

## Our Letter Box

### A Letter from Mr. Bartlett

Our Eastern Associate Secretary has been spending the spring and summer months in the Maritime Conferences. We are glad to know of his movements through the following letter:

In all six Conferences I have been privileged to visit this summer, a spirit of hope has been expressed regarding the future of our Sunday-school and Young People's work. The Conference reports are not as satisfactory statistically as we might desire, and yet no serious loss has been felt. The fluctuations of our population because of the westward migratory movements of many of our people have more or less disturbed some of our Conferences; but taken all in all, the general condition of the work is healthy, and in many places as vigorous as ever in the past. The Anniversary Services were of a high order. At Berlin, Bro. Norman delighted the large audience with his graphic account of our Japanese work. At Bowmanville, a striking feature of the service was the singing of a splendid boys' choir led by Pastor Emory. The boys filled the ample choir gallery, and their presence and choruses were a delight to the large audience. Mr. E. T. Slemmon, B.A., of Oshawa, gave a very effective address. The Toronto Conference meeting was not as largely attended as one would have expected, but the interest of the hour was well maintained, and Bro. Armstrong of St. Paul's church gave a splendid address. It is a long way from Toronto to St. Stephen, N.B., and the days intervening between the two Conferences were busy days, occupied in getting the family somewhat settled in their new Sackville home. The friends of Sackville were exceedingly kind and helpful, and the Epworth League gave us a most hospitable and cordial reception service in the church parlors. Mr. C. D. Stewart is a live president of an active organization. The N. B. and P. E. I. Conference at St. Stephen gave a most hearty hearing to our message, and we shall be much surprised if the future does not show an encouraging increase in our Young People's Societies in the Maritime Conferences. The N. S. Conference at Truro was most kindly indeed. The Sunday afternoon rally of the Sunday-school was a decided success, and Bro. Barrett gave a good address on "The pearl of great price." The anniversary service on Monday evening, June 24th, was addressed by Judge Cleaveland, who made a splendid showing of the claims of the Sunday-school, and by Bro. Shore, who surpassed himself in his eloquent advocacy of the Missionary Department. From Truro, N.S., we left for Grand Bank, N.F., we had heard and read of Newfoundland fogs; but this was our first experience. Two nights found the Str. Glencoe tied up in Burgeo and Hermitage respectively, and the Canadian contingent—Revs. J. Allen, T. E. Shore, J. W. Graham, D. Norman and myself, had a lesson in patience. However, we reached Grand Bank on Friday, June 28th, and found the whole Conference on the wharf to meet us. Such a warm-hearted reception could hardly be surpassed.

After a brief introduction to the Conference we left right at home. Spoke at Fortune, four miles from Grand Bank, on Friday evening. The Saturday morning session of Conference was given up entirely to the Canadians, and it was a veritable love-feast among brethren.

On Sunday afternoon the Sunday-school Anniversary service was held, and seldom have we faced so splendid a Sunday-school. Grand Bank may be an "out-post," but it is no ordinary fishing village. The Church will easily accommodate a thousand people, and Fraser Hall, where the Sunday-school, Epworth League and prayer meetings are held, is a commodious chamber, capable of seating five hundred or more. The Sunday-school service we most heartily enjoyed, and Bro. Creasy's address was admirable. The evening service at Fortune was well attended and a large congregation seemed to appreciate our sermon. A very fine Epworth League Anniversary was held at Fortune on the succeeding Tuesday evening. A live Epworth League is operating here. Indeed, the Newfoundland Conference reports a "good increase in every department of S. S. and E. L. work, and the future is bright for progress." A Conference E. L. Convention is to be held in St. John's next week, but whether we shall be able to report it in time for the August "Era" is doubtful. At present we are waiting for our steamer, and hoping that the mists will soon roll away.

S. T. BARTLETT.

Grand Bank, N.F., July 4, 1907.

### Sunday-schools in the West

A letter has been received from a lady who is teaching school twelve miles out from a Saskatchewan village. In addition to carrying on the day school she has recently started a small Sunday-school, and asks for some assistance in obtaining papers, etc., which we are glad to give, believing that every encouragement should be afforded to such self-denying workers. Wherever even two or three families can be got together for the study of the Bible, then a Sunday-school should be organized. Another letter from a Western preacher states he has to preach four times on Sunday and consequently has no time for Sunday-school work. Believing, however, that a school was needed at one of the appointments he started it, although there was no one to take the superintendency. The school is held on Friday afternoon, after day school, and the pastor himself superintends it. This is a fine illustration of the old saying: "Where there is a will there is a way." The pastor asks for help from the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund, but is afraid that his embryo organization cannot be regarded as "a Sunday-school," as it meets on a week day. Well, we decided to enlarge the meaning of the term to cover a case of this kind, and sent on a supply of papers and periodicals.

This same pastor writes of two other Sunday-schools on his circuit: "They are doing well and no longer need aid, as they have become self-supporting."

### Generous Contribution

A Sunday-school in St. John's, Newfoundland, numbering 51, all told, sends the sum of \$10 for the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund, and promises a similar amount for the next two years. Considering the size of the school this is the most generous contribution that has come our hand. Some of the strong schools in Ontario considered five cents per member rather too much to ask of them, but here is a Sunday-school which has given twenty cents per scholar.

### Sunday School Secretaries

The legislation of the General Conference regarding District Sunday School Secretaries, has been generally carried out, and the lists of stations include the name of the "S. S. Secretary," in connection with the Chairman and Financial Secretary. As far as can be judged by a hasty glance over the names, we believe that the right men have been chosen, and we look for splendid results from their oversight. A circular letter has been sent out to each of these secretaries from the central office. If any have failed to receive it, we will kindly notify the General Secretary.

### Advanced Ground

A note from Rev. Hiram Hull indicates that the Manitoba Conference took advanced ground in regard to Sunday-school work. For the first time in years the report of the Sunday-school Committee was brought in when there was a full complement of members of the Stationing Committee being absent. A recommendation was adopted which requests Wesley College to provide a short course of lectures on S. S. work for probationers at college and for workers who may find it convenient to attend also to receive a Correspondence Course for those who cannot attend the lectures, giving diplomas to those who pass the examinations.

### Dr. Crosby's Book

A correspondent writes calling attention to Rev. Dr. Crosby's book, "Among the Anakonemuns." He says "Crosby's work is worthy of being placed beside that of John G. Paton's or Robert Moffatt's. This book, narrating the history of his first twelve years in British Columbia, is anything but dry, but is bristling with narrative and adventure, and is worthy of a place among the best of our missionary biographies. Our young people ought to have it."

We quite agree with our friend's estimate of the book. Our church has never had a more devoted missionary than Dr. Crosby, and the record of his work is well worth preserving. "Among the Anakonemuns" should have a place in every Sunday-school and missionary library.

### Is the Church Bad Pay?

An Eastern correspondent is of the opinion that sufficient attention is not given to the prompt payment of church accounts, which sometimes causes the church to be regarded among business men as "bad pay." If this is true it is a most serious matter, which reflects very seriously on officers in charge. The church should pay what it owes without waiting to be "dunned," and without expecting a special discount on every bill.

Our correspondent also complains that it often happens, "when the business meeting of the League votes money to departments of church expense, or to persons named, the treasurer still holds on to the money, sometimes for months, until he gets a written order from the president to pay sums so voted, and those to whom it is due must hunt up the treasurer and beg for the money. Is not a proper vote at a proper meeting sufficient authority for the treasurer to pay at once and take receipt?"

The Constitution says: "The Treasurer shall collect all dues and receive all moneys, disbursing the same at the direction of the League, upon order of the Secretary, countersigned by the President." It is better to follow this constitutional method, than there should be no delay. When money has been voted the orders on the Treasurer should be made out and signed by Secretary and Treasurer before they leave the room.