

London Conference Convention.

Since 1895, when the Methodist Young People's Association of Ontario was divided into Conference organizations, there has been no Epworth League Convention in Canada quite so large or so enthusiastic as that of the London Conference, which assembled in Wellington Street Church on March 11th and 12th. It was a splendid evidence of the fact that the Epworth League is still a prominent factor in the work of the Church, and is on the upward grade as far as intensity of purpose and effectiveness of effort are concerned. Three hundred and fifty delegates were registered from all parts of the Conference, and most happily entertained by the citizens of London. At the day sessions the church was fairly well filled, and in the evenings it was crowded to its utmost capacity.

The topic of the morning session on Tuesday was LOYALTY. Excellent papers were read on the following topics:

I. LOYALTY TO THE CHURCH.

- (1) Its Teachings, by Rev. F. E. Malott, B.A., Guilds.
- (2) Its Work, by Mrs. I. B. Wallwin, Seaford.

II. LOYALTY TO THE LEAGUE.

- (1) Its Motto, by Rev. F. H. Langford, Union.
- (2) Its Pledge, by Miss Nicholson, Strathroy.

III. LOYALTY TO DUTY.

- (1) To my Neighbor, by W. H. Kerr, Brussels.
- (2) To Christ, by Dr. Thornton, Chatham.

In the afternoon the following topics were ably discussed: "The Home Library and the League," by Rev. T. E. Sawyer, Teeswater; "Social to Save," by Miss A. Mutch, Gorrie; "The League as a Social Factor in the Community," by Mr. A. Butchart, Teeswater; "The Objects and Benefits of E. L. Literary Work," by Mr. R. W. Dillon, St. Mary's.

A Round Table Conference was conducted by Rev. A. C. Crews, in which many took part.

At the evening session, an address of welcome was given by Rev. R. D. Hamilton, pastor of the church, and responded to by Rev. James Livingstone, president of the Conference.

Rev. W. R. Young D.D., of St. Thomas, delivered a fine address on "What we have and what we need." Among the things which the Church now possesses were mentioned: (1) Good organization.

(2) Complete system of doctrine. (3) Splendid hymnology. (4) The inspiration of great names. (5) A history unparalleled successes. (6) A spirit of denominational loyalty, coupled with a spirit of fraternal union.

The following were mentioned as among the things we need: (1) A clear, definite knowledge of personal salvation. (2) The practical application of our religion to our daily life. (3) A consecration that will give to us a company of cheerful workers. (4) The baptism of the Holy Ghost.

The closing address was given by Rev. A. C. Crews.

The entire morning session of the second day was devoted to missions, and placed in the hands of Dr. F. C. Stephenson, who occupied fully two hours with a Round Table Conference, which was exceedingly interesting. During the convention the Doctor sold over \$200 worth of missionary literature.

The first part of the afternoon session took the form of a School of Methods with ten-minute papers.

"Our finances" was dealt with by Mr. W. G. Young, London, and "Our Crowning Service" by Mr. W. R. Manning, Essex.

The remainder of the session was given to the Juniors, when a Junior rally was held, the Sunday-school scholars attending in a body, and occupying seats

in part of the gallery. Rev. Mr. Henderson, president of the St. Mary's Junior League, the banner League of the Province, with a membership of 149, conducted the rally. Several methods of successfully dealing with Junior work were suggested by the speaker, the use of the blackboard being strongly advocated. Mr. Henderson also presented a number of object lessons.

A paper was read by Master de Witt Leys, of St. Thomas, a Junior, and a paper prepared by Miss Helen Taft, president of the Junior League of Centennial church, was read by Miss Abbott. The Importance of Active Members of the Junior League becoming Church Members" was the subject of an address by Miss M. Washington, of Clinton.

At the closing session two excellent addresses were given by Revs. G. J. Bishop and W. F. Wilson. Mr. Bishop stressed the audience on "Sabbath Observance," and made a strong plea for the better keeping of the Lord's Day.

Mr. Wilson congratulated the delegates and officers on the magnificent success of the convention and the splendid gathering. The speaker stated that the present time was a young people's day. He felt that if the young people, not only of Methodism, but of all the churches of the Province and the great Dominion would join together, all the impurity, infidelity, and intemperance of this country would be swept away. The young people had great difficulties to overcome. The question was, would they be equal to them. He believed that they would be equal to the occasion, that they would meet the political trickster of the day, the Sabbath desecrator of the day, and the liquor problem of the day.

Several resolutions were presented by the delegates to the Executive Committee of the conference. A resolution adopted was that the last sentence in Article 6 of the District Constitution be amended to harmonize with Clause 6 of the Constitution for Conference Epworth Leagues, and read: "This committee shall nominate two or more candidates for each office, the election to be by ballot by the convention."

A strong resolution condemning the Referendum Bill was passed and ordered to be sent to the Government.

The following officers were elected: President: W. H. Kerr, Brussels; 1st Vice-President, Miss A. Mutch, Gorrie; 2nd Vice-President, Rev. G. N. Hazen, Sarnia; 3rd Vice-President, Rev. R. W. Knowles, Crediton; 4th Vice-President, Miss M. Musgrove, St. Thomas; 5th Vice-President, Miss O. Norton, Orwell; Secretary, Rev. J. W. Baird, Glenora; Treasurer, Miss A. Nicholson, B.A., Strathroy; Representative to General Board, Rev. R. D. Hamilton, London.

in the hands of the proper officers programmes and letters sent for the Leagues. It every pastor would be careful to attend to such matters he would greatly aid our League work, and the efforts of our District and Conference officers.

According to the last Annual Conference report, which furnish the most reliable information available, there are 363 young people's societies in the London Conference, with a total membership of 15,258. These figures show a decrease, but small as that decrease is, relatively speaking, it is hoped that this year will witness that decrease converted into such a large increase that next June's report will show the largest number of Leagues and League members that the London Conference has ever had.

Here is work especially for district officers. On some districts the League officers are very energetic and enterprising, and the result is seen in new Leagues being formed, defunct ones being revived, and weak ones being strengthened. If every league will put forth an earnest effort to increase the number of members in his League, the most sanguine expectations will be more than realized. Let no League rest satisfied with its present membership. We must be both aggressive and progressive. While the Leagues do well in raising over \$4,500 for missions in this Conference, could not much more be done? As to the other connexional funds, one can only note the smallness of the amounts. For our General League Fund only \$270 were given last year, while the sums contributed to the Superannuation Fund and Educational Fund were so small one hesitates to mention them. Our Leagues should never forget that we are a connection, and that our very strength, yea, our very life under God, rests on that fact. If every League will do something, even though it be but a trifle, for each of these important leading connexional funds, it will awaken a deeper interest in and a greater love for our Church as a whole. In conclusion, our leaguers are reminded that there are only 1,000 copies of our splendid and brilliantly edited League paper—the Canadian Epworth Era—circulated in this Conference. It is a periodical of such excellence it ought to have twice as many subscribers, and of such excellence that once taken it is as good as a vacation in the East. We are grateful to God for our past prosperity, and with a still stronger faith and more earnest purpose would go forth "to look up and lift up for Christ and the Church."

G. H. CORBRIDGE, President.
A. K. BIRKS, Secretary.

Toronto Central District.

London Conference.

The Secretary's Report

Read at the convention in Wellington Street Methodist Church, London, March 11-12, 1902. It was resolved to have the report printed, with the recommendation that it be read in every League of the Conference.

To the President and Leaguers:—

There is great difficulty in getting full data and complete statistics from all the Leagues. This is generally due to the negligence of some local secretaries failing to keep the district secretary properly informed on the work of the local Leagues, and promptly replying to the communications sent to them. Many do well. A few do ill, and the few careless ones greatly neutralize the good work of the many. It is urged that every League shall be careful to elect such a secretary as will readily reply to all correspondence forwarded by District or Conference officers. The executive also regrets that a few pastors fail to place

Rev. R. Whitfield Large, M.D., who represents Toronto Central District of Leagues as their missionary at Bella Bella, B.C., has just returned from a brief vacation in the East. During his stay he visited many of the societies in the district, and before his departure an evening was held in his honor at the home of Dr. F. C. Stephenson. The presidents and vice-presidents of the Leagues were present with some interested friends, including the district's former missionary representatives, Dr. and Mrs. Jackson and Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Large, sen. A very pleasant and informal programme was given. Dr. and Mrs. Large both contributing in music and song. Before serving refreshments, which brought the evening to a close, an operating table and a small purse of gold were presented to Dr. Large, the first being for use in the new hospital at Bella Bella, and the latter intended for the purchase of a shotgun.

Many who were heretofore unacquainted with the Doctor except as "our missionary," found in him a genial and warm-hearted friend, and one whose per-