

DECLARES CHURCH MUST RISK ITS LIFE IN OPPOSITION TO WAR

Rev Angus Dun Tells of Disillusionment After World Conflict—Each Nation Must Now See Whether The Other Carries Two Guns or One

Special Dispatch to the Globe

WINCHESTER, Nov 12—"The time may come when patriotism and Christ will stand face to face and men will have to choose which they will follow," declared Rev Angus Dun, assistant professor of theology at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, in a remarkable sermon delivered today at the Church of the Epiphany.

Rev Mr Dun declared further that "to the wisdom accepted and incorporated in the international dealings, the preaching of Christ is simply folly and weakness."

"The conviction is arising in many Christian minds," he said, "that the church must risk its life in radical opposition to war and the system that breeds war or lose its own soul. That has not been the position of the church that we have known. The church in England, America and Germany has accepted war as completely as the church of the 18th century accepted slavery, or the church of the 19th century accepted the cruel exploitation of growing industrialism.

"In nearly every Nation it has blessed the National Armies without discrimination and propagated a religion of National duties under the cover of naming the Saviour of mankind. The churches of England are crowded with the memorials of British soldiers without any question as to whether they died in the defense of justice or in the infliction of injustice.

"And in the last war there issued from hundreds of Christian pulpits in England, Germany and America exhortations and sentiments supplied them by the propagators of war spirit that showed no faint shading of a Christ-like mind, none of a hesitancy to pass judgment, none of an utterly unselfish will to reconcile the enemy to himself. We must confess that even within the church the preaching of the cross has been treated as if it were foolishness. Now here and there appear men and women who press upon us the hard question, 'What shall be the attitude of the church toward the next war?'

"Memories Check Us"

Rev Mr Dun, continuing, said: "As soon as we begin to think of that question some of our most cherished memories arise to check us. We remember the quivering enthusiasm of war days, the high hopes for justice and lasting peace, the humbling sense that other men were paying in life blood for our security and freedom.

"Hard days of disillusionment have followed. What was hailed as a moral purification has turned out to be a spiritual depressant. The comradeship of the Allied Nations, hallowed by the mingling of unutterable sacrifices has been shattered by jealousies over the spoils of victory. We fought a war to end war. And on May 15, 1919, the Greek Army, with English munitions, landed at Smyrna by the decision and with the assistance of the Allied Powers.

"From that time until the victorious Turkish offensive of this last August, an offensive encouraged by France and carried on with French and Italian ammunition, one district after another of Western Anatolia has been ravaged by both parties. Thus have we ended war! It is a gloomy record.

"No disillusionment can cloud our

reverence at the recollection of the dead. No new vision of what God wills can make us repudiate the heroism which they displayed. Christ does not summon us to repudiate their sacrifice. He does call us to an unalterable hatred of the evil which engulfed so many fair lives.

National Self-Seeking

"What we are to repudiate and hate is not some section of the great family of God, but the worldly wisdom, of the reign of mutual distrust, the narrow patriotism and National self-seeking which are the root of that great sin.

"The Nations lay their wreaths and medals on the corpses of unknown soldiers whom they encouraged to fight with the slogan, 'this is the war to end war.' But then by the very genius of the system these Powers have created, each must look sharply at the other to see whether he is carrying two guns or one.

"The wisdom to which the church is committed proclaims that whether that unknown soldier be black, or red, or Italian or Jew or Anglo-Saxon or German, he is of one blood with the 10,000,000 who lie at his side, called with them to one spiritual destiny.

"The Nations have seen in the uncivilized and backward places of the earth, first, land, rich in minerals—oil, gold, steel—and, second, cheap labor to work that land. In the Congo, rubber, plus cheap labor. In Mexico, oil, plus cheap labor. In China, minerals and trade, plus cheap labor. They have sought privilege, monopoly and spheres of influence. The ignorance and weakness of other men have been a challenge to cupidity and lust for dominion, not to generosity and sentiments of justice.

Would Aid Uncivilized

"The church has seen in the uncivilized and backward places of the earth, first, human beings bound in superstition and ignorance, and, second, land which can be developed for the sake of those people and their neighbors. It has gone out to uncivilized and hostile peoples with no force behind it but the love of God and no profit sought but a share in the redeeming and healing work of Christ.

"Granted that there are many exceptions, it remains true that the morality of international relations has been on the whole a morality of greed, a morality in which minerals and trade have been valued more highly than the spirits of men, in which the commercial advantage of one people has been placed above the common good of mankind, and past robbery has been the sufficient basis for present possession. To the wisdom, accepted and incorporated in international dealings, the preaching of Christ is simply folly and weakness.

"It may be that the world will not be converted to the wisdom of Christ. Offenses may come. But woe be to the men by whom the offense cometh. We do not control the course of this world. But we can choose for ourselves whether we shall serve and live by that worldly wisdom which is the root of war, or whether we shall serve and live by that wisdom of Christ in which lies man's redemption from the sin of war.

"Do we agree with Edith Cavell that patriotism is not enough? The time may come when patriotism and Christ will stand face to face and men will have to choose which they will follow. If the Christian Church does not develop men with the courage to choose Christ, mankind will find no abiding peace and the church will lose its soul."