



MANITOBA CONFERENCE

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND EPWORTH
LEAGUE CONVENTION.**

(Held at Portage la Prairie, Man., Jan. 25th
and 26th.)

REV. R. O. ARMSTRONG, M.A., WINNIPEG, MAN.

"What kind of a Convention did you have at Portage?"

The delegates who had been at former Conventions said it was the best ever held. The attendance was good, and representative of all parts of the Province. Over a hundred delegates were at the first session. Things started off with earnestness, went forward with snap, and closed in a spirit of enthusiasm. The officers were in their places and stayed with their job to the end.

"To what was the success of the Convention attributed?"

So far as credit is due to any individuals, a large share should be given to the Secretary, Rev. R. E. McCullagh, whose alertness and diligence in keeping the Convention to the front for months beforehand had much to do in bringing out the crowd. Rev. M. Doyle is what they call a live President, and does not hold office just for the honor there is in it. Then the field work of Rev. J. A. Doyle, who spent a few busy weeks in the Conference previous to the Convention, and who was the first to bring up the problems dealt with. His address on "Our Future," delivered in his own interesting style, made it clear to all

system, and only three have offered any formal objections.

"The General Conference established a new Department of Citizenship. Does this seem to be popular with the young Methodists?"

Yes, nothing better than the Convention met with more hearty approval. Rev. A. E. Smith, of Dauphin, was elected Vice-President of that department. Mr. Smith gave an address on this work, which was brimful of suggestions. He thinks this new gospel of social reform which some fear so much, is none other than the old Gospel of Christ and the prophets. "Social reform is going to win the day," he affirmed.

"Did your President have any special message for the Young People in his official address."

Nothing especially radical. He emphasized the need of renewed effort in the missionary propaganda—thought there should be some definite campaigning of the Districts by men alive to the work, recommending the League to the District Secretary, and in view of the enlarging boundaries of our Conference, thought we could use one all the time ourselves. He urged the Leagues to keep the spiritual life of the people, yet not to have it end not an end in itself. He encouraged looking more carefully into our responsibility for our own Church work. His address was in general optimistic, yet gave the impression that there were grave problems to deal with.

"I see that two of the speakers discussed S. S. and E. L. problems. What questions in particular were emphasized?"

Rev. J. E. Lane and Rev. W. B. Allison dwell on these problems, and showed that they had given them very careful consideration.

Mr. Lane maintained that the Church did not yet have an adequate conception of the work of the S. S. Church Boards do not manage the provision they should for School work. The minister's service, he thought, should be given up to the Sunday School. He urged more pastoral leadership, circuit institutes, teacher training and missionary work. Incidentally he brought out the fact that "family liturgies" are fast disappearing. In one town—probably average—one they knew only of three, the ministers and teacher. "Conserve the work of the boys and girls."

Mr. Allison emphasized the need of teaching the young people of to-day that they belong to Christ, and showing them how to employ all their redeemed energies and relate them to the duties and problems of our daily life.

Both this address and others showed where the emphasis in Christian work is being placed to-day as compared with that of the past generation. We are more concerned about Christian living where our fathers were concerned with Christian dying. "Get ready for the next world," was the old keynote; while the new one is, "Get ready for this world."

"Did the Convention make any declaration of its principles in relation to Pro-

vincial questions?"

Yes, they certainly did. A strong resolution went through to lend constant endeavor towards securing a provincial prohibitory measure. The petition now in the hands of the electors asking for a referendum to abolish the bar was approved unanimously. It was urged also that a people's convention be called in the interests of prohibition. A strong resolution was passed asking that a compulsory education act should be adopted. Unfortunately this is the only petition in Manitoba, so the Moloch of party politics

slays thousands of our youth or dooms them to a life of ignorance and inferiority.

"Do you think that there is a danger of the evangelistic work of the Church being overlooked?"

There is always danger, you know. We must "watch." The whole tone however, of these discussions was spiritual. The evangelistic spirit can manifest itself in more than one way. A large number pledged themselves in the closing meeting to do definite work in "soul-winning." Dr. Chown's appeal for men for the ministry we have reason to believe made a deep impression and had some immediate effect. That looks as if the right spirit was with us.

Of course there were many suggestive and helpful talks and discussions that I have not mentioned. There was Dr. Stephenson's talks on missionary literature for the whole family, Rev. G. K. B. Adams' vigorous address on young people and missions; there was Rev. J. C. Switzer's paper on the Adult Bible Class Movement, and last, but not least, Miss Palk's enchanting talk on the place of the story in child life.

SARNIA DISTRICT.

The Sunday School and Epworth League Convention assembled at Forest on February 14th, having been preceded by a local rally in the Central Methodist Church, Saravali, at which addresses were delivered by Rev. G. E. Hartwell and Mr. J. H. Jones.

Although the Convention day was one of the most disagreeable, there was a splendid attendance, the various parts of the District being well represented. The sessions were well attended and practical throughout. The presence of the Chairman of the District, the Sunday School Secretary of the District, in addition to the District Secretary, Mr. J. H. Jones, was of great interest and profit of the day, while the General Secretary and Rev. G. E. Hartwell contributed addresses and Round Table Conference to the general benefit of the

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CANNINGTON DISTRICT.

The Annual Episcopate League Convention was held at Little Britain, on January 25, and proved to be one of the very best in many years. The attendance was representative, and the programme excellent. The evening session was well presided throughout the sessions. A number of excellent papers were given—a lengthened extract from the *Journal of the Episcopate* was read, and the General Secretary conducted a very practical and suggestive Round Table Conference during the afternoon. The morning session was devoted to the evening session. The missionary address of Rev. R. C. Armstrong, at the close of the Convention, was much appreciated. The future of the Episcopate in the district work was discussed, and the future looks bright with promise. Much is expected, and much will doubtless be accomplished.

EXETER DISTRICT.

The annual Epworth League and Sunday School Convention was held at Hensell on January 17th, and was a decided success. The attendance from the various Leagues and Sunday Schools was in advance of previous years. A fine spiritual tone pervaded all the sessions. In the morning session Rev. R. Hobbs led in a spiritual conference, emphasizing the need of Holy Ghost power in all our work.

In the afternoon Mrs. (Rev.) W. R. Vance gave a helpful address on "What Our Juniors Can Do for the Church." This was followed by an instructive address on "The Alms and the Teacher," which was followed by a talk on "The Mission of the Church," by Mr. (Rev.) W. R. Switzer. Rev. B. Snell conducted a "Round Table Conference," when questions were asked and answered. This was in quick succession, bringing out much useful information about child life and child study. The feature of the evening session. Two addresses were given, one by Mr. G. Stanley, who in his remarks pointed out the importance of the "Influence of Our Sunday Schools on Citizenship." This was followed by a powerful address on "The Voluntary Obligation of the Church," by Rev. G. N. Hagen.

The delegates and friends were entertained by the local League, dinner and tea being served in the lecture room of the church. The convention will, we feel sure, be productive of new and sustained effort

The following resolutions were adopted among others:

"That we heartily recommend all the Sunday Schools of this District to observe Decision Day after thorough and careful preparation leading thereto, and with equally careful shepherding following.

"That we express our great pleasure in the fact that a member of this District

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