

THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA

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Probably a Fine Advance.—It is too early yet to give any accurate statement concerning the numerical standing of our Epworth Leagues for the past year, but there is every indication of a handsome increase. The Toronto Conference reports an increase in the membership of young people's societies of over 2,000. Unless the other Conferences have very serious decreases, we shall have a fine advance for this year.

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Young Men's Work.—The Young Men's Associations in connection with our city and town churches have had a prosperous year. They are very properly asking for some recognition by the church which will probably be granted by the General Conference. Would it not be a good idea for these organizations to be affiliated, in some way, with the Epworth League? The young men of Toronto have recently commenced the publication of a monthly magazine called "The Canadian Young Man," devoted especially to the interests of the Young Men's Clubs. It is a very creditable production, indeed.

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The More Difficult Task.—In a race and interesting address before the Toronto Methodist Conference, Rev. J. B. Silcox, of the Congregational Church, put the question of church union in somewhat striking form when he said: "It may be difficult to form a basis of union that will be satisfactory to all, but the task of justifying ourselves in maintaining our present divisions is much greater." There is a big element of truth in this remark. But little more than sentimental reasons can be advanced for the policy of keeping open three or four churches of various denominations in small places where one would be amply sufficient.

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Railway Building.—The most remarkable feature of development in Canada, just now, is the building and projection of new railways. Even in the great West, it is expected that in a few years no settler will be forced to live more than about ten miles from a railroad. What a boon that will be! In Ontario many electric radial lines are being planned to run in various directions from the large cities and towns to serve the double purpose of bringing in the farmers with their produce, and carrying the workers of shop, office and factory from the dust and noise of the city out into the summer green and perfume of the country. The more such roads we have the better.

Our Monument Pictures.—For the two fine pictures of Lundy's Lane monuments which appear in this issue, we are indebted to the courtesy of the author of "Pen Pictures of Early Pioneer Life in Upper Canada," which deals in a most interesting manner with the early settlement of this country, with special reference to the social and industrial conditions of the first settlers.

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A Great Railway.—In an editorial letter in the N.Y. *Christian Advocate*, Rev. Dr. Buckley writes: "I will not say that the Canadian Pacific Railroad is the best managed railroad on the continent for the comfort of passengers, lest I should create animosity in some directions, but will affirm that none better can be found." This is high praise coming from one who has travelled round the world.

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Church Union.—As was expected, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church voted in favor of proceeding with the negotiations for organic union. There was some opposition, of course, but not more than might have been looked for. Our General Conference will probably take similar action, and then the whole matter will very likely be referred to the congregations of the three denominations concerned. When that time comes there may be some lively discussions. No matter what may be the result, good will result from the present movement.

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General Conference Representation.—One of the Conferences sent forward a memorial to the General Conference asking that half of the General Conference delegation be chosen from the senior members of the Annual Conference by rotation, as is done in the Presbyterian Church. The originators of this proposal have overlooked the fact that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church is held once every year, while our chief court assembles quadrennially. A young preacher entering the Toronto Conference at the age of 23, would find over three hundred men ahead of him, and before he reached the coveted honor would be about eighty years of age. It would result in the General Conference being composed almost entirely of aged men. There is really no necessity for such a measure as a good percentage of new men are elected by our present system. For next General Conference Toronto will have 6 new men, Hamilton 8, London 9, Bay of Quinte 7, Assiniboia 7. This seems to be about the right proportion of new blood.

Passing Strange!—Sherring, the winner of the Marathon race, received a wonderful ovation from his native city of Hamilton, and a fund of several thousand dollars has been subscribed for his benefit. About half a dozen lines in the newspapers was deemed sufficient recognition of young Rose's achievement in gaining the highest scholastic honors at Oxford. Strange, isn't it, that physical prowess is honored so much more highly than intellectual ability!

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Self-Support in the North.—A most encouraging report was made at the recent Toronto Conference by Rev. James Allen, Superintendent of Missions for New Ontario, concerning the work under his jurisdiction. Largely through his personal influence during the past year, no less than ten missions have become self-supporting, and \$4,000 less is being paid in missionary help to Northern districts than formerly. This is just as good as an increase of that amount in missionary givings. Mr. Allen's work in stimulating the missions to assume their independence has been of the greatest value. There are, doubtless, many other places that might by a little encouragement be led to take similar action.