

A letter from a leader in the London Conference regrets the tendency to formal routine. He says that too often "societies seem to be run too much like an automatic machine," and expresses his conviction, with which I heartily concur, that more "individual thought and imagination are needed" that the members may not come in for their parts mechanically, as in a machine, or professionally, "as though in a play."

An extract well worth pondering is this: "It seems to have become the idea of the young people of our Epworth League that we should have holidays for a few weeks in the summer. We have tried it for two years and it is not a success."—"A difference of opinion about closing up the League during the summer may prevail, but there is a growing conviction that a League that has been out of business for two or three months finds it increasingly difficult to get to work again in the Fall.

Here is a very striking paragraph taken from a minister's communication. I fear it is too true, and the writer in question has given us good ground for serious thought regarding our young people. He says of his community, which for obvious reasons is not named here: "The young people lack intelligent ambition. Self-development through study is not considered a Christian duty. The remedy is nothing short of preaching on education as a means to character. Many of our nicest young people cannot read the topics out of the Era, respectfully, and don't mind a bit." The statement contained in the last five words is the most serious of all. Indifference must mean hopeless mediocrity. Every League where such a condition prevails as is set forth in this extract should make a strong attempt to awaken the ambition of the young people for self-development, and afford them some assistance in realizing it.

A good friend from Ottawa writes: "Could you, or would it be wise to send a copy of the October Era to all Presidents who do not take it? I am sure they would afterwards. Personally, I do not know how I could get along without mine. All who take it here think it splendid." It is an anomaly that many League officers from the President down are not subscribers to the Era. A personal and plain leaflet, "Between Ourselves," was sent to every President last year; but some paid no attention to it whatever, and one even thought it impertinent. Neither the Editor nor the Book Steward can compel any officer to subscribe. All the Editor can do is make each issue as suggestive as his many other duties permit, and the Book Steward does his best certainly in sending out a well-printed sheet. We have tried to secure an Epworth Era Agent in every League with partial success. Certainly the officers who do not know the Era month by month cannot expect their work to be long in the front line of efficiency. Let our friends all take it up, and send in new subscriptions.

The President of Woodgreen League, Toronto, puts concisely and attractively the aims of the League and elements in its success thus:

- E agerness for soul saving.
- P lanning well ahead.
- W orking out the plans in committee.
- O ptimistic helpfulness.
- R outing singers.
- T imely appeals.
- H ealthy programmes.
- L oyalty to our Constitution.
- E very member active.
- A biding faith in our Society.
- Genuine earnestness.
- U nity of purpose.
- E verlasting patience.

Port Alberni, Vancouver Island, and its Newly Organized Sunday School

By REV. J. W. MILLER, B.A., B.D.

The eyes of the world are on the Canadian West, and Alberni is the last of the Great West. Port Alberni is the most westerly terminus of the C. P. Railway, which has its wharves, depot, and track-laying completed, and this is the red-letter day in the history of this place. The organizing of a Sunday School in June last and the recent decision to build a Methodist Church here are something quite worthy of notice, especially in view of the great future that is before this locality. We now in October have an enrollment of 47 scholars and a teaching staff of four. The names on the Cradle Roll are 17 in number; one of the most recent names added is the minister's six-weeks-old boy. Before long we hope to have a suitable building erected on our splendid church and parsonage site. This



A GLORIOUS DRIVEWAY, ALBERNI, B.C.

is only the beginning of a cause which in a few years will take on immense proportions.

When one visits the place he sees one of the most beautiful districts of the world. The scenic grandeur of the mountains and the valley, of the lakes, the rivers, and the harbor, wins the admiration of all visitors. Tourists also are attracted here in great numbers because of the abundance of game in the vicinity, and because of the excellent roads for motor cars.

Great as the tourist attractions are they do not surpass the commercial possibilities of the district. The beautiful Alberni Valley, drained by the Sumas, Sprout, Stamp, and Ash rivers, is a fertile expanse of land of 50,000 acres, able to support 10,000 people and be made a Garden of Eden. Again, Port Alberni is the natural milling centre for a timber area of 35,000 acres, including the finest standing timber in the province, and so extensive that six mills, with a joint capacity of a million feet a day, would require forty years to cut the present standing timber. The mills will have fresh water for the logs and the best of seaports for foreign trade. This industry means the employment of thousands. The coal fields and mineral deposits of various kinds in this territory are such as to indicate that in the near future Alberni ought to be a distributing centre for supplies to a mining region equal to that possessed by Nelson, in the Kootenay country. As the headquarters of the deep-sea fishery, halibut and cod, also of the whaling and salmon industry, Port Alberni is taking her place. The erection of a \$100,000 cold storage plant a few miles down the canal is but a prophecy of how extensive this will prove to be.

As a seaport Port Alberni has few rivals. She is the most western terminus of the great C. P. R. transcontinental system; the Canadian Northern is building and will soon complete their line to Alberni, and even the G. T. F. has a proposed line to Alberni. There is a good deep-water harbor right off the open Pacific, with an outlet not less than a mile wide, free entirely from danger from reef or fog. There is enough fresh water at the water front to preserve all piles from barnacles and remove same from incoming ships. The mine on the town site upon the water front, at sea level, supplies coal of the best quality. As the Western Canadian terminus of the All Red Route, Port Alberni has the preference with the promoters, as it means a saving of 12 to 20 hours for mails, passengers and fast freight for Vancouver and the east. Also it means avoiding the cost and danger of going around the lower end of Vancouver Island. Both the C. P. R. and C. N. R. are arranging a ferry system across the Straits, and Port Alberni will be the port of call for Oriental, Alaskan, and West Coast-going ships. The opening of the Panama Canal will put her in trade with European ports.

The townsite is a warm and gentle slope, quite suitable for drainage, and entirely free from rock. China Creek readily gives an abundant supply of purest water, and within six miles there is water power for electric generation to the amount of 50,000 horse-power. A magnificent climate and beautiful outlook of mountain scenery in every direction complete a list of unusual possibilities for a great city, the future of which will only be a matter of the survival of the fittest.

The Sunday School and Church had had its beginning, as has the town. We have great hopes as to what the future shall bring forth.

Meeting of the General Executive

A meeting of the Executive of the General Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies, was held in the general offices, 35 Richmond St. W., Toronto, at 2 p.m., on Wednesday, Oct. 11th, 1911, with the following members present: Rev. Dr. A. C. Crews, Dr. W. E. Willmott, M. S. Madole, Bay of Quinte Conference, W. A. Davidson, Hamilton Conference, the General Secretary and F. L. Farewell. After prayer had been offered and the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, the executive took up the consideration of many important questions pertaining to our general Sunday School and Young People's Society work. The more interesting of these and the conclusions reached thereon are as follows:

1. The holding of a series of special institutes for the cities of the Central Conferences, providing satisfactory arrangements can be made as to time and place.
2. The transference for two or three months to the Central Conferences to assist in City and other Institutes as follows: J. K. Curtis, B.A., Field Secretary for the Eastern Conferences and the employment of Mrs. W. C. Matthews, of New Brunswick, an elementary specialist in Sunday School and Junior League work.
3. The addition of Rev. Prof. McLaughlin to the Committee on the Advanced Course in the Teacher Training Department, and the adoption of "The Teacher and his Bible" as one of the books of that course.
4. The General Secretary was authorized to enter upon the preparation of the