

of the Methodist Church in Ontario, the Standing Committee appointed to represent the General Conference in the interim of its sessions, has issued its bold, strong, aggressive manifesto. Our whole Church is being aroused as, we believe, never before on this subject. Our district meetings, Epworth Leagues, Sunday-schools are being enlisted actively in the campaign. In this they will but carry out the often repeated and strongly declared policy of successive Annual and General Conferences.

Dr. Potts, speaking for a deputation that waited upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier at the time of the last plebiscite, declared that the Methodists of the Dominion, though divided politically, were a unit on prohibition. Dr. Williamson remarked at a recent temperance rally, that the Methodists alone numbered one-third of the population of Ontario. A very large contingent of the Presbyterian Church, we believe the whole of the Baptist Church, many of the Congregational and Anglican Churches, and not a few Roman Catholics, are in hearty sympathy with prohibition. By their united effort, despite the unjust conditions, we believe a mighty victory may be achieved, and a rigid prohibition law be brought at once into force.

#### DR. TALMAGE.

After a long and busy life, the Rev. Dr. Talmage passed peacefully away at his home in Washington. April 12th, He was stricken with illness in the city of Mexico, where he had been kindly received by the President, and with enthusiasm by the American colony. He has not preached much of recent years, but has written a weekly sermon, which was published by a newspaper syndicate. No sermons have ever been so widely read, unless, perhaps, those of Spurgeon. Their strong, sturdy, evangelical tone, and their eminent readability, made them very popular. The back seats of his church were in the Rocky Mountains and isles of the sea. Dr. Talmage had no great organizing skill. His somewhat sensational methods attracted immense audiences to the Brooklyn Tabernacle, but he failed to build up a permanent church. Few men ever received such large sums for lecturing, preaching, and royalties, and his business methods have been somewhat severely criti-

cised. He was not a great man, but we believe he was a good man, and served his generation faithfully.

#### THE METHODIST NEW CONNEXION.

An English correspondent in The Wesleyan Christian Advocate gives the following interesting information:

Incited by the example of the Primitive Methodists, several gentlemen belonging to the Methodist New Connexion have formed themselves into a limited liability company for purposes of church aggression, more particularly church building and reduction of debts. The late Conferences sanctioned the principle of the company, though it declined to take any responsibility in the movement. We are told that the shares are well taken, and deposits made, while several applications for loans have been received; so the company will soon enter on its beneficent work.

The Primitive Methodist Association has been operating about ten years, with results which give confidence to the promoters of the New Connexion scheme. The principle of the Primitive Methodist plan is to accept deposits at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. interest, and to lend the money to the trustees of church property at  $3\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. The working expenses are met by the added  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. Experience has proved that this is sufficient. This fund is now \$1,160,000.

The Wesleyans have a Chapel Loan Fund, but it stands on a different basis, and is worked on different lines. Long ago they made a free gift of \$250,000 to form the Loan Fund under the direction of the General Chapel Committee. This amount has been turned over a good many times, and has helped in the removal of millions of debt, and never becomes less. Trustees desiring its aid must themselves raise one-half of the debt which it is proposed to remove. The other half is lent, without interest, the principal to be repaid in ten years. By means of this fund, the Wesleyan trust property debts, which fifty years ago were enormous, have been reduced to a mere fleabite.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale's eightieth birthday was celebrated by a generous banquet in Boston. Senator Hoar, President Roosevelt, and many foremost men in Church and State paid their loving tribute. When he reached home he found a cheque for \$30,000 awaiting him as a tangible expression of appreciation.