

in short accounts of methods they have used, or describe plans they have successfully tried. I want this paper to contain helpful practical suggestions in every issue, but an impossible task is placed on any one man in asking him to originate schemes suitable for all varieties and types of Young People's Societies every where. Whatever another may have, I am sure that I have neither the wisdom nor the experience necessary to meet all requirements in such varied cases. Hence my desire to make the ERA more and more a medium of exchange of ideas of all our Societies. You have a meeting of special attractiveness promptly write me an account of it. If a plan of either study, philanthropy, evangelism, literary or social profit and pleasure, or indeed of any other phase of League or Club Life proves successful with you, give me details of it for the benefit of others who may be in need of that very thing.

THE high moral tone of the average newspaper of to-day is a source of blessing to the general community. We are so dependent on the public press for the shaping of our national life that it is of the utmost importance that high standards of character be constantly set before the people. Never before have so many high-class editorial appeals been made to the Canadian people in the same time, as have appeared in the daily and weekly journals of our country around the closing days of 1910 and the opening of the new year. That town is to be congratulated, for instance, whose public prints place before the citizens such excellent counsel as I read in the St. Mary's Journal, in the last issue of the old year. A full-length, double-column article appeared under the display, "Things to do in the New Year." Eight paragraphs in order pressed closely home to the readers the following vital admonitions: "Get nearer to Jesus Christ," "Keep yourself unspotted from the world," "Be helpful to others," "Be sympathetic with those who have tried and failed," "Be faithful to the daily task," "Be cheerful," "Be loyal to the church," "Try to lead one soul into the Kingdom." What better counsels than these could any religious paper give its readers? And when our secular newspapers raise the standard of living so high as these appeals indicate, it is indeed conclusive evidence of an advancing state of public morals in the general management of all that concerns our highest well-being.

THE great English statesman, Disraeli, once exclaimed: "We put too much faith in systems, and look too little to men." This is to some extent true of our organizations for carrying out the King's Business. A plan of systematized work is good, but it requires men to operate it, and the result of its operation should again be men. The application of this to the department of church work which this paper is to represent, is very evident. You must have faith in your organization, its purposes and plans, its principles and methods; but it is not in itself the ultimate end of your desire. It is only a means to that end. To attain its real object requires men, and in them rather than the system they represent, must faith be placed.

I have known serious mistakes on this very point. An Epworth League is organized fully and strictly according to the constitution, and its promoters are therewith satisfied. An Adult Bible Class is organized in accordance with the International Standard, its certificate is neatly framed and conspicuously hung on the wall of the classroom, and every-

body is in a congratulatory mood. A Young Men's Club is formed, its officers elected, its committees appointed, and its machinery all properly fitted. By some, however, neither League, Class nor Club makes good progress, and the system is condemned. What was the matter? Simply one fatal lack, the absence of living, active, propelling force.

John Stuart Mill was correct when he claimed that "the worth of a State, in the long run, is the worth of the individuals composing it." And I would be just as correct if I made the same statement regarding any of our Young People's Organizations. Given a number of earnest, intelligent, systematic young men or women in any organized society, and combining these persons wisely under alert leadership for the business of that Society, there comes growth and increasing usefulness as time progresses. But it is the active life behind the machinery that makes it all go, not the system, no matter how elaborately that may be stated on paper. The truth is that your League, your School, your Circle, your Club, your Brotherhood, or whatever your organized form of church activity may be called, is just what you and your fellow-members make it. It is not made when it is first formed. It is then but ready for use, and you are one of the users. It is not to use you, but rather you are to use it, with all its machinery, as a means to an end, and that end is human character formed after the pattern of the Christ and human activities, employed as were those of Him who went about doing good. The need of such living, active, men and women is urgent, and the Young People's Society that fails to help supply it is a poor thing at best.

IT would be difficult to frame a more ennobling message than that given to mankind in the beautiful paragraph which comprises the farewell words of the illustrious Russian, Count Leo Tolstoy. If all my young readers will study them pure and diligently seek to embody their pure and noble sentiments in their daily practice, life will indeed become increasingly rich and sweet, both to themselves and others. Here are his words: Instead of returning evil with evil, try to return evil with good; to say nothing ill of men; to act kindly even with the ox and dog. Live thus one day, two days, or more, and compare the state of your mind with its "such" in former days. Make the attempt and you will see how the dark, evil moods which have passed away, and how the soul's happiness has increased. Make the attempt, and you will see that the Gospel of Love brings not merely profitable words, but the greatest and most desirable of all things. These exalted sentiments will live in literature as a sublime statement of a lofty soul; but, better still, they will help purify and elevate other souls seeking to rise to some of the heights of moral excellence reached by the deceased Count.

I was on a slow train that I overheard the remark, but it set me thinking. Some commercial travellers were conversing, and in the course of conversation one remarked to another, "If you only sold what the people wanted, you'd not do much business, would you?" And as I listened, I learned that one of the first aims of salesmen, such as these men were, is to create a desire that arises from a sense of need for certain goods the "drummer" carries. My mind was naturally turned to the House I was on the road to represent, and I asked myself if the chief business of such as I is not to create a desire in the minds of others for the good things we possess.

A local merchant may not especially want such articles as the traveller has for sale; but if he can be persuaded that it is a good thing that his customers will profit by, he will stock up with it, and in turn quicken desire for it in others.

Even so is it with the preacher, the Sunday School teacher, and all others of the Lord's representatives. Having a good thing and knowing its worth, it is his business to make others want it. They may have no particular desire for it, but if the agent does his business as wisely as the alert salesman for some other commercial house does his, it will not be long before a measure of need will be felt by the prospective customer, and the rest will follow in due course. Herein you and I may take a lesson from the men of the grip. We are not as skilful as we might be in presenting our wares. Especially is this true of many workers among the young. The imperative "must" is not always in place. You cannot force a boy to be good. He may be restrained by fear or force from doing outwardly bad things; but he can only be impelled to actually and voluntarily do good deeds by the constraint of a noble motive. To this we should make our appeal. And to so present the Gospel that it shall commend itself to the mind and give rise within the heart to the desire, "I want to be good," is the height of wisdom. Can you do it? If not, try for it, and you will soon see our scholars enquiring for what you have, because they are convinced through you that it is the best thing, and that they really need it.

THE expression of Principal Salmond should never be forgotten by Christian workers. "There are two Churches," said he; "the Church of to-day, and the Church of to-morrow." The former, we can see. The latter is being constructed. To the older people the Church of to-day is of greater value; but that which depends very largely on to-morrow will be shared with the children and youth now. If we neglect them we weaken the future. If they are well-informed, skilfully trained, and properly equipped, the coming Church will be stronger and more successful than that of to-day.

Sunday School teachers and all others who are at work for the salvation of the young life that now abounds on every hand will do well to keep such thoughts ever in mind. He who is but a raw boy now will soon be a full-grown man. Whether his influence shall be for or against Christ in those days may be determined by the teaching he is receiving now. The Church of to-morrow, with its measureless possibilities for good, ought to be in training in the Church of to-day. But is it? How many of your Sunday School classes are really acknowledged Church members? How can you, as a teacher, rest content to have one of them outside? Your first work, to bring each one, for his own sake, into the work may never be seen by you, but in a coming generation it will be manifested in the added power given by your present scholars to the working force of the Church. Your immediate results are good, but more far-reaching and fruitful are those to be yet achieved by the boys and girls now under your care. To build up the Church of to-day is glorious, but infinitely more so is it to thus assist in the construction of a glowing Temple whose light of truth shall shine over all the earth and illumine all nations. Such is to be the Church of to-morrow. Are you working for it to-day? Then get the boys and girls.