

Kredsmødet i Winnecola

Winnecola Kredsmødet holdt sit Aarsmøde i Albert Lea, Minn., fra 3 til 6 Okt. Mødet begyndte Torsdag Aften med Aabningsord af Pastor N. W. Lund fra Minneapolis. Pastor Lund talte ud fra Salmen 68, 1-5. Efter Prædiken sang Koret en Sang, hvorefter Kredens Sekretær erklærede Møde aabnet i den freenige Guds Navn og mindede om Ordet i Ap. 6, 8, 6-8. Derefter lod Stedets Præsident alle de fremmede velkomne med Ef. 3, 19. Vi tilbragte en Iften Aften sammen med hverandre i Guds Hus.

Tredag Morgen Andagt af Pastor N. C. Carlsen, som talte ud fra Joh. 14, 14. Da vi ingen Kredsforsamling havde, blev Pastor John Lund valgt som Ordstyrer, indtil en ny Kredsforsamling blev valgt. Derefter oplæste Kredsforsamlingen sin Fødselsbetænkning, som blev modtaget og henlagt til en Komité, der kom til at bestaa af Prædikerne: N. Hansen, N. C. Carlsen og Delegat P. Nielsen, Minneapolis.

Efter Salmen 666 var junglen, indlede Pastor Axel Christiansen Kredens Emne: 1 Pet. 4, 10. Saa holdt vi Middag; undertegnede sluttede med Bøn.

Eftermiddags Mødet begyndte med at synge Salmen 583, hvorefter Pastor N. Hansen indlede Menighedens Emne: Matth. 20, 25-28. Forsamlingen var inde for at behandle begge Emner under eet, da de var saa nær beslægtet. Efter Indledningen tog man saa fat paa Drøftelsen af begge Emner. Vi havde en meget opbyggelig Eftermiddag. Om Aftenen talte Student Landroef fra Minneapolis paa Engelsk, og Pastor C. M. Rammens paa Dansk.

Torsdag Morgen var der Prædiken i Præsteboligen, og Folket samlede sig i Kirken til en Vibeftime ledet af Missionær P. Clausen. Kl. 10 begyndte Forretningsmødet med Salmesang, Skriftelesning og Bøn af Ordstyreren Pastor John Lund, hvorefter Sekretæren oplæste Reiseret fra sidste Kredsmøde, det godkendtes. Saa oplæste Sekretæren sin Rapport, som blev modtaget med Tak. Derefter oplæstes Komiteens Rapport, som blev modtaget og gennemaaget punktvis. Følgende Punkter blev vedtaget: 1. Kredsmødet paasætter Fremgangen i Arbejdet i Duluth samt det trojaste Arbejde, der har været uet i Superior. — 2. I Erfendelse af Arbejdets Vigtighed og de gode Udsigter hær i Duluth, maa Kredsen fremdeles støtte Missionen. Og i Betragtning af de stadig stigende Priser paa Livsformidlenheder foreslog Komiteen, at Kredsen under Pastor Mengers en maanedlig Understøttelse af \$35.00 paa den Betingelse, at Menigheden under det Bidrag, som den har lovet i Præsteboligen. — 3. I Betragtning af Dyrtdien foreslaar Komiteen, at der herefter betales \$2 for Kosten under Kredsmødet. — 4. Kredsmødet udtaler en hjertelig Tak til Trinitatis Menighed samt dens Præsident Pastor Dr. Peteresen Taler for Gæstfrihed og alt det gode, vi har nyt under vort Ophold.

Om Kredsen der til Valg af Embedsmænd: P. M. Peteresen, Formand, Pastor N. C. Carlsen, Sekretær, og P. Clausen Kasserer. Det blev vedtaget at have Mødet og Pastor N. Hansen sluttede med Bøn.

Kassererens Regnskab for det fundne Aar ser saaledes ud: 3 Kassen ved Aarets Begyndelse \$165.42 Indkommen i Aarets Løb \$454.73

Tilfammen \$620.15

Udbetalt i Aarets Løb \$592.61 Overflud i Kassen \$ 27.54 Underbalance for Aaret \$137.88 Udbetalt til Superior \$195.00 Udbetalt til Minneapolis \$150.00 Udbetalt til Bogkastens Gæld \$ 26.21

Udbetalt i Rejsseudgifter til: Pastor Bando \$ 9.30 Udbetalt i Rejsseudgifter til Pastor Peteresen \$ 10.85

Torsdag Aften holdt Pastor John Lund Missionsforedrag. Hans Læst var Rom. 1, 16. Det var et lærerigt og praktisk foredrag. Der var noget for enhver at tænke paa. I Søndhed en Slutning paa Ugen. Saa oprandt Høstidsdagen, Søndagen eller Herrens Dag, som jo

altid udgør Glanspunktet i de tiore Møder. Dette var ogsaa Tilfældet ved Albert Lea-Mødet. Søndag Morgen Kl. 10 Skriftemaal af undertegnede ud fra Es. 66, 13-14. En stor Skare gæstede Herrens Ord. Pastor N. C. Carlsen kjente ved Alteret og prædikede til Højmesse over Dagens Evangelium efter den gamle Lektire. Taleren lagde særlig Vægt paa Røddigheden af at eje Syndernes Forladelse. Efter Prædikenen blev der lagt et Offer paa Herrens Alter til vor Kredsmission; det beløb sig til \$165.00

Efter Gudstjenesten holdtes der Værdugudstjeneste af Pastor Axel Christiansen. Om Eftermiddagen var der Udmønstningsmøde, hvor der blev talt paa Engelsk af Prædikerne: N. Hansen og Rammens. Søndag Aften Slutningsmøde, hvor Pastor John Lund talte først over Salmen 73, 24, hvorefter de andre fremmede Prædiker talte hver et lille Parvelord. Sangforet glædede os ogsaa ved dette Møde, saavel som under hele Kredsmødet med mange dejlige Sange, der gjorde sit til at gøre Mødet sjovt og velsignet. Mødet sluttede med at sige Trosbekendelsen i Hælsesskab. Det lod fra mange Munde: „Herren gav os nogle velsignede Dage under Kredsmødet i Albert Lea.“

Maatte saa ogsaa disse Dages Møder bære rige Frugter for Evigheden. Det er jo derfor, de holdes. Maa Herren udgøde sin Aand over vor Kred, ja over hele sin Kirke paa Jord, saa Hden fra Himlen rigtig maa komme til at brænde i blandt os og i os. Først skal Herren have Tak og derefter Tak til Præsident og Menighed i Albert Lea for det hyggelige Samvær i ovennævnte Dage. Stærk Hilsen til alle Mødets Løvere.

P. M. Peteresen, Sek.

Luft, Wis.

To af Menighedens unge Mænd er i den senere Tid afgaaet ved Døden som Soldater, nemlig Hans Johansen, Søn af Mr. og Mrs. Peder Johansen, og Theodor Semmesen, Adoptisøn af Mr. og Mrs. Peder Semmesen. Johansen døde i Camp Sherman, Ohio, og blev stedt til Hvile her paa Menighedens Kirkegaard den 9. Oktober. Semmesen døde i Camp Grant, Ill., og blev stedt til Hvile her den 12. Oktober. Fredagen den 11. blev afholdt Sørgegudstjeneste i St. Peters Kirke over de unge Mænd. Past. N. Christiansen, Menighedens Præsident, og Past. N. C. Carlsen, Milwaukee, talte ved denne Lejlighed. Biskop Jensen, som kaldt paa Slagmarfen i Frankrig, medregnet, har St. Peters lille Menighed nu tre forgyldte Stjerner paa sit Service Flag.

Lars Hansen, Lafayette, som saa ofte besøgte vore Gudstjenester, døde ganske pludselig den 9. September i en Alder af nærværd 78 Aar; han blev lagt til Hvile paa Sankttrups Gravplads i Lafayette ved Siden af hans Hustru.

Hans Jørgensen, Veteran fra 1864, som fik en lille Pension fra Danmark, og som levede i Nærheden af Luft, døde den 10. Oktober. Han var født 1844.

Korr.

Spring, Wis.

22. Okt., 1918. Med det samme jeg indsender Betaling for Danfæren, vil jeg fortælle, at vi endnu lever som Menighed her i Maple Valley, omend der ikke har været noget i Måb herfra paa lang Tid. Vi er glade ved vore nye Præstefolk, og Gerningen her har ogsaa efter Omstændighederne gaaet nok saa godt, siden de kom i Juli. Der har været nok saa god en Skare Tilhørere om Søndagen, og Guds Ord bydes rent og klart til os, saa vi vil haabe, at Frugterne ikke udebliver, selv om de ikke altid kommer saa synligt frem, som vi skulde ønske. Guds Ord vil nok bære Frugt i sin Tid. Vi har ogsaa saet bygget et Hjem ved Siden af Kirken og skal snart i Gang med at bygge „Varn“ ogsaa, og selv om det ser lidt smaalt ud med Midler, vil vi ikke forlade Gud ved Naad. Vi havde nok saa god Høst i Aar, og Majs er ogsaa temmelig god. Maatte blot den

ne blodige Krig snart komme til Ende! Godt at der er en herlig Tid i Vente for Guds Børn, da der skal blive en evig Fred, naar Fredsfrøen selv kommer til at regere. Venlig Hilsen til Redaktøren og Læserne. Marie Nielsen.

DANGEROUS TENDENCIES IN AMERICA.

“Liberty” is the watchword of our times. It is on everybody's lips. We are erecting Liberty monuments, buying Liberty bonds flying with Liberty motors and singing Liberty hymns. The word “Liberty” thrills the ears of all true Americans. I am a natural born American citizen of Danish lineage. I am proud of the fact that I am born in “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” Millions with me are thanking God today that we are living under the protection of the STARS and STRIPES. Never before has the American flag been so dear to me as it is today. The people in America are living under better conditions in all respects than any other people in the world. And the eyes of the world are looking to America, expecting her to deliver the world from the curse of autocracy. Our American boys have reasons to be proud that they are fighting for such a glorious cause. And the fact that the world expects our boys to bring victory home should fire them with enthusiasm for our righteous cause.

Never before have I appreciated the liberties and privileges which we enjoy here in America, as I do today. I believe that the war was necessary in order to awaken us to love our flag and to appreciate our liberties. If a fuller appreciation of our liberties and a greater love for our flag should be the only good results from the war, it would not have been waged in vain.

Yet while we are enjoying our liberties, loving our flag, singing our Liberty hymns, there are tendencies coming to the fore in America, which, if they are not nipped in the bud, will become dangerous to our American democracy with its free institutions.

In all my dealings with men I endeavor to be so broadminded and fair to all both friend and foe, that I commend what they do and say that is right; and condemn what they do and say that is wrong. In this article I shall try to be fair to all.

I have always been a great admirer of Theodore Roosevelt, the great champion of modern democracy. His uncompromising stand for what is right and his fight against unrighteousness wherever found, have been an inspiration to me in my work as a clergyman. Roosevelt has done much for our American democracy which stands to his everlasting credit. He is the father of “Progressivism.” His administration and his political campaign of 1912 have helped to make Wilson's administration a grand success. Wilson is building upon the foundation laid by Roosevelt. Roosevelt is more than a great statesman. He is a national prophet. What he predicted four years ago is now coming true. He saw the danger coming nearer and nearer and gave the warning signal. Thanks to Roosevelt for his watchfulness, while the rest of us were sleeping.

“Wake up America” was his cry, and America did wake up. In 1912 Roosevelt was running on the platform of the Progressive party which is the most wonderful document ever written by a political convention. In that campaign Roosevelt was so liberal in his views and championed the people's rights to such an extent, that even some of the most liberal thought that he was going too far. But where does Roosevelt stand today? It is with deep sorrow that I have noticed a change in Roosevelt since 1912. From being a champion of mod-

ern democracy he is becoming a menace to our American democracy with its free institutions. Many of his speeches and much of his writings of late years are autocratic in spirit. They foster dangerous tendencies. He has said many things that are becoming to an Ex-President of a free democracy. If we compare Roosevelt's speeches of 1911-12, with the speeches of his recent tour through the Middle West, we shall notice a great difference. In 1912 Roosevelt was the people's man and championed their rights. He had almost unlimited confidence in the people. The speeches of his recent tour through the Middle West did not bear evidence that he is the people's man or that he has confidence in the people. They had autocratic tendencies and they reminded us very much of “Machtpolitik”. If Roosevelt continues this course, he will soon be lost to the cause of democracy. And we cannot afford to lose the power of such a great personality. Roosevelt lost many friends by his speaking tour.

The German arrogance is repugnant to all Liberty-loving people. There is something in us that revolts against the Germans when they talk about “German-Kultur” as the acme of civilization. They say that “German-Kultur” shall heal the wounds of the world.

But what are the tendencies here in America? So much is spoken and written about Americanism, and greater Americanism, that there is danger that we come to boast of our Americanism, as the Germans boast of their “Kultur.” Roosevelt is right when he says that there shall be “only one flag and one loyalty” in this country. We must commend him and give him credit for exposing pro-Germanism and for his ardent work for true Americanism. But he goes too far with his Americanism. It is dangerously near to be like the German praise for their “Kultur.” Any good things may become a menace if carried too far. Is Roosevelt right when he says that a man with a “hyphen” in his name cannot be a true American? I am not pleading the case of pro-Germanism in America. But I want to be fair to all. I call myself a Danish-American. I love the Danish people, the Danish literature, (there are also many things in Denmark that I do not love) but I love America more, I know only one flag and one loyalty, but I know and love more than one language. I am ready to live and to die for my country, America.

We do not like to hear the Germans praise the German language in preference to all other languages. The German Kaiser talks about the German language as if it were inspired by God. And he tries to exterminate the foreign languages in the provinces which Germany has robbed from her neighbors, including Schleswig-Holstein, which Germany robbed from Denmark in 1864. The sooner these people are Germanized, the better it is in the Kaiser's opinion. But what is taking place here in America? What the German Kaiser is doing with the German language, some would like to do with the English language here in America.

Some will tolerate only the English language in schools, churches and press. Many of the public speakers, who are going up and down the country delivering patriotic addresses, emphasize very strongly that English should be the only language tolerated in America. And many of our educators are taking the same stand. I am sorry to find Roosevelt also taking that stand. Is Roosevelt right when he says that there should be room for only one language in America? Is such an attitude in conformity with the spirit and letter of the United States' Constitution? Such intolerance is Prussianism

in the name of patriotism. Roosevelt and others with him would go further with the English language than the Kaiser has yet attempted to go with the German. They would prohibit all foreign languages in Church, school and press. There are several churches in Berlin using foreign languages. In Schleswig-Holstein the Danes speak Danish, and they teach their children their mother-tongue. And they have a certain number of hours a week in Danish in the German public schools. They hold their church services in Danish, singing Danish church hymns, and there are papers printed in Danish. Of course I do not mean to say that they have a free hand in regard to the Danish, but the Kaiser has not prohibited entirely the mother tongue in the other conquered provinces. Are we following the principles of righteousness, when we show such intolerance toward foreign languages here in America?

We all know that the German-American press and a number of other papers in foreign languages have been a means for spreading German propaganda, but that cannot be said about all papers printed in foreign languages. The majority have been loyal to our government. Is it fair that the innocent shall be punished with the guilty? Would it be in conformity with the Constitution of the United States to prohibit all foreign languages in the press?

And I am sorry to say that a number of churches of foreign tongues have been hotbeds for German propaganda and disloyalty to our Government. I am extremely sorry to know that such a thing has taken place in the Church. I condemn the pastors of such churches in the strongest terms. Such ministers are not worthy of the name “Ambassadors of Jesus Christ.” Churches should be used only for propaganda for Jesus Christ. The majority of the churches of foreign languages have been loyal to our Government. Their work for the Red-Cross, Liberty-Bonds, War Saving-Stamps and other war activities, testify to that effect. And the number of volunteers from these churches is as large as those from the American churches. I ask the question: Is it right that the loyal shall be punished with the disloyal? Do you want to follow the principle: It is better that 99 innocent are punished than that one guilty should escape punishment? To prohibit the foreign languages in the churches is religious persecution in the name of patriotism. And it is contrary to the spirit as well as the letter of the United States' Constitution.

A few weeks ago Gov. Harding of Iowa issued a proclamation prohibiting all foreign languages in schools, churches, public places, on trains, and over telephones. If such a proclamation had come from the German Governor-General of conquered Belgium we would not have been surprised. But it is beyond our comprehension when it comes from a Governor of a state in free America, a man elected by the people, and entrusted the highest office in the state. It is Prussianism springing up in the progressive Middle-West. Gov. Harding's interpretation of the clause of free speech in the Federal and State Constitution is ludicrous. It sounds like the Kaiser speaking to the people of the conquered Russian provinces when he said: “You are now free and independent.” We would almost believe that Governor Harding has been appointed by the Kaiser. And I am very much surprised to learn that Col. Roosevelt commends Gov. Harding for his drastic and autocratic proclamation. Where will such a movement end if it gains the sanction of public opinion? Lovers of our American democracy, wake up! I cannot believe that our noble world democracy, approves such

a proclamation. A word from Washington would be timely.

Gov. Harding has gone a step further than the Kaiser and the German clergy, who call God the German God. In an address delivered in Des Moines before the Chamber of Commerce, Gov. Harding said in speaking about the English language and those who speak foreign languages: “Neither the Federal nor the State Constitution guarantees to them the right to speak or pray in any other language I am also telling those who insist upon praying in some other language, that they are wasting their time, for the good Lord up above us is now listening for the voice in English.”

Gov. Harding's proclamation was an answer to President Wilson's proclamation for a “day of public humiliation, prayer and fasting.” Gov. Harding's proclamation came a few days after President Wilson's. I suppose the Gov. was afraid that the prayers offered in foreign languages would hurt the cause.

If Col. Roosevelt's and Gov. Harding's principles are enforced, one result will be a great emigration to Canada. We can ill afford to lose any more than we are losing now. And furthermore the better class of people will not immigrate to America. We need more of the better class, and fewer of the lower class.

Roosevelt is right when he advocates Americanization of aliens, and citizens of foreign birth; but I don't believe that his short-cut method is the best. President Wilson's method of giving-them-a-chance to reform, will accomplish more in length of time than Roosevelt's method of reform-quickly or kill-them-quickly. The Americanization of aliens and citizens of foreign birth should be along lines of natural development. That will make the best Americans. To change from one language to another is like the growth of a plant. The healthiest and strongest plant is the one that is neither retarded in its growth, nor promoted in its growth by artificial means. We shall not make good Americans out of the aliens and citizens of foreign birth by taking away from them by force their language in Church, school and press. The natural development into English is taking place in the foreign language settlements. You cannot stop it, and it should not be stopped. Many say that the sooner an alien is Americanized, the better it is for both him and America. I am of a different opinion. If the aliens are Americanized by a short-cut process, they will lose too many of their good national characteristics or good qualities. But if they are Americanized gradually, or by a natural development, they will not lose their good characteristics, but these characteristics will be incorporated into the American race. And the American race will be made stronger and more sturdy thereby. There are exceptions. I am here speaking of aliens in general.

President Wilson and Colonel Roosevelt are the two greatest living Americans. In certain respects Roosevelt is the greater, but in all respects Wilson is the greater. Wilson is the most broad-minded person in America, if not in the world. He has a keen analytic mind, he is a great psychologist, and a sound interpreter of current events. Before he makes an important decision, he analyzes the question and looks at it from all angles, he weighs the future consequences. When he does make a decision he is generally right. Who did not criticize his Mexican policy? We did not understand Wilson. Now we see that his Mexican policy was right and was consistent with our principles of democracy.

*)Gov. Harding does not take this as a correct report of what he said. —Ed.

(Continued on page 6.)