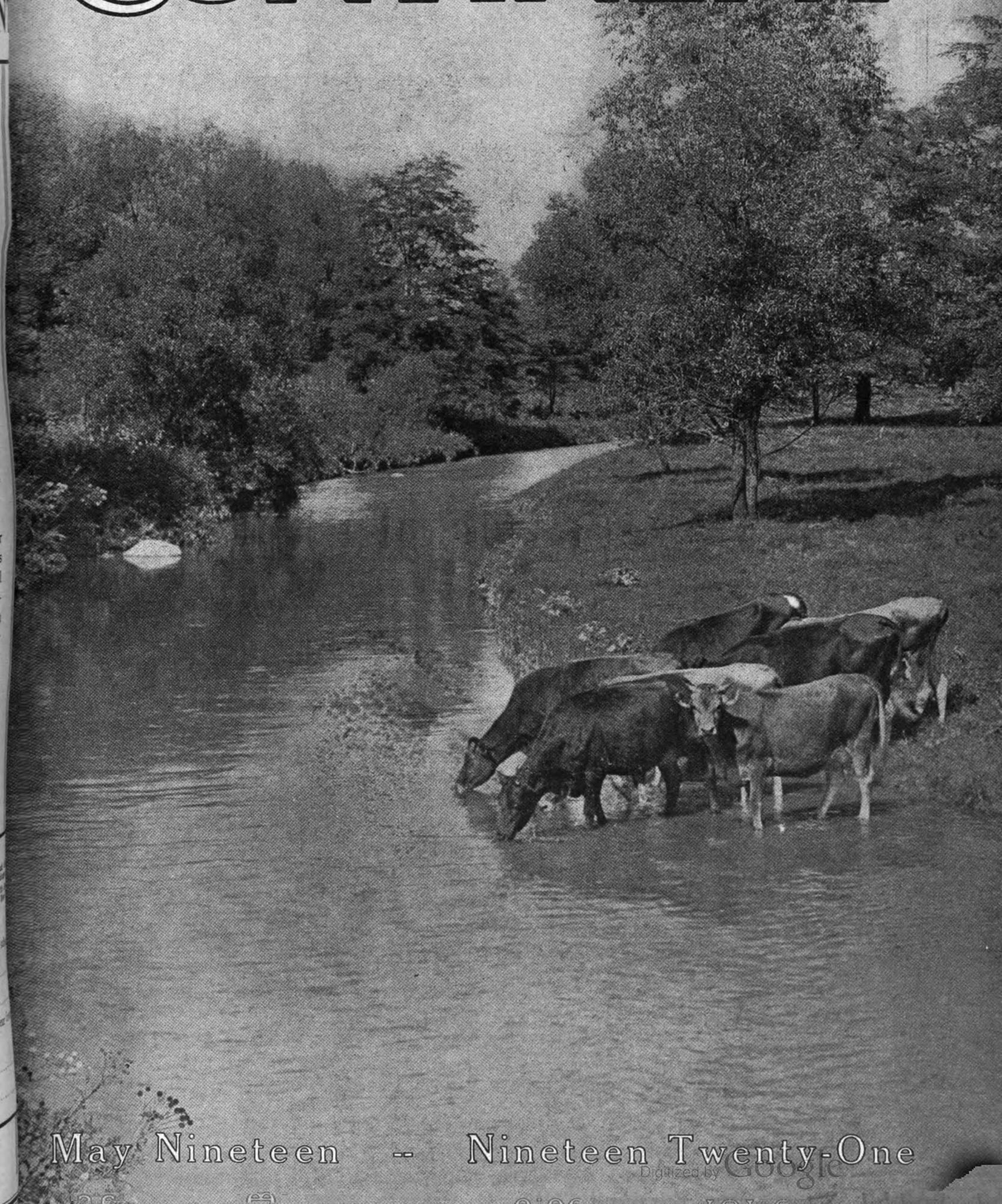


"Wanted: YOU!"

General Assembly Number

The CONTINENT



May Nineteen -- Nineteen Twenty-One

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THE CONTINENT

NOLAN R. BEST, EDITOR. OLIVER R. WILLIAMSON, PUBLISHER. THE MCCORMICK PUBLISHING COMPANY, PROPRIETORS.
156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK. 509 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE, CHICAGO.

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 20

MAY 19, 1921

WHOLE NUMBER 2568

Wanted: YOU!

THE NOTE OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY with which The Continent has sought to permeate this issue of the paper is the thought most vitally necessary to Christian efficiency in this modern democratic age.

In earlier periods of church history—at least ever since the apostolic age—the great hope of effective Christian power has been tied up with Christian organization. The best way to conquer the world has always been, in the estimation of both Catholic and Protestant, through building up a mighty church.

The lessons of experience which sustained and confirmed that conviction through advancing centuries are not of course to be lightly discarded today. The development of religion by the disciplined activities of organized churches was no doubt the providential order for a time when individual impulses of action were weak and scattering.

But civilization, by the very training of such unit movement in religious and other organizations, has been gradually developing new resources in the spontaneous will of individuals who align themselves with other individuals not because organization says they must but because their own desire and purpose say they should. These resources are not contrary to organization. But they vastly transcend it.

What the power of these individual energies has come to be, the world realized in the late world war. Germany relied on organization and carried it to the limit. Germany's enemies were conscious from the onset that they had no possible chance to match their Teutonic foe in discipline, drill and overhead management.

The sole possibility of allied victory lay in the opposite field—the field where calls to individual loyalty and impressions of individual duty rallied the strength of free peoples.

To that recourse France, Britain and America in turn applied themselves. They did not indeed despise the worth of such organizational methods as were within their reach. Each adopted a rigorous draft system to recruit its armies. But the draft would have been not only ineffectual but impossible if something mightier had not sustained it from underneath.

It was the magnificent lift of willing, militant public feeling in all three countries, crying in the voices of millions, "We must each do all that each is able," which not only sent drafted men into the ranks with the exuberant spirit of volunteers but turned men and women of every

sort and station into sacrificial patriots, with whom nothing else mattered if only they could lend with their own hands some aid to the victory of their nations.

In the tragic but glorious triumph that came to the lands which thus trusted the dynamics of individual loyalty there may be read the birth proclamation of a new epoch in human affairs—the era of that ampler power, peculiarly spiritual, which springs straight from the hearts of the masses of men when they realize that the ideals of a better world depend on the personal fidelities of the many—not upon the organizing or marshaling powers of a few.

This realization is new to our times but it is not new to the gospel of Christ. It is instead the very marrow and meat of the philosophy on which Jesus prosecuted his ministry. It is involved in every word that he spoke about the kingdom of God.

For Jesus never uttered a word which could possibly be construed into a command or advice to bring the kingdom in by means of perfected societies or drilled and subservient orders of ecclesiastics. His whole thought, his whole method, was for the will of God to get itself done through the uncommanded service of men who wished to do it.

And now the day of the democracy for which Christ planned so deeply has really come upon the world. The hour of "mass movements" motivated not by external constraint but by inward impulsion is fully here.

And that means the church must go forward in that power.

To all that its organization has accomplished, there must be added now the greater achievements possible through the release and application of massed, concentrated personal powers.

Every question of what the church can do in the years immediately ahead depends on how real and poignant and compelling it can make the appreciation of individual responsibility among its lay people.

No longer can there be permitted the ready excuse, "Get somebody else to do that."

The answer will be necessarily and more positively than ever before;

"The church wants YOU. Christ calls on YOU."

And if it is not you who responds, then there will be a deficiency in the service of the church which without a doubt in the great assizes of God will be charged personally to YOU.

terians doing at least 160,000 things this next year that perhaps otherwise never would have been done. What would that not mean now and in the future!

Properly enough, the writers emphasize the need of leadership, and of trained leadership. We haven't enough of that. But we need also to emphasize the need of *followership*.

In recent times we have heard more than one business man say something like this: "It's all right for every one to have ambition. Certainly I want to have men who are worth more every year of their experience. But practically all the young fellows who come to me, especially those from the colleges, are interested alto-

gether in the big jobs they expect to hold in two or three years. They don't want to do the small things. Everybody wants to pass the detail work to some one else."

Surely we need in Christian work a great body of earnest people each doing the small and inconspicuous things that must be done. Out from those who do these things will come the young men and women who should have special training. In glorifying the opportunities for leadership we must not by comparison suggest disdain for the host of followers without whom the qualities of leadership in the few are of no avail.

And now let the Sixty speak.

O. R. W.

"IN STILL SMALL VOICES, IN SOLITARY PLACES, IN LOWLY HEARTS, IN A LITTLE CHILD."

By Robert E. Speer

Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions

I AM GLAD that you are devoting this issue of *The Continent* to the one most important theme of all. Nowadays so many are putting trust in numbers or publicity or organization or money that we need to be reminded that all these things are secondary. They are shown to be secondary by facts.

Garibaldi and 1,000 men were enough to change the history of Italy. Gideon and 300 overthrew the Midianites. Our Lord sent out a dozen men to found his church and change the world. Obviously numbers are not the primary necessity.

The voice of God in almost every age has come in quiet and simple ways. Not in the earthquake nor the fire, not the mighty wind; not with royal robes and trumpets, but in still small voices, in solitary places, in lowly hearts, in a little child. The kingdom of God becomes public, but it does not become the kingdom of God by publicity.

Our Lord knew men as no one else has ever known them. He could have built such an organization as men have never seen. But he refused to do anything of the kind. He would not even appoint leaders and died without having lifted his finger to perpetuate his movement by human organization.

And as to money, our Lord had none. What he wrought with was himself. It was he who brought redemption, and he brought it in and by himself. By his own blood he saved us. He himself is the Way and the Truth and the Life. He came as a personal Saviour, and He is still a personal Lord, and he will surely come as a personal king.

What can be accomplished by reversing the values? Numbers and publicity and organization and money, all are useful things as implements of personal devotion and personal service. If men will give themselves to Christ and to his work in the world today, all these other things will be given, too.

By Henry C. Swearingen

Pastor, House of Hope Church, St. Paul, Minn.

IT IS A TRUE sense which, in stewardship, turns emphasis from money to life. Money is secondary; life always primary—not only in importance, but in logic. In the final weighing of things, money is life; it is transmuted personality. Every dollar, or the thing which it represents, stands first for somebody's sweat or thought, or for both. This it is which gives to property a moral basis and furnishes the controlling reason for its right use. Material things become "wealth" only when in contact with persons. Underneath the "image and superscription" of Caesar, invisible except to faith's eye, is the imprint of humanity's seal, which turns a coin into money of the kingdom and makes it liable to be "rendered" to One greater than Caesar.

It was both wise and inevitable, therefore, that effort in behalf of stewardship should reach, finally, to the man himself. Win him, and his "means" come with him. In exalting this idea *The Continent* is certainly following the main trail.

But there is more than sound reason behind such a campaign; expediency pleads for it, too. The churches need this call as they need no other. Personal service will humanize their activities in the best sense. It will warm the hearts of church members, because underneath are the impulses of faith and love and worship kindled into a glowing flame. *Dedication of self to the tasks Christ has set for us will impart to religion a tone of reality. It will do more to pull religion down out of the clouds than any other influence we may command.* It will emancipate us from the reign of the check-book and put that useful instrument in a secondary place where it belongs. Above all, it will show us that one great need, the constant and imperative need, is the operating of God's Holy Spirit in our hearts; for on no other condition can any one give himself to God and keep at it.

By George N. Luccock

Pastor, the College Church, Wooster, Ohio

WE MUST recognize the unusual expectancy in the attitude toward the church among world leaders, more particularly in the field of industry. Captains of industry are saying boldly and earnestly that religion is the sole solvent of the business problems of the hour, and that the application of religion to business relations can be made effective only through the leadership that comes from within the church.

In a tense situation the one thing needful is leadership. If somebody starts something there will be followers, crowds of them. They would leap and rush like huddled sheep after a leader daring to jump for the open. It is the ripe hour for any one with the qualities of real leadership.

And how shall we get the leaders? *We must begin at the heart of the Christian home.* Parents must be pleaded with to reconsecrate themselves unto willingness and desire to have their children go into definite Christian work. It is written of the Macedonians that in the giving of money they first gave their own selves. In like manner as precedent to the giving of children to Christian work there must first be on the part of parents a free giving of themselves. In such homes it will be easier for youth to see the light and hear the voice.

Pulpits must ring with the call to life dedication, followed by pastoral personal suggestion and incitement.

The whole atmosphere of the church must be made to play on the impressionable hearts of youth like April sunshine on the swelling buds.

The whole life of the church, in all of its members, in all of its work, must be made to throb with the passion for service, with the passion to do Christ honor.

And the only way to kindle that passion is by proclaiming the cross of Christ, in all its power to save, in all its power to constrain.

THE CALL TO EVERY YOU

By Mrs. W. T. Larimer

General Secretary, Woman's Department, the Board of Missions for Freedmen

DURING THE WAR DAYS perhaps no poster on our streets and sign boards attracted more attention than the one of Uncle Sam pointing his long, bony finger, looking one through and through with those piercing eyes, and saying: "I want you." It made men and women think, and we could not forget it. We won, but there is an "after day," and we are in that period of reconstruction now. "Wanted—You!" is in every mile of the road in our cities, and even rural districts. "Men wanted" to study conditions in our cities, who have first studied in the Christian home and Christian Church what led to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. "Men wanted" to stand for enforcement of law on the liquor question, punishment of crime, protection of sabbath laws. Who will do it but the men of our churches, who have a vision of the love of Christ? "Wanted—You," young men,

to proclaim this gospel from the pulpit, in the college, in your everyday life. If you cannot be a minister, there are many places for the laymen of the church in business, "by the way," and we need young men today to live the clean, pure life in their youth, that they may be strong in their manhood.

"Wanted—You," women who are bearing the heat and burden of the day with your families and their cares. You may sometimes seem as if you have as much as you can do, but let us remember that we whose souls are lighted and enjoy the homes that we have, the love that is there, and stand as equals of our husbands, owe a debt to missions that we can never pay, and we must light the candle for others. A wonderful responsibility in this day belongs to us as mothers and as women with new responsibilities, and the work is urgent; shall we fail in the work that he has given us to do in this generation?

"Wanted—You," young women, with all the beauty and freshness of youth, with

life before you, with all your influence and the power that you have, and sometimes know it not. So many places are calling for this life and beauty, where it will be so worth while. Is there a better place than Christian service? There are schools to be taught, children waiting to be taught in mission schools, and I have never seen more beautiful girls than those giving their lives for children of other races than their own, but with that one idea of service. Many of the older ones have wearied in the work in the days when it was hard and have laid down their burdens, and the question is, who will take them up. It must fall upon the young shoulders. There are many places today where girls of strong conviction of high ideals are needed. Are there places for preparation? Yes. Young peoples' conferences will give you a vision of service, if you have not got it in your own church. Will you read the sign carefully: "Wanted—You"? There is a psychological moment that comes to a person and a nation to decide. We are in that critical time