

SUNDAY EVENING ENTERTAINMENT.

There will be considerable difference of opinion respecting the action of the Lord's Day Alliance in instituting a prosecution against the leader of the Winnipeg city band for giving concerts in a theatre on Sunday evenings. The concerts were not commenced till after the church services were over. No admission was charged, but a collection was taken up, the net proceeds being devoted to charity, and during the series of concerts \$500 was raised for this purpose. The magistrate before whom the charge was laid, dismissed the case, saying that he considered these Sunday concerts most elevating and beneficial, attracting hundreds of young men who otherwise might be in questionable places.

Of course there is a great tendency towards laxity in Sunday observance, and a great deal has to be left to the individual conscience. If the facts are correctly stated in the press the Alliance seems to have been over zealous in instituting proceedings in this case, and their action will only antagonise those who would support them in reasonable efforts to enforce the Lord's Day Act. The point, however, which we desire to emphasize is that in places where large numbers of young people are to be found, who have no home but a boarding house, the churches should provide for their social entertainment on Sunday evenings. It is being done in some places, and the practice might well be extended.

MEETING OF W. F. M. S.

The annual parliament of this important organization has convened in Bank Street Church as we go to press. There are about 300 delegates in attendance.

On this Wednesday morning the annual reports of the officers of the board will be received. One of the most interesting of these is the report of the Ewart Training School by Mrs. Livingstone.

Dr. Jean Dow, of Honan, and Mrs. Geo. Menzies of India, will be the speakers on Wednesday afternoon. A paper will also be given on Mission Band Work by Mrs. J. C. Robinson, of Toronto.

At the Wednesday evening meeting addresses will be delivered by Rev. R. P. MacKay, D.D., and Rev. Jonathan Goforth. Rev. Dr. McLaren, who was to have given a resume of the reports presented, will be unable to be present, much to the regret of everyone. The board will meet for conference, and the election of officers on Thursday at 9 a. m. The meeting in the church will commence at 10, and will see the completion of the business arrangements for next year.

At the concluding session on Thursday afternoon, a missionary address will be given by Mrs. Goforth, of Honan. The money will be dedicated by Mrs. McLean, Guelph. It is estimated that this year the offering for missions will be in the neighborhood of \$70,000.

The veteran physician, Sir James Grant, speaking to the Ontario Educational Association, a couple of weeks ago, said—Alcohol and crime and lunacy, alcohol and poverty have a remarkable connection, said the speaker in discussing the abuse of alcoholic liquors. By long and severe struggles the slave trade was abolished from this continent. Let us hope that the day will come when the liquor traffic will also be abolished.

A TESTIMONY TO MISSIONS.

One of the most conspicuous figures at the recent Missionary Convention in Toronto was Sir Andrew Fraser, late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and Moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of India. Sir Andrew's addresses in Toronto were much appreciated, and it is to be regretted that he was unable to visit the Capital, and other of the large centres of the Dominion, and thus give a wider constituency the benefit of his observations as to the success of missions, which he does not hesitate to express.

On his way to Canada Sir Andrew attended a great united "Missions in India" meeting at Belfast, and we think it well to give an extract from his speech, in order that some who did not hear him while in Canada may learn the conclusion drawn by one who has had an opportunity of judging of what missions have done for India. Sir Andrew said:—"I have been thirty-seven years a servant of the Crown in India. From a very early period of my service I was brought into contact with missionaries. I have been in the habit of visiting all educational institutions, and certainly not least missionary institutions. It has been my duty as an officer of the Government to know how they have been conducted. I have been a member for many years of a native congregation. I am a Presbyterian, and you know Presbyterians 'sit under' their clergy. I have long sat under a native pastor, and for some years in Nagpur I was a member of the Kirk Session of that native congregation, in which we had a native pastor. As an elder, I was bound to meet with the other elders and discuss all the affairs of the congregation. All of them except one, who was a missionary, were Indians; not only so, but the congregation was divided up into districts, each of which was handed over to two elders. My colleague was an Indian, and I visited from house to house with him, and became acquainted with the Christians of the congregation along with him. I have served in two provinces, and I have known as many missionaries as possible in both. I have gone in Commissions under Government over the whole of India, and visited every province of India, and many native States, and in every place I have become acquainted with the missionaries. I claim for a layman an exceptional right to speak in regard to missions. I throw myself with all my weight into the class of witnesses who come to speak with thankfulness to God of what they have seen in the past, and hopefulness in regard to the future."

Sir Andrew further referred to the grave danger felt by earnest Hindus and Mohammedans, as well as by Christians, of giving the people of India an education, and shaking their faith, without giving them anything in its place. With regard to teaching religion, he said:—"We cannot do it as a Government. We must do it as a Church."

We have already, in our report of the Toronto Convention, given a summary of what Sir Andrew there said. His testimony as to the benefit of missions should carry great weight.

THE SUPPLY OF FUEL.

Prof. J. W. Robertson, not long ago delivering an interesting and instructive lecture in Ottawa on the "Call of the Land." Sir William Ramsay has since expressed the opinion that the question of back to the land with which Prof. Robertson dealt will be settled somewhere about the year 2100, when he estimates that the coal supply in England will be exhausted and the great mass of the people will have to return to agricultural pursuits as industrial employment will be no longer possible. Long before the supply becomes exhausted, however, diminishing production will enhance prices, and unless some other source of heat is found, within 200 years the conditions of living will become very difficult. As a source of power, and of heat as well as electricity generated by water power, will, however be available in many places.

It has been suggested that heat might be obtained from the interior of the earth, where scientists tell us there is enough to suffice for a very long time. A hole ten miles deep would tap it. Mr. Parsons, whose name is well known in connection with the turbine steam engine, has considered it from a practical standpoint, and estimates that such a bore would cost \$4,800,000—not an extravagant sum—but that it would take 80 years to sink it. Many such holes would require to be put down to supply the industrial world. While we of the present generation do not need to worry over any apprehension of shortage of fuel, we owe it to those who will come after us to conserve as far as possible the natural resources which are to our hand, and which are too often needlessly wasted. Earnest attention has been directed recently to this question, and while we may be sure that so long as his creatures are on this earth the Lord will provide for their wants, it is our duty not to waste the resources of nature, both for our own sake and the sake of future generations.

A BOY'S HOLIDAY.

The ardent controversy which has been waged in England and America concerning the best way to dispose of school boys in the long summer vacation has prompted the Grand Trunk Railway System to issue a special publication giving suggestions and practical hints to parents, as to what to do with the public and preparatory school boy during the months of July and August. The vacation camp is one of the solutions, and the publication entitled, "What shall a Boy do with his Vacation?" thoroughly covers the ground and solves the problem of the best way for a schoolboy to enjoy his holidays.

A copy may be obtained for the asking by applying to J. Quinlan, Bonaventure Station, Montreal.

On taking leave of St. Andrew's church, Winnipeg, Rev. Dr. McMillan was presented with an illuminated address, and he goes to his new field of labor, in Halifax, followed with the good wishes of the members. Replying, he stated that he would always remember the six years which he had spent in Winnipeg, during which he had noted the progress made by the city in various directions. He thanked the congregation for the opportunity of preaching the eternal gospel which his occupancy of their pulpit, during that time, had afforded to him. He also thanked them for the opportunity he had of pastoral work and of usefulness along other lines as well. He acknowledged also the advantage which he had had of social service. He expressed his indebtedness for much personal kindness, and prophesied a bright future for the congregation.