

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Bay of Quinte Conference Ninth Bi-ennial Convention, Cobourg, Feb. 8-10

The historic Methodist town of Cobourg gave hearty welcome to two hundred and more outside delegates to the Conference Epworth League Convention, on February 8th. The items contains in these columns are from the capacious notebook of Rev. W. H. Clarke, whose ready pencil was busy during the sessions. We much prefer this form than the usual formal and stereotyped style of report.—Ed.

The Welcome.

The leaguers were officially welcomed to the town by Mayor Field, who called them representatives of the loyal legions of Christ. Himself a Congregationalist, the Mayor saw in the union of the young people of the churches a mighty power for the uplift of Canadian life, and, as such, Cobourg gave kindest and heartiest greeting.

Rev. William Beattie, of the Presbyterian Church, said: "We live in a day when the people of your Church and mine find no difficulty in making united effort against any wrong. The hope of Methodism is the lining up of its young people at the call of God and the great needs of the day." "The dawn comes not twice to any man."

Mr. J. A. Elliott, of Bowmanville, himself a member of the first Christian Endeavor Society in Canadian Methodism and a member of the Epworth League in four conferences, speaking of the welcome given, said that because of his heavenly citizenship the Epworth Leaguer must be earnest in earthly citizenship, and must demand the recognition of a divine code of ethics for the state as well as for the individual. He learns the best that he may do the best. He must be loyal to his own Church for

"That man's the best cosmopolite
Who loves his native country best."

"The traditions of the past are yours to encourage you to meet the opportunities of the future."

The Singing.

Hearty singing, led by Rev. V. Emory, of Picton, gave a joyous swing to all the meetings. The joy of Christian discipleship and the deep earnestness of renewed consecration were heartily expressed in soul-stirring hymns under his capable direction.

Devotional Studies.

In the quiet hour talks by Rev. R. Bamforth, of Madoc, the convention was called to remember that the supreme necessity of all Christian life and effort is a clear, strong consciousness of God, the unshakable conviction of personal trust, and a consecration as definite as that of St. Paul. "Lord, what thou have me to do?"

The Great Question:

Is the Epworth League fulfilling its purpose? The results of careful investigation in answer to this question were summed up by the president, who said that the point is not what the league could have done, but what *has* it done. It was brought out in the ad-

resses and discussions that the Epworth League has distinct to the study of good literature distinctively spiritual aims; it has encouraged the study of the Bible as a book; it has been the voice of one agency awakened interest in Christian missions.

The one weakness seemed to be its lack of grip on young men. While many have been reached, it was felt that the best results had come where young men had been met on their own ground and grouped in assemblies and committees for study and work distinctively their own.

(On Thursday afternoon an hour was spent in an experience meeting, led by Mr. Ketchum, of Brighton, in which most interesting testimonies were given to the value of the Epworth League. Some of these will be published in next month's Era.—Ed.)

The Departments.

The supreme value of personal work in soul-winning was made prominent. Time and again the essential character of the First Department was emphasized. The addresses of the president of conference and our general secretary were especially aimed at the development of the evangelistic work of the league.

The missionary note was sounded strong and clear. The very first act of the convention was to forward to Rev. Robert Emberson, representative of Lindsay and Cannington Districts in Japan, a message of sympathy in his alarming illness. A missionary exhibit was placed prominently before the conference, for, as Dr. Stephenson said: "The most liberal education of to-day is to know the Church's missionary literature, which is, at the same time, more interesting than any fiction."

A large increase has been made in the amount of attention given to mission study in industrial leagues and in the amount of money raised; but more efficient measures were devised for bringing each individual member in closer touch with the missionary policy of the convention.

On Tuesday evening a statesmanlike address was given by Rev. C. J. L. Bates, B.D. of Japan, on "The Message of Japan—What It Can Teach Us and What It Needs from Us." Loyalty, love of truth, nobleness, patriotism, and intense energy they have; Christ alone they lack.

Rev. Dr. Shorey expressed the thought of the convention when he said that Christian missions could not fail so long as the work was committed into the hands of such men as Mr. Bates. Both the literary and social departments excellent papers were given, which we hope to present in subsequent issues.—Ed.)

The Junior League interests were formally pressed home by Mrs. S. C. Moore in an address, and, further, by a round table conference conducted by the General Secretary. It was shown in detail that the Junior League bears a vital relation to the adult league of which it is the feeder; that it is not competitive with, but supplementary to, the

Sunday School; that, as the greater includes the lesser, so the Junior League is immeasurably larger than and superior to any mission band or other juvenile society, and especially that the Junior League is constitutionally a part of the Church, its essential purpose being the culture and care in the church and for the Church, of all the children of the congregations. The general secretary strongly deplored the sad neglect of the catchments by the Church as a whole.

Feathered Arrows.

From the many excellent addresses the following stuck in many hearts:

"Why not a District Evangelistic Band to hold distinctly revival meetings?"—*Wm Ketchum.*

"Pass on your social and literary plans to others. Make the Era an exchange bureau for all our leagues."—*Miss Burnham.*

"The spring of sociability is unselfishness. Don't let the spring dry up."—*Prof. McCann.*

"The Social Committee is the bond of all denominations. More things are wrought by a smile than this world dreams of."—*Miss Hall.*

"Have a banquet for all the departments, and let the reports and plans be the after dinner speeches."—*V. P.*

"The Bible is not a mystery, but a revelation. Like a picture, it is not cast in colors, but brought into fact by these expressions. Live to-day; no man can dip his hand twice in the same place in a running stream."—*Rev. R. Bamforth.*

"The mission of the Epworth League is to give young people the true conception of service and citizenship."—*Rev. F. L. Farewell.*

"The man who is interested in Christian Missions is interested in everything else of the church's work."—*Rev. F. E. Griffith.*

"Have method! The day is gone by when a man will drive a team of oxen through a hole in the brush fence that serves for a gate, and then say, 'Gee! Haw! Buck! Go ahead Bright! It's all for to be ploughed, anyway.'"—*Rev. W. P. Rogers.*

"There never was a call in Methodism 'Who will go?' but some man said 'Send me!' Canada calls now, 'Keep the land for Christ!'"—*Rev. W. H. Emsley.*

"Thank God the Methodist Church is in the business of saving men. Young people, get right down—right down to the task now."—*Dr. Chown.*

"This Convention is like the transfiguration, a time of rare privilege and enjoyment; but only for the purpose of hard service and real duty down on the level where human need most exists."—*Rev. B. Greatrix.*

"Our ultimate end is the cultivation of the whole earth in righteousness, for God."—*The General Secretary.*

The Officers Elect:

Hon. President—Rev. B. Greatrix, Belleville.

President—Rev. L. S. Wight, Brighton.

1st Vice-President—Allan Terrill, Penelon Falls.

2nd Vice-President—Rev. S. T. Tucker, Greenbank.

3rd Vice-President—Prof. McCann, Peterboro.

4th Vice-President—Miss F. Hall, Wicklow.

5th Vice-President—Mrs. Fletcher Chapman, Little Britain.

Secretary—Wm. Ketchum, Brighton.

Treasurer—Miss I. Rogers, Cobourg.

Representative to General Board—Mr. F. Foley, Bowmanville.

["The example of good men is visible philosophy."]