

THE

Canadian Epworth Era

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF
WORK IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS,

At Home with the Editor

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—When you see a thing that needs to be done, do not wait. Form a Committee of one and do it.

—You will never make the future better by simply praising the past. Stop prating and go to work.

—Not until you have felt the promptings of love, and in response thereto have done something for somebody else, will you really appreciate what Christ has done for you.

—If God shows you how much better this world might be made, be sure He means you to help bring about the improved state of affairs, by working with Him for the desired end.

—The imperilled Christian may be so circumstanced that earthly friends cannot aid him; but no one is ever shut out from communion with God, or unable to secure help from the Heavenly Father.

—The trouble with the prodigal son was that he held his fortune in his hand rather than possessing it in his head or his heart. Any fool can waste the former kind; but he is a wise man who seeks and treasures the latter.

—You will never enjoy your work if you keep worrying about the results of it. Just do your best at the job in hand, and your reward will be as sure as the Promises of God, which always link fruitfulness with faithfulness.

—Don't wait for evangelists to come from outside your community to win souls for the Kingdom. Be yourself an evangelist, and seek to bring some of your own companions and friends into intimate acquaintance with Jesus your Saviour.

—Have you had a happy New Year? Then seek to prolong the pleasure and joy of it by diffusing happiness all about you, and so extend the initial enjoyment of 1910 through all its succeeding days. If we were wise we would begin each day as if it were a new year.

Officers Who Think

No Epworth League can succeed without a thinking, executive. From the pastor down, every official must think, and think *hard*, too, if success is to be achieved. Each one must think personally and independently of all the others. The president, vice-presidents, and chairmen of committees must severally study the needs of each department over which he may preside. He must know it as it stands alone, distinct from all others, and having its own particular aims and methods. He must see it in its relation to all the others, and seek to understand not only how it can be made successful by itself, but how it can contribute to the good of the whole. Then, in the executive meetings, the officers will think *together*, and plan for the most effective ways and means to ensure the prosperity of the whole organization. A first vice-president should study the Christian Endeavor work thoroughly, but not as comprising in itself the whole purpose of league life and enterprise. He should aim at infusing the "for Christ and the Church" spirit and motive through all the rest. The missionary vice-president who does not know missions is sure to fail; but it is not enough that he shall know *nothing* but missions. The missionary zeal must permeate every section and part of the league. No third vice-president can accomplish the most who is satisfied with an occasional literary evening. He should aim to elevate the literary quality and tone of every programme. The social vice-president who thinks and plans only for one whole evening

once in a while, devoted entirely to sociability, is making a mistake. In each weekly meeting he should feel his responsibility for the cultivation of a real social atmosphere. And so we might go on through the whole list. Officers who think for themselves and then combine the results of their thinking in plans for united and concerted action, will not mourn over a depleted membership or weak programmes. Hence our conclusion, that if you would get the most out of the League, you must do a lot of thinking, and real *hard* thinking, too.

The Call of the New Year

The majority of us, even the more careless among us, recognize in the turn of the years a call to *thought*. And most of us really do some unusually serious thinking for a day or two. That many are not sufficiently in earnest is manifest from the lack of continuance in living out their high resolves; but that many others are prayerfully sincere, and desire to be constant in performing their new resolves is equally evident.

The practice of deep thinking on personal problems is preparatory to high practice of the virtues that most adorn and beautify life, and the New Year is an appropriate season for such contemplation and review.

Think! of the past year. Has it been full of mercies? Have you been grateful therefore? Have you had trials? In them, has the helpful grace of patient resignation sustained you? Do you recall conflicts? Through them all have you maintained a brave heart and ever shown a courageous front to the foe? Has Christian service been a joy or a burden? By the practice of daily habits of fidelity have you fulfilled your duty and grown in the grace of usefulness?—Many such questions will arise in our minds if we but sit down and *think*. And in such quiet meditative moments the voice of the past will call us to praise and the future will summon us to performance.

The *mercies* of God combine in one loud call to thanksgiving for what He has been, and the promises of God assure us of better days to come in developments of what He will be. The duty of the present is well expressed in the message of our front cover page—"Go Forward!"

The *mistakes* of the past warn us against their repetition. We learn wisdom even by our failures. Who has realized all he hoped for a year ago? Who has accomplished all he set out to do last New Year's Day? We have failed, in part at least; but rather than bemoan failure, it is ours to press forward to better service. Our failures may have convinced us that our determination was not strong enough. They therefore bid us do more valiantly in the coming days.

Our *successes* bid us press on with high and holy aspirations for mightier attainments and more heroic enterprises. For the past has not been all failure. There have been times of actual accomplishment. Duties have been performed, ills have been borne, rights have been maintained, temptations have been overcome, and in many ways we are able to say "I have fought a good fight." This glorious fact should nerve us to more incessant activity, and if our zeal is in danger of flagging, one thoughtful retrospect of the past with its achievements for God, should send us still forward to more fruitful service in His name. The past bids us go, the New Year bids us come, and greater victories await us if we obey.

The *changes* of the past open up new opportunities. New

"All life is a little day, and every day is a little life."—Mark Guy, Pearse.