

Wells Visions New World

Revamped Faith And Bible Needed

CHICAGO, Oct. 30.—Before 6,000 persons, assembled in the Patten gymnasium of Northwestern University, H. G. Wells last night proclaimed a new faith and a new Bible in order that civilization may survive.

The faith which is to guard against what the English author termed the terrors to come is to be "a deliberately organized brain for all mankind, evolved from the best intelligence that can be contributed from all parts of the world. Out of this supreme brain-organization will come the new Bible—Wells called it "The Bible of a New Civilization," edited by a world encyclopedia organization.

This "world brain," according to Wells, is to synthesize the activities of all the communities and research organizations of the world and is to supply a common direction to any grade of education. It is, he admitted, a vast project—but no vaster than the dangers now confronting the human mind, and which it is designed to break down.

MUST MAKE NEW WORLD

Picturing the present century, as far as it has gone, as, first a period of imperialist expansion, then as a world-war catastrophe, swinging to the "fatuous twenties" and from these into the "frightened thirties," Wells prophesied a second and worse war catastrophe. His faith and his Bible are the only preventatives he sees.

"We must make a new world for ourselves," said the creator—with his pen—of more than one fantastic world. "If we do not we shall be extinguished in the downfall of the old one. I do not believe that world disaster is unavoidable. History shows that after the gangsters come the vigilantes. But then again reaction may mean nothing more than doomed dogmas at bay."

To the frequent accompaniment of howls of glee from 2,000 undergraduates, Wells proceeded to lambaste the processes of higher education on which he placed major blame for present world conditions. Learned professors blushed and grinned in embarrassed fashion.

U'S OUT OF STEP

"Why are universities floating above distressed mankind like beautiful suns over a battlefield?" he asked. "We live in 1937—and our universities are not half out of the fifteenth century."

"A battleship or an airplane gets newer and newer and better and better—these forces of destruction. But the university remains an old fashioned coach and horse into which we get for a short, rough ride and then get out again no better than we were."

"They go out—the universities like men with bows and arrows to meet a modern army."

URNS ON STUDENTS

The joy of the student body at these utterances became so unconfined that the prophet evidently thought it time to cool their ardor with a deft crack of the whip in their direction.

"However, the original universities were gatherings of people eager to know. They were not, as today, synthetic finishing schools for sporting young people."

Wells then returned to his solution for the ills of the world.

"The answer must be found," he said, "in a common federal protection of the people against violence—a world control of health, money and prevention of crime."