

Stresses Devotion To Reading of Bible

GENEVA — *Quartier de L'Assommoir*, secular daily commenting upon Paul Claudel's latest work, "Presence at Propretie," says that "in his beautiful home on the bank of the Rhone, Claudel is occupied in the reading of one book, the Bible."

"Since the day of his conversion, when he heard the Voice saying, 'Take, legs—take and read—he has never stopped putting that book into practice," the paper adds. "Claudel is now building a bridge to span the abyss, uniting the present with eternity."

Let freedom ring on Uncle Sam's cash register! Buy U. S. War Bonds and Stamps.

Rev. Dr. Owen B. McGuire

India and China, Past, Present and Future

This war has raised, and is daily raising, questions that were undreamt of when it started nearly three years ago. It has truly become "global." When it started "to stop Hitler,"

it came also Asiatic and global. It was terminated tomorrow, the two most important seats at the Conference table for shaping a new world would be occupied by Russia and China. Whether we like it or not, that seems to be the plain truth; for up to date Russia only has stopped Hitler, and China has done more than the United Nations combined to resist Japanese aggression. For the present let us leave Europe and Russia out of the picture and take a look at Asia. When Japan is defeated, the two most important nations in Asia will be India and China.

THE GROWTH OF INDIA

I have before me a copy of the London Times for Feb. 12. It has an editorial of half a column on the census of India for last year. Some items of it are astonishing. The total population of the Sub-Continent, including Burma—is 388,666,000. The rate of growth in the past ten years is 15 per cent, as compared with 10.5 in the previous ten. Since the beginning of the century, namely since the census of 1901, the population of India has increased by no fewer than 118,000,000!—a figure, says the Times "only a little less than the total population of the United States of America in 1930." The present Indian total represents four-fifths of the population of the whole British Empire. It is nearly ten times the population of Great Britain. According to Funk and Wagnall's Encyclopedia the total population of Europe is 560,000,000. If we include Burma (15 millions), the total population of India is over 400 millions. Compared to Europe, then, it is as 5 to 11. India, like China, is predominantly an agricultural country. Three-fourths of the population are engaged in agriculture. But the astonishing increase in urban populations clearly means a great increase in manufacture. Calcutta, now the largest city, had an increase of 80 per cent in the decade! It has now a population of 2,100,000. "Her inhabitants," says the Times, "would make two Birmingham"—Birmingham being the second largest manufacturing town in England and the hardware center of the whole world. Bombay, the next largest city, has a population of 1,468,000.

It should be clear from these figures that the problem which confronts England in India is enormous. What must be remembered is that India is in Asia, and that all Asia is now awake. IMPORTANT MEETING

To my thinking the most important conference—so far as Asia is concerned—since the war started was the meeting of Chiang Kai-Shek with the Indian leaders. Whether he went to India on the invitation of the British, or on his own initiative, does not matter much. It was a meeting of the leaders of two countries—or nations—with a combined population of 800,000,000. According to Funk and Wagnall the total population of the globe in 1930 was 2,000,000,000. Of this total, India and China would, accordingly, make two-fifths.

The new Asia will not be dominated by Japan. But I think it is already certain that it will not be dominated any longer by Europeans. White imperialism in Asia,

whether it be British, French, or Dutch, has definitely come to an end. Japan will not dominate Asia; but the slogan is already "Asia for the Asians." In two articles, one in the Catholic Monthly for May and the other in the Magazine Section of the New York Times for Sunday, Apr. 16, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek already gives fair warning to all whom it may concern. She writes:

"We have chosen the path we shall tread in the future. We are determined there shall be no more exploitation of China. I have no wish to harp on old grievances, but realism demands that I should mention the ruthlessness and shameless exploitation of our country by the West in the past and the hard-dying lesson that the best way to win our hearts was to kick us in the ribs. Such animus and spite must never be repeated. . . . The iniquitous system of extrajurisdictionality, which denied China her inherent right to equality with other nations, must be abandoned. As a nation we are resolved that we will not tolerate foreign exploitation. . . . All the existing systems of government in the world, and this applies to the non-aggressive as well as to the aggressive nations, are being weighed in the remorseless balance of war." "The West" has been weighed and found guilty, and must repent! (In the Atlantic.)

That is surely plain speaking. There can be no doubt about its meaning—its implications and applications. She is even more outspoken in the article in the Times Magazine where, dividing the West's treatment of China into "three stages," she lists her country's grievances "since China was opened to world relations between East and West." Whether these grievances were due to sheer force, to intrigue, or to chicanery, she says, "The superiority complex was a cardinal point in the creed of the Western world in its dealing with all things Chinese, and this was insisted on in season and out of season." That, too, must pass out. We are your equals, we can take care of Asia.

Whatever may be the internal divisions among the people of China there can be no doubt that in these declarations just quoted Madame Chiang Kai-Shek is speaking for the whole population. She is in fact expressing the feelings of all Asiatics; and that is the importance of both her articles.

The plain fact is that Asia is awake. That awakening did not begin with this war. It began with the Russo-Japanese war, when they all saw that "yellow" men could fight and defeat white men. They saw it again in the First World War. They no longer believed in the vaunted White prestige, what Madame Kai-Shek calls "the superiority complex." This war has convinced them further that it is a myth of which they no longer need be in fear. The result may be better for the world—and for Christianity too.

"China," writes Madame Kai-Shek, "has become the leader of Asia. . . a wonderful opportunity but a fearful responsibility." And her last words in the Atlantic article express the wish "to create a world vitalized by new hopes and worshipping a more Christian ideal"—than imperial rivalry.

VITAL STATISTICS

New Orleans — Records of vital statistics in Catholic parish churches throughout Louisiana will be used by the Work Projects Administration as part of its survey in compiling a guide to vital statistics records available in the state.

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H.R.Y.A. SPRING DANCE TO FEATURE TONY MULLIGAN

Saturday, May 16, is the date set for the annual Spring Dance by the Holy Redeemer Youth Association which will feature the music of Tony Mulligan and his twelve piece band. Preparations for a large turn-out of club members and their friends are in the hands of Co-Chairmen Don Aman and Virginia Mimota. The H. R. Y. A. Milk Bar, still featuring its well-known "Club Milk Shake" for 10 cents, will be in charge of Al Walz and Ed Hols. Don Brune will handle floor arrangements, assisted by Walt Kleiser, Bob Michaud, Johnny Hoffmann and Don Evans. Dancing is scheduled from 9 till 12, with admission listed at 40 cents, including tax.



Don Aman