

# THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA

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## Editorial

### † "A Happy New Year"

Of the many thousands who during the past week have spoken these words in hearty greeting, how many, think you, have given more than a passing thought to the meaning of the phrase? That even the mere utterance of the words with the lips, and the cheery smile that naturally accompanies the speech, have done much to give a passing sense of blessing, we admit. But if the wish expressed were followed up by an honest effort to make the New Year really happy, incalculably greater good would follow, and the days of the year would be an unceasing march of new blessings from beginning to close. If our readers will, in all domestic and social relations particularly, follow up the seasonable wish with an earnest endeavor to add to the daily happiness of loved ones and friends, the whole year will bring a constant accession of happy days. And at the same time, let us not forget that the surest way to bring happiness into our own hearts and lives is to seek to create happy conditions and experiences for others. In our own official relation to our growing constituency we shall endeavor so to conduct this paper that our friends everywhere shall find that the whole of 1908 is, to some extent at least, made a happy year by its agency.

### † Retrospection

The passing of the years should find us in a retrospective mood. "Looking backward" may not always be pleasant, but rightly conducted it is always profitable. The year just closed has had its varied experiences for each of us, but the innumerable mercies of a kind Father have been so graciously bestowed upon us that it will be evidence of rank ingratitude if we are unthankful. Who of us has accomplished all we set out to do a year ago? Failure may not have been characteristic of our efforts all through the year, but in too many things we have failed because our determination to succeed was not strong enough. That God has borne with us in our comparative waywardness and folly, and has saved us from total loss, is reason for devout filial thanksgiving. The very fact that we now see wherein, and how we have not achieved all we might have, is cause for gratitude. A self-satisfied life is one of the least productive of good. It may not be positively or influentially very bad, but it fails to accomplish the actual good the age is calling for. Not the bad we have not done, but the good we have done, is the true measure of our usefulness. A review of the past year may show us the secret of our weakness and how to remove it.

### ✦ Prospection

New Year's Eve finds us facing two ways. The past with its record indelibly written, confronts us with startling vividness ere it says forever "Good bye." The future with all its promise beckons to us to come. Whether we will or not, we must part with the past. Its results remain with us, and either aid or hinder us in our attempts to make the most of the future. The past has gone; the future has not yet come; the present alone is ours. But out of to-day, to-morrow is evolved, and it finds us better or worse, richer or poorer, according to the way we have used its predecessor. Who then dare go into the future thoughtlessly, carelessly, purposeless? As we look ahead from the vantage ground of to-day with all the lessons of the past pressing upon mind and memory, how can our hearts be other than moved with a high and holy enterprise? There are before us unexplored fields of Christian toil, unmined treasures of priceless value to character, unscaled heights of attainment from whence all the purity and beauty of holiness may be viewed and enjoyed, and if we will but heroically set our faces toward the morrow and make the best of to-day, God will not fail us; but what at this moment may seem unreal and impracticable will become gloriously actual and experimental as the year grows old.

### ✦ Stock-Taking

Every business house of good standing in the commercial world is busy at this season of the year in "taking stock." This is necessary in order that the business may be correctly gauged. Not so much the gross "turn over" of the year as the "net profits" determines whether or not the year's trade has been satisfactory. It might be a splendid plan to have a "stock-taking" evening in the League. How has the year's work terminated? Has there been permanent addition made to the individual character of the members? Have the Committees contributed their fair share to the success of the whole enterprise? Has the church-life been enriched, the Sunday School strengthened, the whole community uplifted by the operations of the League through the past year? An examination made thus in detail might not result in the most pleasing "balance sheet," but it might be exceedingly wholesome nevertheless. Every one of our Leagues should have a correct inventory of its capital, know its present worth, and intelligently set about making the most of its stock-in-trade during the coming year. Indifferent business methods may mean a free and easy life now, but they invite disaster, and failure will surely follow. What is your League worth?

### ✦ The New Year!

The succession of days makes a new year. Into the long procession of the past another year has gone, and we start a new calendar. But life is not to be counted simply by the flight of time. Each new day as it comes should leave us richer, not poorer. What though twenty-four hours of physical existence have passed? The new day should find us the better for the passing of the old. And to-day should equip us for the rightful discharge of the duties of to-morrow. Life is not measured by the tick of the clock.

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths;  
In feelings, not in figures on the dial.  
We should count time by heart-throbs. He most lives  
Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best."

The succession of such thoughts and deeds will make every passing day a new one in our acquisition of godly principles and growth of character. And in consequence, there