

## CONFERENCE TALKS OF SOCIAL SERVICE

Adopts Committee's Recommendations Calling for Reform Along Many Lines.

### URGE PROHIBITION

Law Asked Rendering Liquor Importation and Manufacture Illegal.

Without much discussion the Toronto Methodist Conference, in session at Carlton Street Methodist Church, yesterday adopted the report of the committee on social service and evangelism, which embodied recommendations to the Dominion Government intended to suppress crime and prevent the increase in venereal diseases. The taking of effective measures to protect Canadian soldiers from the severe temptations of alcohol and prostitution was urged, and a prohibitory law called for which would render illegal the manufacture, importation, sale and advertising of intoxicants for leverage purposes. Police purity was appealed for, and the conference affirmed its belief in the suppression of the feeble-minded. In the report dealing with social purity, it was suggested that the amendment to the criminal code regarding adultery, seduction, etc., recommended at the last session of the conference, should yet to be made. Ministers were urged to make known to their congregations the appalling facts in regard to social vice and the ravages of venereal diseases which are threatening the public. In view of the rapid increase of venereal diseases, it was recommended that the conference should urge legislation as would require certificates as to mental and physical health prior to the issuing of marriage licenses. This recommendation was added as the result of a discussion in connection with the advisability of prohibiting the issuance of licenses to persons suffering from diseases liable to affect the future generation. The committee again requested that the criminal code be amended as follows: 1. That the age of consent be raised from 14 to 18 years. 2. That adultery and lewd cohabitation be made illegal. 3. That all female employees be included in the clause of the criminal code which makes the seduction of female employees in taverns, stores and mills an indictable offence.

**Gambling Condemned.** In connection with race-track gambling, the committee recommended the action of the Dominion Government in suppressing it until after the conclusion of the war. The members believed it to be a wasteful demoralizing and scandalous business, which

should not be permitted under the laws of Canada. The committee rejoiced in the blessings, social, personal, moral and economic, that have resulted from the operation of the Ontario Temperance Act, but regretted that to a certain extent these blessings were being minimized and the will of the people frustrated by interprovincial sales of liquor and the various expedients to which the promoters of the traffic have resorted.

In view of the present world crisis and the need of conserving both the efficiency of the nation's manhood, food supplies and all other material resources the committee recommended that the Dominion Government be called upon to pass a Dominion-wide prohibitory law which will render illegal the manufacture, importation, sale and advertising of intoxicants for beverage purposes, at least during the continuance of the war. It also proposed that the opening of bars on Sunday should be made illegal.

Without discussion the assembly passed the paragraph dealing with political purity. The committee observed with sorrow evidences of graft, corruption and dishonesty in public life brought before the courts. It affirmed that every person guilty of the betrayal of the common weal should be punished regardless of wealth and social position. Sympathy was also expressed with the demand for the abolition of the party patronage system.

The exploitation of child labor was referred to in the section dealing with child welfare and the committee expressed a desire to save children from labor that would be injurious to health. Emphasis was laid upon this fact because the call for production has led some unwisely to lay burdens on young children too heavy for them to bear.

**Mothers' Pensions.** The movement to establish a system of mothers' pensions, throughout Canada, was endorsed. Thus this poor widow with small children would become servants of the state. The committee believed the plan would save mothers from premature death and many children from impaired health. The principle of the juvenile court was upheld and the operation of the court commended.

Segregation of the feeble minded was affirmed, the members believing that mentally deficient boys and girls should be placed in institutions under the most helpful and scientific supervision.

On the question of evangelism the committee registered its profound conviction that widely placed and carefully directed evangelism is the solution of the problems affecting the modern life of the church. It was recommended that special days be used to emphasize the need of evangelism.

It was recommended that the Dominion Government be urged to take prompt and effective measures to remove from the soldiers in England and Canada the severe temptations of alcohol and prostitution.

Rev. P. Bryce and George H. Clark were appointed members of the general board. District secretaries were chosen as follows: Toronto east, Rev. N. Powell; Toronto west, Rev. R. Corrigan; Brampton, Rev. R. Nicholson; Orangeville, Rev. J. R. White; Owen Sound, Rev. S. J. Kelly;

Uxbridge, Rev. W. G. Aldridge; Bradford, Rev. A. E. Black; Alliston, Rev. G. B. Coull; Collingwood, Rev. A. N. St. John; Barrie, Rev. Herman Moore; Brantford, Rev. S. M. Beach; Parry Sound, Rev. A. Laycock; Sault Ste. Marie, Rev. Norman King; North Bay, Rev. R. G. Halbert; New Liskeard, Rev. A. W. Howe; Cochrane, Rev. R. E. Morton.

R. G. Kirby read the report of the sustentation fund, pointing out that every minister and probationer on the circuit in Toronto and district will receive the disciplinary allowance.

At the conclusion of the afternoon session Rev. R. Newton Powell was accorded an opportunity to speak in connection with the new Methodist hymn book. He referred to the need of congregational and home singing, declaring that nothing could ever take the place of the general singing of hymns by congregations at public worship. He stated that in the new book would be found hymns calculated to appeal to people in all vocations in life. "The church notes for congregational singing will be the place that people will flock to, not the church which has the big choir," he said.

A resolution commending the new work was carried unanimously.

**Farewell Addresses.** At the morning session addresses of farewell were given by Rev. J. W. Aikens who has accepted a call to Dominion Church, Ottawa, and Rev. R. J. Trevelyan who goes from High Park Avenue Church to Hamilton. Rev. Dr. Daniel Norman, who shortly returns to the mission field in Japan, told of his work in the Orient, stating that Count Okuma told him that if ever the people of Japan were to be civilized it could only be through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mrs. Dr. N. A. Powell and Mrs. Dr. E. A. McCullough submitted the report of the women's missionary society, reporting \$2,000 members. The total receipts for the year were \$52,402, an increase of \$193.

Rev. George Washington, who is retiring after 35 years' work as chairman of the board of examiners, will be presented with an illuminated address.

The next Toronto conference will be held at Elm Street Methodist Church. Addresses on Sunday schools and evangelism were given in the evening by Rev. G. H. Purchase, Rev. F. H. Langford and Rev. J. R. Patterson, the first two speakers dealing more particularly with the former subject. Better education for the young people along religious lines was strongly urged. Rev. F. H. Langford declaring that one of the greatest needs of the church was a large number of ministers specially trained in Sunday school work. He was of the opinion that Methodist colleges might well give considerable time to the study of Sunday school work, stating that at the present time too much time was expended in expounding "adult theology." The church's most powerful influence is with the children, he said. A report submitted showed that receipts from all sources from Toronto schools totalled \$9,238, of this sum \$16,000 being raised for missions. During the year nearly three thousand pupils were received into the church. Rev. J. R. Patterson emphasized the evangelistic note in the church service. Referring to some of the characteristics of evangelistic work he declared that personal salvation was the main issue of such a ministry. The



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### OLD OFFICIAL LETTERS REGARDING NICKEL ISSUE

Negotiations Between Hon. A. S. Hardy, Commissioner of Crown Lands, and Lord Knutsford.

Col. G. T. Denison's letter, which appeared in The World, in which he referred to the "unseen hand" of Germany as being the agent whereby the British authorities were prevented from accepting in 1891 nickel lands in Ontario, has aroused considerable interest in provincial government circles. Negotiations between Hon. A. S. Hardy, commissioner of crown lands; Sir Oliver Mowat and Lord Knutsford, then secretary of state for the colonies, regarding the purchase of the nickel lands by the British Government, have been brought to light. A letter from Lord Knutsford, questioning whether the proposition was

worthy of consideration by the imperial government. A later communication stated that the conclusion had been reached that "it would be inexpedient to apply to parliament for powers to acquire the controlling interest in these nickel mines."

### REPORT OF REGISTRAR OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

Nearly Three Millions Paid Out in Insurance Benefits by Societies in Ontario.

According to the report of the registrar of friendly societies for the year 1916 issued yesterday, there were 28 life insurance or benefit societies in Ontario with a total membership of 256,089. The amount of insurance in force was \$148,577,263, and the amount in force outside the province was \$291,860,000. During 1916

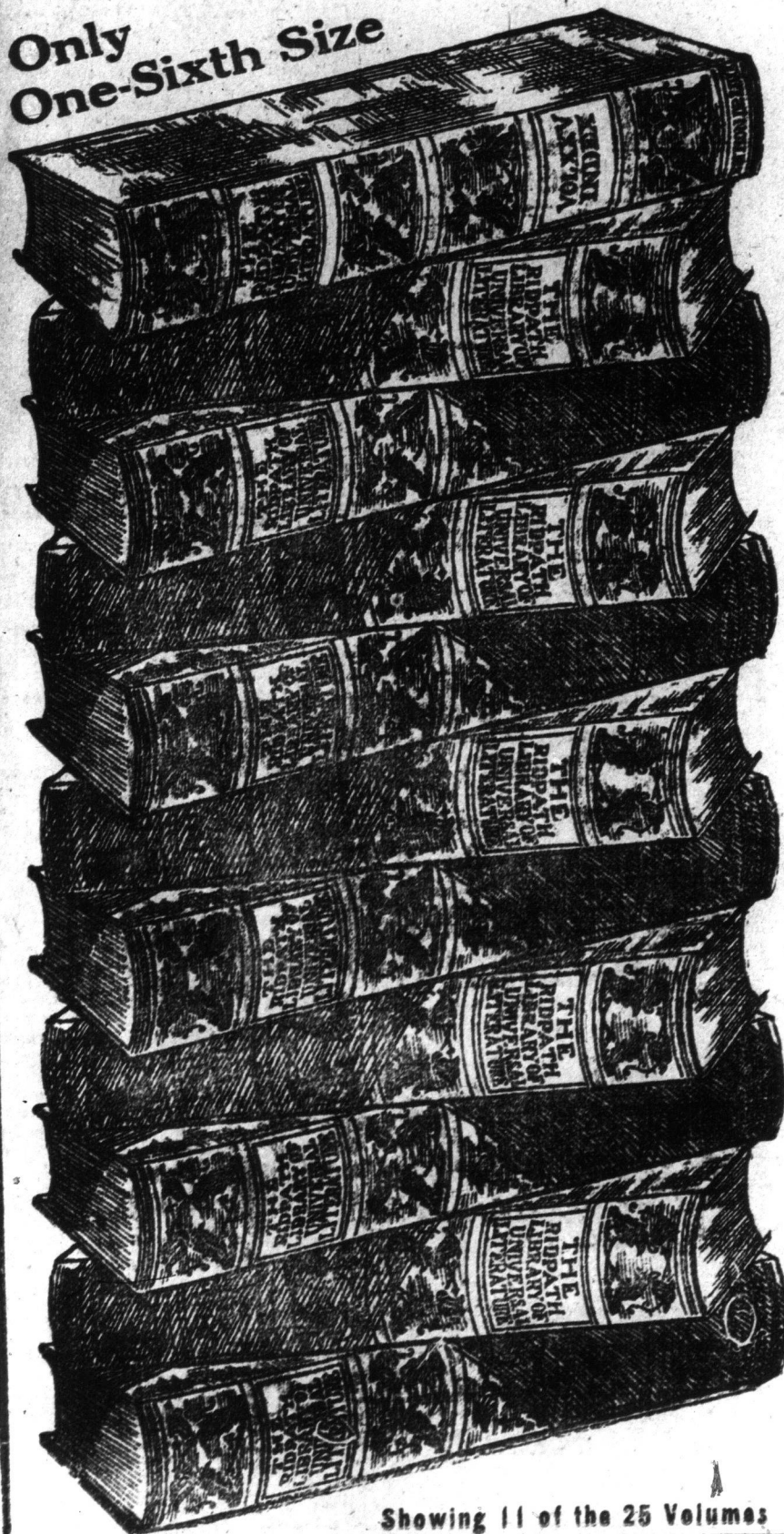
insurance benefits paid in Ontario amounted to \$2,891,000. The assets of societies in Ontario totalled \$16,700,000, while the total assets outside Ontario were slightly over \$65,000,000. Liabilities in Ontario were \$421,000 and the liabilities outside the province, \$3,664,788. Sick and benefit societies in Ontario number nearly 200, with a membership of 135,000. The amount paid for sick benefits during 1916 was \$366,778. The assets were slightly over \$4,000,000 and the liabilities \$104,000. The number of members sick during the year was 41,571, while 3095 including members, their wives and children, died.

### BOARD APPROVES PLANS.

The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board has passed upon the city's plan which were filed several days ago for the extension of the road on Queen street to the Imperial Munitions Works in Ashbridge's Bay.

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