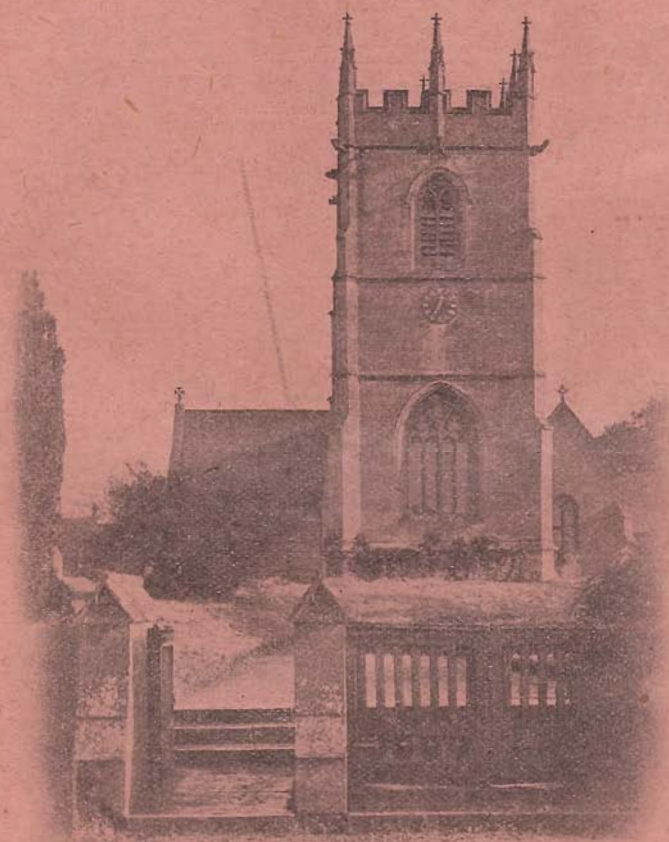


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RESISTANCE NO REBELLION.

We pointed out in our last issue that, in the event of Mr. McKenna's Bill becoming law, Churchmen might possibly be driven to open and active resistance. We now give what would appear to be undeniable grounds for such resistance, and venture to indicate a method by which Mr. McKenna's move may be legitimately, if not legally, met.

Churchmen contribute equally with Nonconformists, through rates and taxes, towards the general cost of elementary education, therefore, if all Church Schools were supported entirely out of public funds Churchmen would be defraying the cost of instruction, both secular and religious, in their own schools.

But the law at present requires that, wherever Church teaching is given in Elementary Schools, Churchmen shall pay for it by providing the school buildings. Thus, in the present unsatisfactory state of the law, Churchmen are required to pay twice over for the religious teaching given in Church Schools.

Mr. McKenna's Bill, however, goes one better, in providing that Churchmen, in addition to paying their fair share of rates and taxes and providing school buildings, shall pay one-fifteenth of the salaries of all teachers who teach the Church Catechism.

That is to say, *the Bill proposes to make Churchmen pay three times over for all religious teaching in Church of England Schools.*

If Mr. McKenna has the good fortune to pass his Bill, Churchmen will owe him a debt of gratitude for showing them the way out of what has long been felt to be a difficult position. Mr. McKenna has himself assessed the cost of religious teaching at one-fifteenth of the teacher's salary, and, in the event of his Bill passing, the following method of resistance would seem not unreasonable.

1. Let all Church School Managers agree to pay the required proportion of their teachers' salaries.

2. Let all Churchmen deduct a like proportion of their education rate and pay the amount deducted into a Diocesan Fund.

3. Let the Managers of Church Schools in each Diocese be reimbursed from this Diocesan Fund.

We claim no originality for this scheme, which was outlined in the "Church Times" some weeks ago.

We are much encouraged to know that our own Bishop is prepared to give the Diocese a strong lead. In summoning the Church Schools Defence Council, the Bishop points out that Mr. McKenna's Bill is simply a reward for noisy and well-planned resistance to law, and that it would, moreover, make resistance no longer rebellion by recognising it as retrospectively legal. By passing this Bill the State would at least incite men to argue that resistance is no longer illegal; and supposing Churchmen, after the passing of the Bill, were to agree to pay the fixed proportion of teachers' salaries which was imposed on them as representing the denominational teaching, but were thereupon to refuse to pay the proportion of rates which represented undenominational teaching in provided schools, they might claim that Government itself had justified their action. The Bishop continues, 'I am not prepared to advocate such a course without taking advice, but, strong and insistent as I have been in counselling others not to resist the law, I confess that if this Bill itself became law I should feel that it had, by its sanction of passive resistance, gone far to justify me, from a legal point of view, in resisting payment for a religious teaching which I do not feel to be adequate, and which I see may, in the future, without further legislation, become no religious teaching at all.'

Strong opposition to the Bill is reported from Birmingham on the ground that it proposes to force Churchmen to pay rates for religious instruction which is unacceptable to them. But this is to understate the truth; Churchmen are even now paying rates for religious instruction which is unacceptable to them, and have been doing so for years, and we should hail with satisfaction the passing of Mr. McKenna's Bill as a means to bringing matters to a crisis and so, perchance, accelerating an equitable settlement.

A SEASONABLE EFFORT.

Never has Badsey Church been more thoroughly 'spring-cleaned.' It cannot be denied that chairs are more 'sanitary' than pews, and, in having no pews, we do gain in cleanliness what we possibly lose in comfort. Every inch of floor has been scoured, and every chair vigorously scrubbed with sanitary soap, and we have no hesitation in saying that, at the present moment, there is no cleaner church in the whole Diocese.

The following assisted in the self-imposed task of cleaning:—Mrs. Hands, Mrs. H. Keen, Mrs. J. Keen, Mrs. C. Keyte, Mrs. J. E. Knight, Mrs. G. Moisey, Mrs. Sparrow, Mrs. Stanford, Miss Hartwell, and Messrs. C. A. Binyon, J. Barnard (for the Vicar), H. Keen, C. Knight (the Mill), T. E. Knight and A. Sparrow. Mrs. Crisp kindly provided hot water for scrubbing, and Mrs T. Marshall gave soap for the work and lunch for the workers.

Those who assisted in trimming up the Churchyard were Mrs Hands, Messrs. C. A. Binyon, J. Barnard (for the Vicar), P. E. Brailsford (for Mr. Sladden), E. Collett, D. Hartwell (for Mr. H. Keen), G. E. Jones, H. Keen, J. Keen, J. E. Knight, T. E. Knight, J. Sladden and A. Sparrow, and Master W. Sparrow.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Sunday Scholars' Lenten Savings, amounting to 6s. 8½d., have been forwarded to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society.

There were 11 communicants on March 15th, the anniversary of Mr. Price's death. The alms, amounting to 4s. 4½d., were devoted to the Rev. S. T. Harp's fund for repairing the damage done by hurricane to the Mission property in Chopiland.

An excellent harmonium has been secured for the Sunday School. The price was £5, and Mr. Alcock agreed that half the purchase money should be paid at Lady-Day, and the other half at Michaelmas. The first instalment has been paid, the amount required being derived from the following sources:—Subscriptions already acknowledged £1 7s; Mr. R. Paget Dewhurst, I.C.S., 7s. 6d.;

share of profit on Badsey Picture Postcards, 15s. 6d.; total £2 10s. The Vicar will be glad to acknowledge subscriptions towards the balance of £2 10s. due to Mr. Alcock on September 29th.

THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY.—BAPTISM.

March 14th.—Ann Eliza Porter.

BADSEY.—MARRIAGE.

March 12th.—Harry Somerville D'Northwood and Lucy May Keen.

BADSEY.—BURIAL.

March 20th.—Ann Eliza Porter, aged 30 hours.

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

	BADSEY.			WICKHAMFORD.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mar. 2. Sick and Needy ...	0	1	4	...		
„ 3.—Sick and Needy ...	0	1	0	...	0	1 3
„ 3.—Church Expenses...	1	0	11½	...	0	5 6
„ 10. Sick and Needy ...	0	2	7	...		
„ „ —Church Expenses...	1	2	3	...	0	4 0½
„ 15 —Lebombo Diocese... (Chopiland Fund)	0	4	4½	...		
„ 17. Sick and Needy ...	0	2	2	...	0	1 0
„ „ —Church Expenses...	0	15	4	...	0	7 5
„ 24.—Sick and Needy ...	0	2	6	...		
„ „ —Church Expenses...	1	2	0½	...	0	4 0½
	£4	14	6½		£1	3 3

