

ANNIVERSARY OF MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

DR. F. BUCHMAN'S ADDRESS

To-morrow Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, founder of the Oxford Group, celebrates his seventieth birthday, which is also the tenth anniversary of the launching of the programme of Moral Re-armament. The centre of the occasion will be Los Angeles, where the Hollywood Bowl has been made available for the occasion.

Statesmen from many lands will speak in this open-air amphitheatre, invited by a group of 51 leading senators and representatives in the American Congress.

The following world broadcast is being made by Dr. Buchman for the occasion:—

Everywhere men long for peace and prepare for war. They long to rebuild and prepare to destroy. They plan for new prosperity and expect fresh disasters. What is the missing factor in the planning and the statesmanship of the world to-day? It is our lack of an ideology for democracy. We say we are democrats, we need no ideology.

So we try to meet the united plan and passion of alien ideologies with talk and with lip service to high ideals and with a last resort to force. And we hope to live as we have always lived—selfishly, comfortably and undisturbed. We have all lived too long in an atmosphere of imagining that security, prosperity, comfort and culture are natural to man.

WAR OF PASSIONS

We forgot the eternal struggle between evil and good, victory in which brings the blessings of security and prosperity. But defeat in this struggle, and even ignorance of it, brings poverty, hunger, slavery and death.

An extreme of evil must be met with an extreme of good. Only a passion can cure a passion. And only a superior world-arching ideology can cure a world divided by warring ideologies. We Americans have been lulled into a false security by believing that all the "isms" are across the sea.

"Isms" grow from unsolved problems in the life of men and nations. Is materialism the mother of all the "isms"?

We stretch out generous hands to help Europe and Asia economically, but materialism frustrates our best intentions. Prices rise, money is worth less. Troubles in industry cut down the supply of goods. At the moment when our strength is most needed abroad, we may find ourselves in our greatest crisis.

The other "isms" are banking on that. They wait their time. They know that money, food and clothes alone will not save Europe; that material things may make nations just strong enough to become tools in their ideological conquest of the world.

Ten years ago Moral Re-armament was born. What have we learnt in these ten years? We have learnt that democracy without an ideology can win a war but cannot build a peace; that ideological preparedness is the task of the whole nation, and is the one sure basis of national strength, moral, military and economic.

Moral Re-armament has grown in ten years to the stature of a world answer to any "ism"—even materialism. In the words of a British coalminer, "Moral Re-armament is the answer to every 'ism' every invented." It is for everyone, everywhere. It has restored for millions the simple sanctities of home and honour, and given hope for a new world. It has built the world organism that can make a reality of this hope.

DIVISION

Division is the mark of our age—division in the heart, division in the home, division in industry, division in the nation, division between nations. Union is our instant need. Division is the work of human pride, hate, lust, fear, greed. Division is the trademark of materialism. Union is the grace of rebirth. We have lost the art of uniting because we have forgotten the secret of change and rebirth.

I called on a great leader in his time of deep sorrow. He gave me these words of Fulton Sheen. "What the world needs to-day is not to plead for religious unity so much as to plead for the unity of religious people."

Think of strikes to-day—75,000 men—100,000 men. Nobody thinks much about strikes. Economists give us grave warnings. But do we see that strikes can be the entrance for one of the "isms"? Is it materialism in the thinking and living of both management and labour—and of you and me?

Change is the heart of the superior ideology. As individuals change, a new climate comes to the nation's life. As leaders change, policies become inspired and the nation's life-blood flows again. As statesmen change, the fear of war and chaos will lift. The most difficult will respond to the firm, united but humble voice of reborn democracy.

This is the new pattern of freedom for all nations. Shall it be a new dark age for Europe and the world? Or shall it be world-wide renaissance of the moral and spiritual forces everywhere, bursting into life and bringing at the last moment a miracle to mankind?