

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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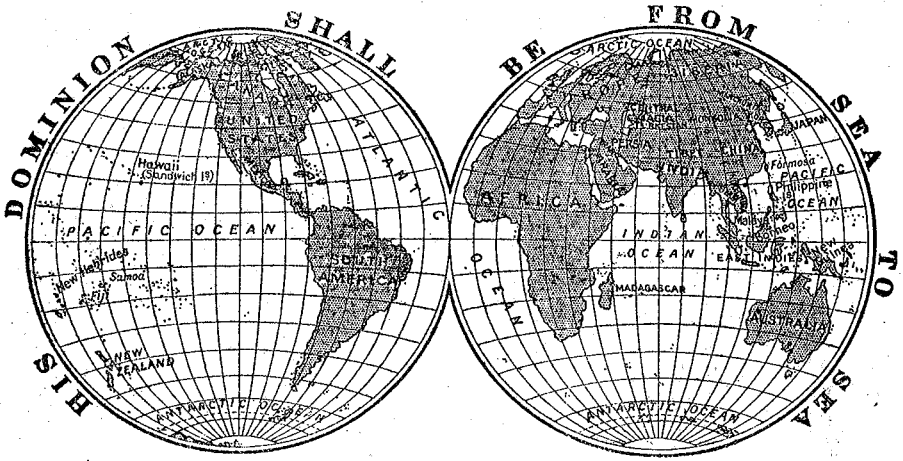
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JANUARY, 1934

Wanted—Courage to Grasp Nettles

THE chief topic of conversation everywhere is the renowned Laymen's Report.* Some enormous gatherings of protest against the Report have been held. The general impression seems to be that Great Britain is not at all awakening to the seriousness of the situation created by this Report. Some copies which I had of *WORLD DOMINION* containing a review of it have been almost thumbed away by interested friends. I have been besieged for the magazine.' So writes our International Secretary in New York.

This letter was written in August last, and we would not refer to it now, but that the reference to the Report in the following article, *Are We Re-Thinking Missions?* reminded us of it.

If missionary Boards and missionaries will not courageously re-think missions for themselves, they will continue to suffer from those who will attempt to do so.

The Report was compiled by men who, in many ways, as Dr. Richter points out in his article, were not competent for the task. Their efforts were like those of the amateur

* *Re-Thinking Missions—A Laymen's Enquiry After a Hundred Years.*

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photographer whose pictures are so often over-developed and under-exposed. They attempted an 'appraisal' of something whose value lay altogether outside the qualities which attracted them. But the fact that these qualities were over-valued by many missions invited the findings to which people now object.

When anyone dares to criticize missions, protagonists of the latter are up in arms, when, truth to tell, there is much to criticize, and the true friends of world evangelization will welcome criticism and learn by it.

Thank God for the missionary enterprise; its heroes have been the greatest in the world. It has changed millions of lives and thus changed many of the conditions of life, from which the world benefits enormously to-day. But human frailty has greatly interfered with its efficiency, and does still. What other great enterprise would have been content so long without a 'Department' to survey the world and direct effort intelligently, and without a deeper and clearer study of missionary principles which would have led missionaries to think indigenously before Governments compelled them to do so? The world might have been evangelized to-day had not missions sunk millions of money in work—good work undoubtedly—of secondary importance. An Indian, speaking at a World Dominion meeting a short time ago, said, 'Formerly Hindus and Mohammedans were afraid to send their children to mission colleges lest they should be converted, but gradually they lost their fear as they saw that there was little likelihood of this'!

The difficulty with which the following article deals, and against which an enlightened mission secretary like Mr. Rice protests, should have been remedied long ago. The work of the large denominational societies has been far too much along institutional lines, and the result of the failure of the smaller interdenominational missions to unite is a wastage which nothing can justify. Who will have the courage to grasp these nettles? **WORLD DOMINION** has had the honour of being publicly burned in protest against its plain speaking. Years ago it was

ARE WE RE-THINKING NATIONS

described as 'a magazine which is too good to live and too honest to pay.' It has lived now to commence its twelfth volume, and will continue to live by the support of a growing number who are convinced of the vital importance of the things for which it stands.

The above leader was written by the Editor before he left for his journey (the seventh) round the world. His 'appraisal' will be interesting. He is visiting North, Central and South India, Burma, the Straits Settlements, the Dutch East Indies, South, Central and North China, Manchuria, Korea, Japan, the Hawaiian Islands, Canada and the United States.

The first-hand knowledge of the WORLD DOMINION staff covers most of the world.

Are We Re-Thinking Missions ?

J. DUVAL RICE

THE phrase 'indigenous ideals,' for which we are indebted to WORLD DOMINION, has become a part of the working vocabulary of a great number of missions. It would probably be safe to say that the majority of mission Boards and even mission-stations have felt the impact of the principles underlying this phrase, either consciously or unconsciously.

In some cases it must be confessed that the phrase is used and regarded as a panacea for many of the difficulties of the mission-field when its true significance has hardly been realized. The writer has been the interested spectator of more than one work which has laid a claim to being on 'indigenous lines' because certain of the native Christians were allowed a voice in Church government, although by mutual understanding that voice was only allowed to assent or oppose as the missionary directed. But, on the whole, it is no unfair assertion that the ideal of self-supporting, self-governing, and, most important of all, self-propagating Churches has had a profound influence upon that re-thinking of missions which has occupied, of late, all those engaged in the missionary enterprise.