

with the following Leagues, and have found these conditions: Grace Church has the strongest in the Conference, and one of the most aggressive. To my mind, it is in better shape spiritually than ever before. Zion League has, during the year, been thoroughly transformed, and is now amongst the most progressive we have. For activity, energy, and work, few Leagues surpass that in Wesley Church; there it has been a great help to the pastor in building their new church. Emerson, through its Young People's Society, has enjoyed a great revival among the members and adherents of the church. At Crystal City and Boissevain I found a noble band of intelligent, well-hearted young people, ready for service of any kind. During the year the Roland League has done good work in sending liberal contributions to lumber camps, etc. Here we have a splendid class of young workers. Of the Virden League the pastor said to me that he could go away and leave his service in the hands of his young people and feel assured they would do the work well. At Arden, the League fills regular appointments for the pastor in his large field, and, in consequence, is being richly blessed. I found the Brandon League stirring and progressive. A report has come to me that Souris has also been blessed with a fruitful season of revival. Our League of Young Church, Winnipeg, is in a healthier condition than it has been for some time in the past. There is no doubt that many other societies would report just as favorably as these, had I come directly in touch with them.

All these things go to show that our Leagues are not losing their vitality. It is true they are constantly meeting with problems, but these are their atmosphere and the medium of their strength. I would like to say, through the columns of your paper, that the young people of the Prairie Province and the boundless west, are looking out into the future with hearts all aglow, not idly gazing, but gladly trying to "lift up," and while they have fixed the eyes of faith on the great Commander, they are cheerfully saying to each other, "Ho, my comrades, see the signal."

The Leagues in the Golden West.

BY C. S. KEITH.

Methodism, ever on the alert, to carry out the divine command to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, was early in the field preaching salvation through Christ and Him alive to the adventurers, miners, and natives of British Columbia in the early sixties.

The foundations of Methodism and religious freedom were laid broad and deep by early missionaries of this church, and a debt that will be hard to repay is due to such leaders as White, Evans, Taylor, Robson, Browning, Pollard, Bryant, Crosby, and a host of others who gave and are giving their lives that the present and future generation may enjoy religious, political, and educational freedom on the Sunset Shore in Canada's Golden West. On this foundation and following close on the influx of population and the formation of settled communities, young people's societies naturally followed the expansion and the growth of the Church.

The formation of the Epworth League in the Eastern Provinces was immediately followed by the young people of the West changing the official name and becoming Epworth Leagues instead of Young People's Societies. These Leagues carried on their work for some years as individual organizations. Intervisitation taking place wherever geographical surroundings permitted, but nothing in the nature of an interchange of ideas or systematic organization occurred until June, 1892.

At the meeting of the British Columbia

Conference held at the city of Nanaimo in the spring of 1892, the Epworth League Committee of Conference recommended that an Epworth League Convention be held in British Columbia. Acting on this recommendation and the urgent request of prominent Leaguers, the President of the Conference, the Rev. James Henry White, issued a call and as a result the first Epworth League Convention of the Pacific Province was held in the Centennial Church, in the city of Victoria in June, 1892. This was the first Conference Epworth League Convention in Canada. At this convention regular delegates were not elected, but from fifty to sixty leading Leaguers were present from various parts of the province outside of Victoria. The first convention was very successful and was productive of much good. The second convention was held at the city of Vancouver, and the third in the city of New Westminster. At the fourth convention, which was held at Victoria, it was resolved that the Sunday Schools be asked to join with the Leagues and form a dual convention, which was accordingly done at the fifth convention which was held at Vancouver.

At the fourth session the question of the advisability of discontinuing the League convention and joining with the Christian Endeavor movement was discussed, but it was unanimously resolved to continue the distinctly Methodist Convention. The sixth convention was held at Nanaimo, the seventh at Chilliwack, and the eighth at New Westminster on the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st days of May, 1899. The sessions of 1896, 1897, 1898, and 1899 were and are all dual conventions, the League and Sunday School workers aiding each other heartily and willingly, the mutual consultations being productive of much good. The conventions have done a large amount of good; they have caused a feeling of loyalty to the Church that before was often absent among most Methodist young people in the West; they have laid discussions and conversations, which have resulted in improved methods; they have caused an increased and systematic study and reverence for the Book of Books, THE BIBLE; and lastly, they have led many to a closer walk with God.

Considering the antipathy shown the League by some of the church members it is wonderful the results that have been accomplished in the ten short years of its existence. When, however, it is taken into consideration that the young people in their youthful vigor and disregard for precedent, drop all forms and ceremonies and take hold of Christian duties and obligations with all the enthusiasm of their young nature, and carry into their Christian lives as work the sunshine and cheer of childhood, all wonder ceases.

The Leagues of the Pacific Province are doing a grand work and the time is yet far, very far, distant when they shall have outlived their usefulness. They are the pastor's assistance at all times; they are laying the whole Church. The hope of the future of Methodism is in her young people, and in the Pacific Northwest the young people are nearly all in the Leagues.

The Leagues of the West lean heavily on Christ; they take Him as their example in all things; they add a lustre to the religious life of the Church; they supply our schools with a large percentage of their staff. They are, in fact, the promises of the Leagues of the Golden Province are striving for and expect to receive a golden reward, having fought a good fight.

New Westminster, B.C.

The Junior C.E. Union, of Toronto, held its annual rally in Massey Hall, May 19th. There was a large attendance and an interesting programme. All the banners and rolls of honor were carried off by Methodist societies; Woodgreen, St. Clare's Avenue, and St. Paul's, were the fortunate winners.

On the Road.

There is one feature of modern travel to which I have never been able to reconcile myself—that is, the so-called "sleeping car." It is, to me, a snare and a delusion. The little stuffy compartments, with closely drawn curtains, are reminiscent to banish sleep. Upon my last long trip, however, I struck something that seemed to be an admirable substitute for the "sleeper," in the "reclining chair car" of the Wabash Railway, which I took at St. Thomas, on the way to the West and South. The chairs are thrown back so as to make a very comfortable couch. A small table to the porter serves as a pillow, and for the intermittent naps that one usually gets on the road, the arrangement is an excellent one. There is no extra charge for this car. My trip to St. Louis was one of the fastest railway journeys I have ever made. How that train did travel! It moved along as if it was on important business, and simply had to be on time. A train runs fast enough while they are in motion but they fritter away the time in stops at stations. This western train paused only long enough for one engine to be removed and another hitched on, and not a moment was wasted. Fifty miles an hour, kept up all night and all day, is pretty fair time. A gentleman sitting near me took out a watch and timed the train by the mile posts as we flew past. A mile was covered in sixty seconds, and then as if desirous of showing what she could do, the next mile was clipped off in exactly fifty-four seconds. Surely even George Stephenson never could have dreamed of such rapid motion.

St. Louis was reached on Saturday afternoon. Our train pulls into a station which has long boasted of being the largest railway depot in the world. It has thirty tracks side by side, in addition to fifteen platforms. It is used by twenty-three roads and 256 trains pass in and out every day. St. Louis is a large bustling city, not exactly western, nor indeed southern, but a little of both. The population is about 600,000. On Saturday evening I attended a great mass meeting in the Music Hall called for the purpose of inaugurating the World's Fair which it is proposed to hold in 1903 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of what is known as "The Louisiana Purchase." There was a large audience and the meeting was a most enthusiastic one. It is proposed to raise five million dollars by subscriptions from the citizens and some ten millions are to be secured in other ways. Subscriptions to the amount of \$4,400,000 were given on that Saturday evening, and pledges of large amounts came in almost faster than they could be announced from the platform. Everything seemed to be spontaneous, but the splendid result was really brought about by organization and personal effort. The various institutions and trades of the city had been carefully canvassed and every man asked to subscribe. The public meeting was simply a spectacular exhibition of what had been done by individual and organized work, which is the proper way of advancing any great enterprise. To judge by what was said by the speakers at St. Louis, the next American World's Fair will be a big affair. One declared that they were bound to make it a "rip-roaring success," and all agreed that it would be the greatest exhibition ever held on the face of the earth.

On Sunday morning I attended the Lindell Ave. M.E. Church, which is one of the most elegant buildings I ever saw. It cost \$85,000, and every dollar was raised and actually paid in money or negotiable notes before a single stone was laid. This is the common sense method of building churches, which I hope may soon be generally adopted. The money wasted in paying interest by the churches of our country would go a long way toward putting new life into our missionary enterprises. When a congregation intends, sometime in the future, to build a church,