

Church Architecture

HOLLAND has recently paid homage to two of her greatest nineteenth-century artists, Johannes Bosboom and Dr. P. J. H. Cuypers, memorable both for their lifelong devotion to church architecture. But the materials they used for their art differed greatly: Dr. Cuypers raised his churches of brick and mortar. Bosboom built them with his brush on canvas, one the creator of a neo-Gothic architecture, the other a re-creator of the Gothic remains of bygone centuries. Bosboom was born in 1817, and his centenary was quietly commemorated at The Hague by the unveiling of a memorial tablet over the door of the house where he first saw the light. After the war, Baedeker and Murray will guide foreign devotees of art to this fresh place of pilgrimage, for the name of Bosboom is more familiar to the non-Dutch world than that of Cuypers. His pictures and his unrivalled water-colors are scattered all over Europe and the United States, and have carried his fame into drawing-rooms, where the first word about Cuypers's art is yet to be spoken. Such is the good fortune of the painting craft. However, this portability of the artist's work and name may sometimes cause damage to both. The picture, once sold, is taken out of reach of the artist's control. It may come to grief in the clash of unharmonious surroundings, an amateur's collection of objects of art from various climes and ages, each a beauty in its kind, but out of place in that cosmopolitan setting. The architect's works are, by their immobility, exempt from these dangers. He decides the setting for his art, and the amateur must travel to enjoy its beauty where the artist has chosen. What Goethe figuratively said of the poet:

Wer den Dichter will versteh'n,
Muss in Dichters Lande geh'n

is true to the letter with respect to the architect. Thus it will take a few generations of travellers before Dr. Cuypers will be known abroad as Bosboom's equal, if not his master.

The painter died in 1891, the architect is still among the living. His ninetieth birthday on May 16 was a national event. The old town of Roermond, in the province of Limburg, was that day astir with a crowd of admirers who, from all parts of the country, had come to pay homage to the great old man. Roermond is his birthplace and had been his lifelong residence, and the town is proud of its greatest son. When, in 1848 he had won the *prix d'excellence* at the Antwerp Academy, the town, on his return, received him with flags and music and enthusiastic speeches. From that day, until the recent and more dignified ceremony in honor of the nonagenarian, his life has been one restless activity; over a hundred churches, from the humblest village chapel to the imposing cathedral, and, best known of all, the Rijks-Museum in Amsterdam, bear eloquent witness to the productive energy of this master genius. Alone and unsupported, often baffled by indifference or dull conservatism, ugly vices of a time which had lost all love and understanding of architectural beauty and which let a horde of vulgar jerry-builders degrade the noble craft to a base and speculative business, Cuypers by dint of enthusiasm and faith in his high calling raised it anew to the plane of beauty which is its proper sphere.

Dutch Roman Catholicism sees in him the embodiment

of its own revival. From a disregarded, because unproductive, minority, it rose, during Cuypers's lifetime, to the importance of a vital force capable of making its influence felt in the sphere of politics and that of art and literature. And Cuypers's architecture, reconciling mediæval traditions to the practical demands of modern life, is, to his co-religionists, the visualization of their reestablished mediæval church, come to its rights again after three centuries of Calvinist supremacy. The art of Bosboom, the Protestant, seems to reflect the liberalism of his generation, which voluntarily removed all barriers to this Roman revival. What the sixteenth-century iconoclasts had left of mediæval architecture was reverently studied by the artist; it was the elegant curve, the mighty line of arched window and vault that impressed him most, and the hazy, transparent atmosphere of the dimly lit aisle. But he gives no attention to decorative detail. Little of that remained in the whitewashed churches where Bosboom painted. Still, he must have missed the warm colors of stained window-panes and frescoed walls, the grotesque sculpture in wood and stone that once adorned those old churches before the Calvinists took possession of them. And this regret for beauty spoilt must have brought home to him the wrong done by the early reformers in despoiling the Catholics of their places of worship, a wrong for which no better reparation could be made than by the removal of all obstacles that barred the free development of long suppressed Catholic energies. The spires of Dr. Cuypers's churches, that raise their crosses in towns and villages all over the country, are the best justification of this wise and liberal policy.

Mostly building, on a large scale, for communal purposes, Dr. Cuypers naturally takes a strong and active interest in the life of the nation. He knows his craft in all its details, and personally executed the designs for the smallest ornaments. But this intense concentration on his art has not estranged him from the community whose higher cravings his art is to satisfy. "The architects of the two generations that came after him," writes one of these, "were dilettantes either in their craft or in life, but Cuypers is a consummate master in both spheres." That may be the secret of his wonderful vitality. For Cuypers, in spite of his ninety years, is still young in activity. The worshipper of art for art's sake, when growing in years, finds no rejuvenating magic in his idol, whose seeming life was nothing but the reflex of his own young enthusiasm. But Cuypers, loving his art for life's sake, has never lost touch with the eternal source of all true art. To love art is to love life, and to be a great artist is to be a great man of the world.

Old age has not dulled him into a stoical spectator of this greatest of all outrages on life, the war. His was one of the first voices raised in Holland to protest against the devastations in Belgium. The German militarist theory which stridently proclaims that one soldier's life is more precious than the most beautiful cathedral must have struck him as abominable blasphemy. When the Netherlands section of the "League of Neutral Countries" was constituted, Dr. Cuypers was not deterred by a long and tiring railway journey from being present at its first meeting in Amsterdam. And his acceptance, then and there, of the section's honorary presidency, was his public protest against a militarism that violated what, all his long and noble life, he had held most sacred.

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The Hague, June 10

Getting in the Crops

GOVERNMENT estimates having made us hopeful of one of the largest crops recorded, assurance is needed only of continued good weather and of labor sufficient to harvest every bushel of wheat and ton of hay. Already reports state that the problem of farm labor is not proving insoluble. The wheat harvest is ended as far north as the northern line of Missouri and Kansas, and the Southwest has complained of no real shortage of men. The office of the Federal Labor Department at Kansas City announces that no place in the central wheat States has suffered for lack of help, and this is borne out by State officials and Middle Western newspapers. The Kansas City office has distributed 2,300 men and is helping move northward the corps of wheat harvesters that has finished in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri. State labor departments or offices for Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa declare that, taking the harvest as a whole, only local shortages will have existed. Nebraska asks for only 2,000 men, and South Dakota for 300. The *St. Joseph News* declares that in Missouri only some central and southwestern counties have "complained of scarcity of help and high wages demanded." The *Emporia Gazette* reports that in its section "most of the farmers said they had plenty of help to complete the harvest." Illinois newspapers report men leaving the section-gangs of the railways and like work to help harvest. Undoubtedly, the deficiency in the wheat crop, which has always demanded the greatest emergency supply of labor, is partly responsible for the ease with which the situation has been met.

The evidence is plain that one reason for the sufficiency of hands is the high wages paid. In Illinois farmers in many places are paying \$3.50 to \$4 a day and board to efficient men. The Dakota farmers who are bargaining with the Agricultural Workers' Union of the Middle West are asked \$4 a day and board, and the Commissioner of Labor, John Hagan, does not regard this as much too high. The price of wheat is now well over \$2 a bushel, and the farmers, expecting it to rise, can meet high wage-demands. California's Commissioner of Labor, John P. McLaughlin, recently issued a statement that on the Coast the deficiency in farm labor was attributable to the low farm pay. At the California public employment bureaus over 1,000 men were applying for work daily, and the farmer who offered an adequate return had no difficulty in "filling the job." Before the war had radically changed conditions, the Wisconsin Country Life Conference published an appeal typical of many being made to Middle Western farmers for recourse to the one sound method of filling labor needs. "The mass of farm hands are realizing that they are to remain wage-earners, and will not become independent farm-owners. This means that the farm hand is no longer willing to endure long hours with no recreation. He wants regular hours, a chance for recreation, a good place to live in, and enough wages to maintain a family according to American standards." The agricultural colleges that teach scientific management all over the country have not neglected the management of farm labor, and with the recent forced changes a return to old standards is impossible. A countryside of well-managed, high-priced farms demands labor that must be well paid if it is not to be drained off to railway and factory.

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A part scarcely less important has been played by the new interstate organization of farm labor. Farming is the greatest of seasonal industries. Of the 6,100,000 people reported by the last census to be engaged in farm labor as differentiated from farming, by far the larger portion are the stationary farm laborers of the towns, villages, and the farms too small to absorb the labor of all living on them. States like Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana can almost wholly depend on this supply. Less populous States of equal or greater area, from Texas to North Dakota, must depend upon large bodies of farm laborers who can travel even from the Gulf to the Lake of the Woods with the harvest, and on city-dwelling laborers who catch a train to the country as the harvest opens in their section. Three years ago the first weak steps were taken to see that the moving body of laborers was brought to bear upon the sections which most needed men. This year many State Councils of Defence, where existent, State labor departments or bureaus, or State agricultural departments planned, in conjunction with the Federal Labor and Agricultural Departments, a much more comprehensive correlation of demand and supply. In every township an estimate was to be made of the available hands, the number needed, and the deficit in one locality was to be supplied with the surplus in another or with floating labor. Undoubtedly the various labor offices have been enabled by such devices to supply men more methodically than ever before.

That in a year in which farm acreage was increased and cultivation intensified, in which the number of men in industry perhaps reached a record, and in which, after Europe had called thousands of reservists home, hundreds of thousands went into the American regular army or militia, the farmers should nevertheless promise to pull through without losses by shortage of labor, is highly reassuring. It indicates that what we have been taught to regard as one of the most forbidding national problems may not be so forbidding. Our interpretation of the facts of urban expansion and of census figures, which show that between 1880 and 1910 the percentage in farming of all employed Americans dropped from about 44 to 33, may have been exaggerated. Whether it was so or not, there seem to be forces which can be made to meet the situation.