

The Church in Russia.

The Patriarchate of Moscow has been revived. The new Patriarch presided over his Church Council at the beginning of February. A reply to the Bolshevik decree separating Church and State was read by Professor Prince Troubetsky. It acknowledged that time of sorrow and trial had come, that the decree destroyed freedom of religion, not only for the orthodox but for all. The property of the Church was confiscated, voluntary offerings were forbidden, the maintenance of Churches rendered impossible; the Church was powerless to keep open her theological colleges or even to print her books. It ended with a call to the people to defend the Church. It was adopted unanimously without debate.

New Zealand Church Missionary Society.

The sum of £500 has been received from Mr G. Coldham Williams, of Hawke's Bay, being a portion of a sum which has arisen from the death of his son, Selwyn, at the front. The amount is to be capitalised, and will form, with a similar amount previously received, a "Selwyn and Noel Williams Trust Account," for the support of Foreign Mission work in perpetuity. The Society expresses very sincere sympathy with Mr Williams in the loss of both his sons, and commends his generous action in donating the sums named to the furtherance of the Gospel of the Prince of Peace in the dark regions of the earth.

The Rev. F. C Long will make Christchurch his headquarters for some time. He leaves Auckland with his family at the end of July.

China.—Missionaries in China are having a most anxious time and need the prayers of us all. In the Civil War now raging they are liable to be plundered and ravished by both forces. Miss Dineen's house at Hengchow (Central China) was set apart as a women's refuge from the savage troops. Southern rebel soldiers arrived in large numbers and demanded food and drink, and when the supply ran out broke up her crockery. They were eventually driven out by the Northerners. At Chungang brigandage is rife and missionaries are being captured and held to ransom; one in Fukien was shot by pirates.

India.—Miss Florence Smith has had a seriously inflamed (poisoned) eye, but is now quite well.

Central Africa, Uganda.—The Uganda Synod, at its last meeting, petitioned the Governor to put an end to unnecessary Sunday labor, particularly official travelling.

An Appreciation.

The Vicarage,
Waipukurau.

Dear Sir,—Please find enclosed cheque due for 40 copies of the "Gazette" sent to the Parish of Waipukurau for the year ending 30th June, 1918.

Permit me to say that the paper is very much appreciated.

There has been no difficulty in getting in the subscriptions this year, and I have much pleasure in asking you to let me have another 25 copies, as I consider that such a paper is most helpful in parish work. I know that our people are reading it, and its influence in stimulating interest in Church matters is manifest.

Wishing you a successful year.—I am, etc.,

A. W. C. STACE.

Subscriptions.

We are grateful to several parishes for a prompt settlement of their accounts this year. There are others, however, from whom we get only a small response, and in some cases none at all. Our experience and that of many clergy is that people gladly pay their subscriptions when asked individually, but whose duty is it to collect the local subscriptions? Obviously the "Gazette" manager cannot do it. In large parishes it is almost impossible for the Vicar to do it. In some parishes a local "Gazette" secretary does the work, but it would help ever so much if subscribers would send their subscription to the Vicar of the parish or to the local secretary. Some send it direct to us; we do not mind so long as it is paid. Many people could add to their subscription, when sending it to us, a donation to the "Gazette" funds. If we received more help in this way we could increase the size again. Some parishes are hopelessly in arrears—is it fair?

Subscriptions Acknowledged.

Miss Davis 2s 6d, Mrs A. M. Gardiner £1 12s 6d, St. Augustine's £10, Mrs Buchanan 2s 6d, Rev. W. G. Stace £4, Mrs Asplett 2s 6d, Otane £5, Rev. T. Fisher £2, W. Palmer 5s, Mrs Harwood 2s 6d, Ven. Archdeacon Williams £1, Waipiro Bay £2 10s 6d, Matawai £1 7s 4d, Rev. H. Collier £5 12s 6d, Rev. H. T. Ranwsley 2s 6d, Rev. E. Ward £1, Tauranga 12s 6d, Mrs Fiecken 2s 6d, Mr Evan Davis 2s 6d, Rev. F. B. Redgrave £1 2s 6d.

Church Army.—St. George's Sunday School (Whakatane) 10s.

Church Army Work.

The following vivid description of Church Army work at the front is extracted from the "Church Times"—we are sorry to have been compelled to curtail it considerably:—

Let us now take you in imagination close up to the firing line and show you the Church Army at work in a district under observation of the enemy. The place I have in mind was the model mine of France; its buildings were all quite new, erected on the most approved lines, and fitted with the best modern machinery.

Now, what a scene of sorrow and desolation! Every single house is laid in ruins. Each one was picked out in turn by the German guns and systematically destroyed. The large coal elevator is a mass of twisted steel. The palatial building which housed the offices of the mine is a wreck, but underneath it are spacious vaults, which no shell has yet reached. In these vaults the Church Army is installed. For there is now an underground town in this garden city, and a new population has to be catered for.

As you pass along by the ruins of the houses you will notice the flue of a chimney emerging from the ground in front of each. It comes up from the cellar beneath the ruin.

There is no place or means of recreation within reach of the men, not even an estaminet, for the entire civil population has been evacuated. So the Church Army has literally and metaphorically stepped into the breach. Steer your way with me carefully round the shell-holes in the ground. Keep your box respirator at hand, ready to fix on at a moment's notice.

We climb gingerly down the broken steps that lead to the vaults, of which the Church Army has taken possession. The Royal Engineers have at last succeeded in installing electric light, so that now you will be able to see all the beauties of this hidden palace.

At one end of the main cellar a stage has been erected, bright with colored hangings; and here the local troupe of military "Whiz-bangs" give their displays. The walls are gay with gaudy posters culled from the advertisement hoardings at home. The air, if it is evening, is thick with cigarette smoke, and the tables are crowded with men playing games, reading magazines, or writing home. Come through a side door and follow an underground passage, and we reach another portion of this labyrinth. Switch on the electric light, and you find you are in a beautiful chapel. A vaulted recess at the end forms a natural sanctuary, in which the altar