

was a great help, when the Vicar urged that the spiritual side of the parish really ought to be more fully developed, and prayers were offered for God's fullest blessing on the Church and all Church workers. Wardens, vestrymen and choir members assisted to make the number of Communicants in that particular Sunday number sixty-four.

Mrs. Dunford and Miss Tattersfield, who from the opening of St. Andrew's Church, Kumeroa, have attended to the altar flowers and church arrangements, felt it time to resign. They have been a wonderful comfort to the Vicar, who lives nearly ten miles away, and our thanks are extended to them both. We were very fortunate that Mrs. Ramsden was willing to take over this work for our little church, and she does it very well. Mrs. Ramsden has given a glass inset for the font, for which we are grateful.

The Bishop's visit was very happy, the Vicar presenting 19 candidates for Confirmation. The congregations were very good, and our Bishop's instructive sermons surely helped all who heard them. The parochial district has much to be thankful for, in spite of the financial depression, and signs are not wanting that we are turning the corner and may do more for the Board of Mission this coming year.

If Another War Comes What Will YOU Do?

By the Very Rev. "Dick" Sheppard.

"It is extraordinary," writes one of our leading statesmen, "how rarely in history have victors been capable of turning in a flash to all those absolutely different processes of action, to that utterly different mood which alone can secure by generosity what they have gained by force."

Fine and true as that sounds, there is nothing much to it. It is neither extraordinary nor surprising that men should be unable to walk straight out of war into peace. It is only natural.

MOVING WORDS.

When millions who have been per-

mitted and encouraged to hate then proceed with every devilish device at their disposal to work out that hatred on their fellows of another breed, we can hardly expect them to emerge from their hell as young angels of love and light.

If men prepare for war there is bound to be an unholy row.

Hear at Armistice-tide what one whom none can accuse of being a sentimentalist has to say about the horrors of the world war.

These are the moving words of Mr. Winston Churchill:—

"Every effort was made to starve whole nations into submission without regard to age or sex. Cities and monuments were smashed by artillery. Bombs from the air were cast down indiscriminately. Poisoned gas in many forms stifled or scarred the soldiers. Liquid fire was projected upon their bodies. Men fell from the air in flames or were smothered, often slowly, in the dark recesses of the sea. . . .

"When all was over, torture and cannibalism were the only two expedients that the civilised, scientific, Christian States had been able to deny themselves, and these were of doubtful utility."

I should wish those words writ in letters of red in every school and every language throughout the civilised world.

And yet the happenings of 1914-1918 were a mere bagatelle to what would happen next time; but on this subject I would say nothing, for I detest the method—too often employed—that tries to make peace by putting the fear, not of God, but of man, into the hearts of timid people.

It is only very brave men that can make and keep peace; passionate, strong, healthy, laughing warriors—the sort that came into our mind yesterday in the Silence; the sort that hated killing, but went to kill and came back, sometimes, to wish they, too, were dead.

You may answer: "Stop all these platitudes. Who wants war?"

No one, thank God; yet listen.

WHY?

It has been declared that among the countless million citizens of all the enlightened nations of the world there could not be found many hundreds to

declare in favour of modern war as a reasonable means of settling disputes between the nations.

Yet the same responsible millions, ever since the disaster that converted them to this view, have been consistently overtaking themselves in preparation for a more outrageously modern war still.

That is where we are fifteen years after we cried aloud to God, and to those who gave all they had to give to end war, "It is finished; never again, this we swear."

If the Unknown Warrior died in vain, his the glory, for ever ours the shame.

If he trusted that we would complete his work, and now we only serenade him with a post-humous eruption of gratitude once a year, how greatly pathetic is he, how blasphemous our "G.H.Q. Community" orders each November 11.

Politicians, in their moments of insight, tell us that peace will only come when the hearts of men are changed.

After that they have nothing to say. Christians though most of them be, it would not be good form to add anything more.

It is simply "not done."

Has anybody else anything to suggest? Forgive my impertinence—I have.

Let Christ be called in, at great cost, to expel the clouds of fear and suspicion that still haunt the human heart and make it impossible for us "to turn in a flash to all those absolutely different processes of action, to that utterly different mood" by which the peace of God may be won.

And, lastly, let those who long for the will of God to prevail go pacifist out and out, through and through, since Jesus and Jehovah cannot walk in step.

To conclude (speaking only for myself), I maintain, with my whole soul, that the Church of Christ is not worthy to represent its Lord to-day unless it declares, without any equivocation or delay, that no leader or ranker under its banner may kill his fellow, his brother. Why? One answer will suffice:

Christ would not permit it.

H. R. L. SHEPPARD.