

To succeed, every class of the community must needs work with a will, and as the question, now or in the future, will not be easily got rid of there should be no loss of time in forming organizations to protect the Sabbath.

### The Children's Charter.

**D**URING recent years the many workers in both Canada and the United States on behalf of neglected children, have come to the conclusion that the best method of dealing with such children as are homeless, or are separated by legal process from their natural parents, is to place them as speedily as possible in foster homes, so that they may be restored to family life and receive that kindly and affectionate treatment for which their childhood so strongly appeals. The very best institution in the world can never equal a good home, nor can it so well prepare the boy or girl for the battle of life in which he or she must soon engage. In recognition of this principle the Ontario Children's Charter was drawn up by Hon. J. M. Gibson and readily adopted by the Provincial Legislature. It provides that the courts can at any time sever the parental relationship on sufficient proof being submitted of the unfitness of the parent for the trust, and the guardianship of the child becomes vested in the Children's Aid Society. Parents are not altogether to be relieved of their responsibility, as the courts are fully empowered to assess the cost of maintenance. Efforts will then be made to have the child cared for by near relatives, and failing this, they will be placed in foster homes throughout the Province. The duty of finding homes will be intrusted to the "Children's Visiting Committee," to be appointed in each electoral district, and the efficiency of these committees will very largely decide the success of the measure. It is believed that in the towns and villages of Ontario many persons will be found willing to extend mother-love to these little homeless ones, and there is probably no work that will appeal so strongly to the Christian heart and conscience. Care will, of course, be taken to ensure proper treatment for these little state children, and the supervision of all work in their behalf will be in the hands of Mr. J. J. Kelso, who is well known throughout the Province as an earnest champion of the cause of neglected children. He will have his headquarters in the Parliament Buildings, and will be glad at any time to receive from Christian people applications to adopt one of these little boys or girls. The bill contains many clauses providing for the protection of children from cruelty or neglect, and its details ought to be familiar to all who are now working in the direction of child-saving.

*Aged Ministers' Fund.* Among the gratifying features of last Gen. Assembly was that portion of the report of the committee on the Aged Ministers' Fund, which indicated a very decided increase in the amount of the annuity paid to our pioneer ministers. The adoption of the rule to pay annuities according to years of service rendered in the Canadian Church is one which should have been in force years ago, and it affords sincere pleasure to be able to note that our aged veterans received, this year, an advance, in some cases, of as much as seventy-five dollars over last year, and the committee is aiming at a still greater increase next year. But there is another portion of the report which is not satisfactory, and which certainly should be laid to heart

by the Church at large. We refer to the decreased collections from congregations, and the strange anomaly of over 250 congregations failing to recognise the fund by even one dollar of a collection. While the committee deserve well at the hands of the Church in the laudable endeavour to raise our aged ministers somewhat above the pressure of want, it surely demands a "Christian Endeavour" on the part of every congregation to second their efforts in this line. We may have something to say in reference to the endowment in another issue. Meantime congregations should not relegate this fund to the region of peradventure, and try to satisfy its claims by the mere fragment of a balance after everything else has had its share.

*Missionaries Wanted.* Two vacancies fall to be filled by the Foreign Mission Committee, and the appointments ought to be made without delay. Both are important, and the Committee, though desirous of placing missionaries in the field at once, must exercise care in the selection. One is at Alberni, on Vancouver Island, B.C., a station the charge of which Mr. J. A. Macdonald has been compelled to resign on account of ill health. Embraced in the station are a girls' home, with a matron, and a day-school in which a teacher labours. These are under the supervision of the missionary. Only the ladies in charge are there now, and the work is arrested and much interfered with. Candidates should lose no time in communicating with the committee. The other vacancy is at Mhow, Central India. Rev. Norman Russell has been, in addition to his other duties, acting as chaplain to the troops there. This work he had to abandon on account of the increasing duties of the mission, and the committee is called upon to supply a missionary to take up the work of the chaplaincy and assist in the mission also. The salary from the Government is about sufficient to meet the expenses, and as a knowledge of the English language would be sufficient the duties could be entered upon at once. In both cases ordained men are required, and, as the cases are urgent, it is to be hoped applicants will lose no time in coming forward.

*Mr. Karmarker at Montreal.* An explanation has been made of the Karmarker incident at the Christian Endeavour Convention, Montreal, which places the matter in a somewhat different light from that attached to it at first. It seems Mr. Karmarker had his speech written before his arrival at Montreal and handed a copy of it to the Press Committee. Through them it found its way to print with the passage complained of included. But when the stranger understood his surroundings better, after a day or two in the city, he decided to omit the passage from his speech, and as a matter of fact he did not utter the words attributed to him at all. The press representatives did not detect the omission and did not alter the printed speech to accord with the spoken one. This explanation was made known in Montreal, and it ought to have been published by the papers which went into a frenzy of indignation over the affair. Had Mr. Karmarker expressed himself as he had written, there should have been no complaint made, but the fact that he refrained from doing so, shows that he is not the hot-headed, indiscreet person which some hasty people have tried to make him out to be.