done most to get people to come to church. Fine churches have been built, fine music furnished, good pictures put on the screen, scholarly preaching been had, social programs have been put on, Sabbath laws have been enforced; these have failed to reach the masses. Three-fourths of the people of this world are going to hell as fast as time will take them there. What is to be done? Brother, here is my theme: Christ conquered this world with love. Dry, cold sermons will never reach them; war talks won't; flowery sermons won't reach them; formality nor pride will ever reach them; but the pure gospel of Jesus Christ preached in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit will halt the throngs. It is the only thing that will.

Beloved, I covet not riches or other men's gifts. I don't want to be famous; but the thing I want is the power of God that moves men and women to Jesus Christ. Thank God for David's expression, "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than to dwell in the tents of the wicked." And again he said, "I was glad when they said, Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Any community will go to the devil when the church is forsaken. Any church will go down when its members quit assembling together. When the church goes down, everything goes down—society goes down, prosperity goes down, value of property goes down, and, worst of all, the people go down; and when the church goes down, distills go up; and when people quit going to church they go to other places.

I am told there have been three large distills captured in this community. I don't wonder at it. If I were going to start a distillery I would go to a place where they had no church every time.

Brother, what do you want here? Do you want a distill in your midst? or do you want Jesus Christ in your midst? Here is the language of Christ—his own words as they came from his lips: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

You go about with a long face and cry, Drouth, drouth! I am going to leave these Ozark Mountains. What causes these drouths? Don't study the moon; don't study the stars; don't study the weather prophets. Just read one verse in Jeremiah 14:17, "And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of the families of the earth into Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain." Jeremiah was one of God's prophets. If you will read the next verse (the 18th), you can see what brings so many plagues on the people. It is for the same reason, because they won't come up to worship the King.

This is God's plan, dear ones. He calls men and women to preach the gospel; but God gives this call to the church, to assemble at the house of the Lord to hear the gospel. How can you hear without a preacher, and how can a preacher preach without a hearer, and God help you to take heed how you hear today.

Brethren, I feel like the future of this community depends on this message. Oh, God help me deliver it! Mothers, what will become of this coming generation? God help us to build a church on the ruins of these distills, which ruin our boys and break their mother's hearts.

I have seen the people so many times as they assemble at the Lord's house. I see marks of a sad heart on their faces, caused by death of some departed one. Yes, I see some faces marked with the daily toils of life as they assemble, some with faces marked with sin in the heart, faces marked with a tired, worn body that has toiled six long days, faces marked from disease of the body, faces marked with deep furrows of trouble in the cheeks; but after the choir had sung praises to God, after prayer had been offered, after God's Word is preached—oh, listen, friends!—they don't look like the same people. God's presence has driven back the dark cloud of life and let the blessed sun shine in. This is the meaning of the text, brother.

Jesus told Peter to feed his sheep, and this is what he meant: Preach to the assemblies.

Here are some excuses offered by some professors: I don't go to church because they don't keep order. Yet they go to other public places, such as Sunday games, public sales, etc., where drunkenness is all about them, where there is no order, and they never complain. Some say, I work all week, and I must make my business trips and my visits on Sunday; it's all the time I have that I can say is mine, and that is the reason I don't go to church. Brother, that time is not yours. If you steal from God you will go into eternity a thief. One-seventh of your time is God's, and one-tenth of your money, and God will collect it—don't you doubt that!

We don't know what day to keep, says one. If you don't believe in the resurrection of Christ, keep the seventh day; but if you believe in the resurrection, keep the first day. Paul said, "If Christ be not raised, ye are yet in your sins..." The first day of the week is not a day of idleness, but a day of Christian activities, as required by this text. Assemble yourselves together.

Brethren, there are church doors shut all over the country—buildings our fathers and mothers toiled and labored to build. They stand today with steeples pointing toward heaven as a monument of God's house; the outward appearance shows the need of, this text: they are forsaken; the bells that once rang every Sabbath morning are still; the pews that once were filled with our gray-haired fathers and mothers, with children seated by their side, with listening ears, with tears flowing from a furrowed cheek, with the old-time preacher in the pulpit, who held his people three long hours. Oh, this generation has passed away; they are gone. Beside these still buildings in the old churchyard their bodies lie sleeping.

Friends, our lives, our efforts, our works, our sins really ignore the faith our fathers and mothers lived and died in. God help us to be ashamed of it!

If Christian religion is a fake, let us burn these churches to the ground; let us quit the assembling of the saints; take these monuments away from mother's and father's grave, let the blue smoke curl from these distills that make the damnable stuff that will ruin any nation, church or home. But if you believe in Jesus Christ and his church, in his commandments, forsake not the assembling of yourselves together. God help us to be more willing, more zealous, more spiritual, more determined to build up the kingdom of Jesus Christ! Amen.

### H. E. Miles Tells Women Fordney Tariff is Price-Fixing, Not Protection.

Eight hundred women at a luncheon given by the League of Women Voters at the Bellevue-Stratford hotel in Philadelphia used pads and pencils to make note of the numerous ways in which H. E. Miles, Racine, Wis., chairman of the Fair Tariff League, showed them the Fordney-McCumber profiteers' tariff law is gouging them on whatever they buy for food, clothing, furniture and other commodities. The women made it clear that they got in fixing responsibility for excessive prices.

Mr. Miles was specially invited to address the gathering on the Fordney-McCumber act. He described himself as being "as good a Republican as the tariff will let me be."

"Congress has placed the general public at the mercy of certain manufacturers," Mr. Miles declared and then exhibited various articles of cutlery to illustrate how the profiteers' tariff operates to give the makers of such wares exorbitant profits. Increases in the cost of silks, cotton textiles, woolen fabrics, tableware, kitchenware and various necessities of the household were cited by Mr. Miles to confirm his statement that the tariff was enacted for special interests. His data as to the effect of the tariff on the cost of living, Mr. Miles said, were based on an exhaustive analysis of \$30,000,000 worth of merchandise.

President Harding had "sat back and watched this thing happen," Mr. Miles declared. The President could do something to relieve the people's burden, Mr. Miles said, if he would employ the Tariff Commission in finding the difference in the cost of production here and abroad and then insist that duties be levied on that basis.

"To say that the new tariff has stimulated either the imports or the ex-

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**GEORGE CHRISTOPHER**

Phone 371

ports of this country is frightfully untrue," he said.

The Fordney-McCumber law is working great injury to the American people, Mr. Miles said, and both Republicans and Democrats are resentful. The new tariff is a misapplication of the Republican theory of protection, and its beneficiaries simply used their influence in Congress to such an extent that the national legislators have become "price-fixers" instead of protectionists.

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