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Christian Education*

The need of the hour is not more factories or materials, not more railroads or steamships, not more armies or navies, but rather more education based on the plain teachings of Jesus. The prosperity of our country depends on the motives and purposes of the people. These motives and purposes are directed in the right course only through religion. Legislation, bounties, or force are of no avail in determining man's attitude toward life. Harmony at home and peace with the world will only be determined in the same way.

Religion, like everything else of value, must be taught. It is possible to get more religion in industry and business only through the development of Christian education and leadership. With the forces of evil backed by men and money, systematically organized to destroy, we must back with men and money all campaigns for Christian education.

We are willing to give our property and even our lives when our country calls in time of war. Yet the call of Christian education is today of even greater importance than was ever the call of the army or navy. I say this because we shall probably never live to see America attacked from without, but we may at any time see our best institutions attacked from within.

I am not offering Christian education as a protector of property because nearly all the great progressive and liberal movements of history have been born in the hearts of Christian educators. I do, however, insist that the safety of our sons and daughters, as they go out on the streets this very night, is due to the influence of the preachers rather than to the influence of the policemen and lawmakers. Yes, the safety of our nation, including all groups, depends on Christian education. Furthermore, at no time in our history has it been more greatly needed.

We insure our houses and factories, our automobiles and our businesses through mutual and stock insurance companies, but the same amount of money invested in Christian education would give far greater results. Besides, Christian education can insure what no corporation can insure—namely, prosperity.

As the great life insurance companies are spending huge sums on doctors, scientific investigations and district nurses to improve the health of the nation, so we business men should spend huge sums to develop those fundamental religious qualities of integrity, industry, faith and service which make for true prosperity. I repeat, the need of the hour is—not more factories or materials, not more railroads or steamships, not more armies or navies, but rather more Christian education. This is not the time to reduce investments in schools and colleges at home or in Y. M. C. A. and similar work in China, Japan, Russia or South America. This is the time of all times to increase such subscriptions.

Roger W. Babson.

*From Babson's Reports (Wellesley Hills, Mass.). Special letter; April 19, 1921.