

## EDITORIAL

THE MENNONITE QUARTERLY REVIEW HAS COMPLETED TEN YEARS OF publication. With this issue it begins Volume XI. In celebration of having passed the tenth milestone, the editors take pleasure in presenting this special anniversary number, in connection with which they have slightly altered the appearance of the journal. They are fortunate to be able to make this anniversary number of unique value by presenting the historical addresses which were given on the occasion of the Third Mennonite World Conference held at Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 29 to July 3, 1936. The general theme of the conference was "Mennonites in History and in the Present" ("Die Mennoniten in Geschichte und Gegenwart"). Representative men were chosen to prepare addresses giving in brief survey the past history and present state of Mennonitism in the various lands of the world in which Mennonites are found today. These addresses thus constitute in small compass a unique and unusually valuable survey of World Mennonitism, past and present by men who are thoroughly familiar with the life of their native lands. Since the Third World Conference met in commemoration of the conversion of Menno Simons four hundred years ago, one of the chief addresses concerned "The Significance of Menno Simons for our Brotherhood." This address has also been included. To complete the picture of the Conference, two additional articles have been added, a brief account of the nature and course of the conference itself, and an interpretation by a Dutch Mennonite observer. In thus presenting a "World Conference Number" as the special anniversary number, the REVIEW hopes to give its readers the privilege of looking in on World Mennonitism as it is, and as it is viewed by men who are familiar with its character and achievements. Each address reflects not only the personality of its author, but also his point of view. The impressions thus received will be greatly appreciated by those who are interested in informing themselves on the life and conditions of Mennonites in other lands. No responsibility is assumed for the contents of the addresses as they are here published, nor for the view of the authors.

THE EDITORS DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT READERS WILL CONCLUDE FROM the nature of this special number that the REVIEW is promoting another world conference. Opinions will vary on the value of such meetings. Nevertheless it may be well to correct certain false impressions regarding the nature of the Third World Conference. Some have thought that its purpose was to bring about a theological or ecclesiastical unity of the various disparate Mennonite groups, although informed persons are well aware of the absurdity of any such attempt in view of the divergences between groups, particularly between the Mennonites of Holland and the rest of the Mennonite world. Others have thought that restrictions were placed on the foreign delegates who came to Holland for the conference, and that their Christian witness was hampered. It is scarcely necessary to state here that there is no truth to any of the above impressions, and that those who have been unnecessarily alarmed can be relieved of their fears. The Third World Conference was just what it was announced to be in advance, and just as it is reported to have been in the first article in this number of the REVIEW. However, it is certainly true that if such international meetings fail to give a clear witness on the great issues involved in loyalty to Christ and His Word, then they can have no helpful place in our Mennonite life.

THE EDITORS WISH TO THANK THE CONFERENCE SPEAKERS FOR THE USE of their addresses, which were not prepared directly for the REVIEW. They also wish to thank those who have kindly permitted the use of photographic reproductions. In anticipation of an increased demand, additional copies of this number have been published. They will be available at the price of seventy-five cents postpaid.



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