CONVENTION VOTES TO RAISE $1,000,000; ENDORSES WHOLE ST. LUKE'S CAMPAIGN

In order that the Emperor of Japan may be assured on November 10, the day of his Enthronement, that in commemoration of that occasion the American people will build St. Luke's International Medical Centre in Tokyo, the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church on October 12 put aside other business and voted to raise $1,000,000 for this project by March, 1929.


To make sure that its promise to raise $1,000,000 would be carried out, the Convention further voted that all delegates be supplied with information relating to St. Luke's which they might pass on to the people of their respective Dioceses on their return home.

The initial resolution was presented by the Rev. Robert Johnston, D.D., rector of St. John's Church in Washington. Both Bishop Freeman of Washington and Bishop Garland of Pennsylvania pledged their hearty co-operation, and the latter suggested that a standing vote be taken as an evidence of good faith.

The resolutions were adopted at the afternoon session of the joint meeting of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. The appeal for St. Luke's had been made at the morning session by Dr. Teusler, Director of the Hospital, by the Hon. George Wharton Pepper, former United States Senator and member of the General Committee for the St. Luke's Campaign, by the Rt. Rev. John McKim, D.D., Bishop of North Tokyo, and also by Presiding Bishop Murray, in the most eloquent terms as he introduced the speakers. Dr. Teusler was given an ovation as he mounted the platform and the entire cause was greeted with the greatest enthusiasm.

The three resolutions, which have given a great forward impetus to the campaign, are as follows:

1. "Responding to the appeal made to this joint session by Dr. Rudolf Teusler on behalf of St. Luke's, Tokyo, this Convention desires to place on record its determination to attack at the earliest possible day, as a priority, the raising of $1,000,000, and that to that end asks the Diocesan delegations here represented to give assurance that they will undertake to present the claims of St. Luke's to their duly constituted executive bodies, to create special committees to prosecute diocesan-wide campaigns in behalf of St. Luke's, and thus to meet the challenge of one of the most important and pressing present-day needs."

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Merited Recognition

The action taken by the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in endorsing the St. Luke's campaign and in voting to raise $1,000,000 of the entire amount needed is a matter of the deepest gratification to the members of the American Executive Committee of the Hospital.

In urging the Convention to assist in providing St. Luke's with a plant commensurate with the scope and importance of its work Bishop Freeman declared that "No more statesmanlike move has ever been suggested to the Church." That the full meaning of his words was realized and approved by the majority of those present was indicated by the enthusiasm with which the resolutions for the support of St. Luke's were received. This recognition by a large group of representative Americans of the value of St. Luke's as an agency both for promoting international good-will and for exemplifying Christian idealism to Japan demonstrated that the firm convictions of the members of the Executive Committee were shared by all acquainted with the work of the Hospital.

Doubtless the significance of the action taken by the Convention will be equally a source of gratification to the St. Luke's staff. In the past it has not always been possible for those carrying on work in the mission field to know whether their endeavors were appreciated at home. It was natural that they should feel at times that interest was lacking, and once they had left these shores America seemed far removed from Japan.

A day or two after the meeting at which the Convention endorsed the campaign the Graf Zeppelin flew over the Capital on its way from Germany to Lakehurst, N. J. To many who had the interests of St. Luke's at heart it was a reminder that, as the progress of transportation is fast bringing continents closer together, a journey from New York to Tokyo by air in eight days is now within the realm of possibility. With such advances in means of transit Japan is coming to be regarded as a close neighbor. The Zeppelin's flight suggested vividly that the wisdom of helping her in her effort to reflect the standards of Western civilization is inevitably being more and more fully realized.

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2. "Whereas by the standing vote just taken every member of this Convention has pledged himself to use his best endeavors to raise the amount necessary to complete the St. Luke's fund: therefore be it resolved that there be prepared and sent to every member of this Convention all information and statistics which will be necessary to fully submit the merits and needs of the St. Luke's fund to our people."

3. "Resolved: That this General Convention wholeheartedly endorses the whole project to raise $2,656,500 for St. Luke's International Hospital, Tokyo."

St. Luke's Church's Supreme Agency, Bishop Murray Declares

Of all the agencies through which the Church is trying to interpret the precepts of Christianity, St. Luke's Hospital, Tokyo, Japan, has the place of supremacy, the Most Rev. John Gardner Murray, Presiding Bishop, stated in opening the session at the General Convention at which the appeal for St. Luke's was presented. "There we have something," Bishop Murray said, referring to the Hospital, "that has experienced the Divine Blessing in such manner that it has recovered from catastrophe after catastrophe. Its condition today is such that there must be added the facilities which will give not only continuation but an enlargement of its service. By providing for it in this way, we may show that we expected God to answer our prayers and we may give expression to our thankfulness that that expectancy was realized by making provision, in the Name of the Master, for the Hospital's greater work. Thus we shall continue in the future, as in the past, to make this Hospital not only a place of healing for the body, but a place for the training of the mind, and, over and above all, a place for the salvation of souls.

"There is nothing in the work of the Church which has more fully impressed itself upon the consciousness and created conviction in the heart and mind of the National Council, than this work of St. Luke's, Tokyo, Japan," he continued. "As a result, the members of the Council are behind it, and they are in front of it. They surround it, with everything
that they can possibly do themselves, and with every­thing that they can possibly realize from the action and the contribution of others.

"Not only that," Bishop Murray said, "but this institution has so impressed itself upon men in the Church and out of the Church, as one of the greatest existing mediums today for the accomplishment of peace and good-will, that there has been organized, of their own volition, one of the strongest committees of laymen that has ever been organized for the accomplishment of any financial purpose in the City of New York; and that committee has come to the National Council and asked permission—permission, mind you—to co-operate with it in the realization of the desires of the Church to measure up to its full duty in relation to this institution."

- Senator Pepper Urges Support For St. Luke's

ST. LUKE'S was characterized as the "outstanding achievement of the Church in the mission field" by former Senator George Wharton Pepper, a member of the General Committee for the campaign, in addressing the General Convention.

Senator Pepper reviewed the history of St. Luke's, its founding in a small frame building, its remarkable growth in the first ten years of its existence, and the hearty endorsement of its work by the General Convention of 1913.

"Since 1923 Dr. Teusler has been developing the work in temporary buildings which cannot long be used for their purpose."

Senator Pepper referred to Dr. Teusler, Director of the Hospital, as "the largest cash contributor to the work of that Hospital, in addition to the gift of his life."

"Reference has been made to Dr. Teusler's earning capacity," Senator Pepper said. "It is not a question of calculation. It is a mere matter of recorded fact that during the time that man has been out there in Japan, his actual receipts from private practice have been very close to a quarter of a million dollars, and he has not kept a penny of it."

Director Says St. Luke's Must Symbolize Christianity

ST. LUKE'S International Hospital must be maintained and strengthened to exemplify Christian idealism to the Japanese people, Dr. Rudolf Bolling Teusler, Director of the Hospital, told the assem­blage at the joint session of the General Convention.

"The giving of Christianity to Japan through humanitarian work is an integral part of the Christian missionary program," Dr. Teusler said. "One cannot preach the gospel without living it. Christ lived it and others preached it for Him. The Church, therefore, is an agent for evangelistic purposes in its fundamental analysis. What does it mean to the Japanese people who see it from a remote distance?"

"There are 60,000,000 people in Japan," he said. "It is literally the last ditch, the outstanding bulwark between Russian Bolshevism, Chinese chaos, and the disintegration of the Far East. It represents, as best it can, the interpretation of Western civilization. Japan, with her contacts in Korea, Manchuria, Formosa, and even in the islands of the Pacific, is doing her best to digest in a few years this great grain of Western civilization that has taken us 300 years to bring to its present state. At the very heart, from the beginning, has been the effort to give Christianity to Japan.

"But we cannot carry into the Far East, into Japan, with its steamboat lines, its modern inter­communication, its army, its navy, its centralized government, and its ambition, a picture of Christianity unless we can surround it with institutions and work that demonstrate Christianity."

"We have a staff of 48 doctors, some 18 or 20 of them in the senior group," Dr. Teusler explained. "If we look back over 20 odd years, there has prac­tically not been a doctor lost. Men who were with us 20 years ago are still with us. The staff changes only by increasing in size. There are about 140 Japanese nurses, and about five American nurses.
It is the group of Japanese doctors and Japanese nurses, and the Americans who work with them, who have made St. Luke's Hospital *persona grata* with the Japanese people.

“Last year our running expenses, exclusive of the salaries of our American workers, were $300,000,” Dr. Teusler said. “The Board of Missions gave us $11,000 and these salaries. That left us $289,000 to earn, and we earned it.”

*Noted Men Plead For St. Luke’s At Washington Dinner*

VOICING their convictions of the value of the work of St. Luke’s in the most glowing terms a group of distinguished men spoke in the Hospital’s behalf at a dinner given at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington the evening of October 18th. Originally planned for a room which held 300, the dinner had to be transferred to the ballroom, which was crowded with 600 persons.

The speakers were General John J. Pershing, who is a member of the General Committee for the campaign, the Hon. Charles Beecher Warren, former American Ambassador to Japan, also a member of this committee, the Hon. Hiroshi Saito, Japanese Consul General, Dr. John W. Wood, Executive Secretary of the National Council of the Episcopal Church, Frederick Moore, former advisor to the Japanese Foreign Office and Associated Press correspondent in Tokyo, and Dr. Teusler. The Hon. George W. Wickersham, former United States Attorney General, chairman of the American Executive Committee for the St. Luke’s campaign, presided.

Mr. Wickersham urged the building of the new St. Luke’s that the Japanese might come to think of America “not as a Colossus of power but as a beloved family physician bringing relief in their hour of suffering.” The resolutions adopted by the Convention, he declared, were a “moral commitment” to raise the needed fund.

Dr. Wood reviewed the epic history of the Hospital.

“Whether you are a stranded American sailor or an American Ambassador to Japan, St. Luke’s will care for you tenderly,” he said.

General Pershing described Dr. Teusler as “the outstanding American Ambassador to Japan.” “I know of no greater tie between Japan and America than Dr. Teusler and the work he has done,” General Pershing said.

“I am in the collecting business,” he continued, referring to his chairmanship of the committee for completing the Washington Cathedral, “and I’m not going to let up until Dr. Teusler gets this money.”

Mr. Warren plead that Americans demonstrate to Japan that they can “resurrect the body of the Hospital as the Japanese resurrected their Buddhist institutions after the earthquake.”

Dr. Teusler said that the building of the St. Luke’s medical centre had been referred to as a “friendly gesture.”

“This is no friendly gesture,” Dr. Teusler declared. “It is time we did something to substantiate promises made in after-dinner speeches and talk of hands clasped across the sea. This is not a friendly gesture, it is a friendly act.”

He emphasized the Hospital's value as a spiritual agency.

“Christ did not go about doing direct evangelizing,” Dr. Teusler said. “His life was made up of one deed of mercy after another.”

Consul General Saito expressed the deep gratitude felt by the Japanese people towards those who have helped to make St. Luke’s possible. Mr. Moore declared that definite results are attained for every dollar spent in Japan because the Japanese people are receptive to progressive ideas from the West. The only hope for securing permanent peace is through the teaching of Christianity, he said, and St. Luke's provides the best possible vehicle for conveying the meaning of its precepts to the Japanese people.