



Bishop-Business Go Hand in Hand

Bishop Shepard, Methodist, Combines Religious Leadership With Great Executive Ability.



Edworth Church, Modest Structure Where Bishop Worships.



Church Party At Oak Harbor, Wash., Dedication.



Bishop William O. Shepard's Territory Covers Thousands of Miles.

BY DE WITT HARRY.

WEBSTER calls a bishop a spiritual overseer, but that definition falls far short of the actuality today. Possibly in days of not so long ago the high church dignitary's main efforts were bent to the proper care of his religious flock by the sole means of presiding and directing the sacred side of his church's efforts. Today the secular angle would seem to predominate, for the modern church has expanded tremendously along with all other things in this rapidly growing civilization of ours, and manifold interests of the many denominations call for an overseer who not only has the qualifications of being a religious leader but of being a big business man as well.

Possibly in this section of America there is no better illustration of this than the case of Bishop William O. Shepard, L. L. D., D. D., newly installed head of the Methodist church for the Portland area, which embraces Oregon, Washington, Alaska and part of Idaho—thousands of square miles of territory, in which this denomination has millions of dollars invested. The Methodist church is one of the largest business concerns in the northwest. It is managed as efficiently, judging from external and financial reports, as the majority of the great corporations. Headquarters are in an office block—the Artisans' building—in which they occupy most of one floor, and here are the superintendents and corps of secretaries and stenographers, just as would be found in the offices of any great firm carrying on the volume of business that this one does.

Religion Is Business Today.

For it is a great business, this matter of saving and guarding souls today, a business that calls for the canniest of management with its many ramifications. In their area the Methodists here have some 60,000 actual members, while their constituents will easily reach three times that number. Each of these 60,000 church members must be treated as a stockholder in the corporation, which is a wealthy one with its congregation properties and the many assets belonging to the different branches. Then there is the Methodist Book concern, the greatest religious book publishers in the world, doing a business of more than \$6,000,000 annually from nine depositories, with its great branch in Portland started three years ago. This publishing house here is growing rapidly and they have their agents throughout the country, with the result that their sales are increasing by leaps and bounds, and yet they estimate that they have but half of the available business.

This book publishing company is just a concrete example of the Methodist manner of serving those of their faith, for it is a religious institution, no matter how much it may sound like mere business. It must have been in the far distant past when one of the leaders of the church asked himself why they should pay out their hard earned money to some other fellow for producing Bibles and many other books that they found essential. Result, the formation of the book concern, on a real helpful basis, and it is one of the greatest assets of the church today. Well managed, with a full trained staff, they put their publications in the field and compete with anyone, until they reign supreme at the present day. And all of this is run at a profit. In 1915 they cleared \$400,000, every cent of which went to the support of the widows



Mrs. Shepard Shares Cares And Responsibility.

and orphans of the church. Here's the real thing in religion. And in this territory Bishop Shepard is the head of the book concern among his other activities. Just one sample of what he has to do. Possibly at the start of this article many may have gathered the impression that the secular side of the bishop's activities was getting the upper hand, that he was devoting more of his time to business than to the religious side of his work. The contrary is the case, for the many who have had an opportunity of meeting the bishop since his arrival in Portland unite in rendering him the greatest tribute as a factor in religious life. What is emphasized is that manners of spreading the gospel have changed. The viewpoint has broadened, the church has not been content to loiter while other movements were pushing ahead. Men who had their souls in the work of salvation realized that they must be progressive or fall out of the procession. Result was the inception of such activities that some few years back would have been considered outside the province of the church.

During 1915 Bishop Shepard made an extended trip through the west and presided at a number of conferences. It was at this time that the men who lived in this big section of the nation realized that they would like to have this man from Texas with them. When he presided in Montana one of the speakers at that meeting paid him the following tribute:

"Can anyone imagine a president who would better fit into this Montana atmosphere than Bishop Shepard? Sweet-spirited, humble, devoted to the interests of the men and of

the church of Christ. His great heart seemed to envelop the whole conference and every man felt perfectly at ease and liberty in his presence. But we must not get the impression from this that he is not a man's man. He is the more so because of these qualities. Gentle, yet firm; humble, but absolutely fearless in the presence of wrong or of his duties. His sermons and addresses are strong, sympathetic, eloquent. The impression left is that he has a very exalted idea of the Christian ministry and a love for Christ and his children that will brook any obstacle to serve them. His administration of the conference was very satisfying and he will be welcomed any time he comes to Montana."

Bishop Gets Wide Experience.

Somewhat in the nature of an introduction it might be well here to look back and see how our new bishop got his training, what has been his experience to produce such a man as has charge of this large and important field today. Bishop Shepard was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, April 11, 1862, and was educated at Jennings' Seminary, De Pauw, Northwestern and Syracuse universities and then was pastor of Elgin, Rockford, Evanston and Chicago churches. He then took charge of the northern district of Chicago as superintendent and had charge of the Rock river conference when elected to the episcopacy at Minneapolis in 1912. He took charge of the Wichita area, consisting of the states of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and made such a success here that he was retained for eight years, coming here direct from the big, open south. So it can be seen that he has seen almost

every phase of life, from the close quartered existence in crowded cities to the virile living in the great open. During 1918 Bishop Shepard presided at a number of northwest conferences, those of northern Montana, Montana, Idaho, western Norwegian-Danish, Oregon and North Dakota. It was on this trip that he discovered the west and he was delighted when he was chosen last summer to take charge of the Portland area. "I have been here over five months and I feel right at home," said he last week. "The country is my own, and I have adopted it. It feels right to me and I like the people."

Mutual Esteem Revealed.

And from all indications the general liking for the new head of the Methodist movement in this section of the country is not restricted to his own denomination. Rev. C. C. Cline, D. D., president of the Methodist Historical society, in extending a greeting to the new chief explained that the men who labored in this field were "good lovers, good eaters, fond of butchers' meat and sound sleep." He told their new leader that they were an unmuzzled lot, free with their opinions and generally expressed what they thought and were self-reliant. And then Rev. Mr. Cline went further and stated that the preachers were not the whole thing, but that the churchwomen and the rest of the congregations backed up their pastors to the utmost.

One of the noted achievements of the Methodists in America is their centenary movement, destined for the furtherance of church activities. In this immense fund, which was put over in record time, they call for \$115,000,000 from their constituents during the next five years, or at the rate of \$23,000,000 each year. All of this money is meant for the furtherance of church work, both at home and abroad, for the development of the foreign missionary field as well as the home missions, and the notable thing about this movement is that it is an actuality, every cent of the immense sum is pledged even in these days when drives are usually falling by the wayside. In this area it is

just one of Bishop Shepard's many duties to care for the raising of their quota and for the expenditure of the allotment for Portland. There is little question but that this sum will insure the future of the church and that it will emerge a greater one at the end of the next five years. Quoting from a recent address of the bishop's, we find his principles well set forth and can judge to some extent what manner of man he is.

Character of Man Revealed.

"I do not want narrow sectarianism," said Bishop Shepard, "I have no secretarianism in my veins and I do not want any there. But we must have a sense of our denomination and we must realize that we belong to one church. We shall not get far if we do not pull together. I earnestly hope for a full understanding among clergy and laity of our oneness in the great task we have to do." "The problems are many and difficult. They are too many and too difficult for any one man. They are far too big for all of us. But we must strive to solve what we can. I have come from a series of campaigns that resulted in the building of four colleges and two hospitals and in the financial organization of seven conferences. Sometimes I have felt that I should like to go where no more campaigns would be attempted for a while. But on second thought I do not want to rest. I want to put my shoulder to the wheel with you people of the northwest and build these institutions lastingly. I want to see that this work goes straight ahead to a splendid conclusion."

Of the Methodist centenary, Bishop Shepard said: "The centenary was not and is not a matter of raising money. It is rather a matter of building churches and institutions. When we give money we are not paying for things in Portland, but under our principle of connectionalism we are putting money into a pool to build up Methodism throughout our area."

Laymen Set Pace.

"The laymen have set the pace for the pastors. In my eight years as a bishop I have never asked for financial support for a good work without

getting as much money as I asked for. The results were due in most cases almost entirely to the work of the laymen.

"As far as I am concerned I am in favor of giving the laymen the right to have everything to say about the selection of their pastors. I am willing to leave to the church members the choice of their minister, insofar as they have knowledge which justifies that choice."

"While I shall be at the head of this area there shall be no secret cabinet meetings for the making of appointments or for transacting other church affairs. Everything shall be open and above board." "As I have said, we are leaders in the Protestant movement in this country whether we like it or not. We have churches to build. We have hospitals and institutions to establish. Let us build them strong and lasting and with it all let us have them beautiful. Let us not have churches unattractive to the extent that they repel the young people we wish to bring into our neighborhood. Let us make our churches as beautiful as our high schools. There is a certain deterioration that the war has brought to some of our young men. That deterioration we must labor to overcome with churches as attractive as we can make them."

Natural Leadership Shown.

Admittedly one of Bishop Shepard's greatest assets is his unflinching technique in making appointments. This was a notable item in making his great success for the past eight years in the Wichita area and he has already made this ability tell here. It is not a far-fetched simile to try and imagine him as a great general in an army, for he is undoubtedly a natural leader and no matter what walk in life he might have been cast he would have certainly made his force felt. The day by day routine of administration that would pall on many men of less grit holds no terrors for him and he consumes immense quantities of work with telling effect. Another of

his duties is to lead in the evangelism work in his area.

The educational phase of the Methodist church work must not be overlooked. They have three really fine colleges in this area, Willamette university at Salem, the College of Puget Sound at Tacoma and the Kimball School of Theology at Salem. These also are under the direct supervision of the bishop and it is understood that the church is contemplating the establishment of a new college in the near future. In addition to these, major institutions they have many smaller schools of lesser magnitude.

Area Takes to Bishop.

The Pacific Christian Advocate is possibly the church paper with the largest circulation in the northwest, and this also is under the jurisdiction of Bishop Shepard. It is a news weekly and has been published for over a half century. In Portland there is also a retail branch of the Methodist Book concern that is in a flourishing condition.

When the next general conference meets, nearly four years hence, the bishops will again be assigned territories, and, though Bishop Shepard has been with the Portland area but a few months, they are already hoping that he may be returned to them for at least four years more. Bishop Shepard holds his rank and title throughout the world, and not just in the Portland area, and while he has not committed himself, and there may be a change of heart, it is pretty well understood that the Methodist church in the northwest has found a leader to its liking, and that the liking is mutual. All is set for a flourishing reign of at least four years, and possibly 8 or 12.

Suicide of Renowned Paris Singer Opportune.

While Body Awaits Police Caller Comes to Rent Flat.

PARIS, Nov. 20.—One thousand francs only remaining of her former wealth, Madeleine Moreno, who was a renowned singer in gay Paris theaters before she married Joseph O'Brien, a coachman for one of the wealthiest residents of the Champs Elysees, invited her husband out to dinner a short time ago.

To one of the most expensive restaurants in Paris, the scene of Madeleine's former life, they went. They returned home about 2 o'clock in the morning, minus the 1000 francs. An hour later Mrs. O'Brien cut her husband's throat with a razor, then committed suicide.

The concierge of the apartment, where the couple occupied a handsomely furnished flat in a street leading from the Champs Elysees, reported the matter to the police and in a few minutes a distinguished-looking man called.

He made many inquiries concerning the affair, which the concierge answered.

"Mr. Police Commissioner," she ended, "please hurry and have the bodies removed from the flat."

"I am not the police commissioner," replied the visitor, "but you admit the flat is vacant, that the price is so much; then I will rent the apartment. I have been looking for one for over a year."

Habits of Teredo Studied.

SAN FRANCISCO.—The teredo, a worm which eats into piles of wharves and ship bottoms, is being given a scientific study by representatives of the United States government and others interested in the problem. Paul G. Redington, district forester; C. L. Hill of the United States forest service; and T. G. Townsend from the forest products laboratory at Madison, Wis., have been making a study of the teredos around San Francisco bay.