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Toronto, April 16, 1896.

### Lord's Day Alliance.

IN presenting the annual report to the meeting of the Lord's Day Alliance the Executive touched on several interesting matters which had received attention during the past year. There was the subject of Legislation and that of litigation, for before the Legislature and the Courts of Ontario the Executive had been active. The Lord's Day clause of the Electric Railway Act was enacted mainly through the efforts of the Executive. It forbids all traffic on these railways on the Lord's Day except the transportation of milk. Another clause for which the Executive committee deserves credit is one providing that parks or pleasure grounds owned by the company shall not be open on the Lord's Day to be used for games, picnics, concerts, excursions, or other public entertainments. This clause would have been stronger if its application had not been confined to parks or pleasure grounds owned by the railway company, but applicable to parks or pleasure grounds by whomsoever owned. There is cause for thankfulness also, that the efforts of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company of Toronto for power to operate on the Lord's Day failed owing to the opposition of the Alliance; and further, that the amendments to the Lord's Day Act passed at the recent session of the Legislature, were kept within the lines suggested by the Alliance. Such a record is one to be thankful for, but it surely emphasizes the fact that the "world, the flesh and the devil" are up in arms against the sanctity of the Sabbath and its due observance, and the necessity that exists for eternal vigilance on the part of the Lord's people.

In the matter of litigation the report recites the steps in the Hamilton Street Railway case, already familiar to the general reader, and in which there is an appeal now standing for argument.

The Alliance has very wisely taken up the question of a half-holiday once a week during legal business hours, and early closing on Saturday evening. All Christian people ought to support both requests on the ground of humanity and Christianity. It is a notorious fact that in cities and towns, young girls and young men are kept at the counter until eleven o'clock at night and later, after which, when the doors have been closed to the public, sweeping, packing and stowing away of goods have to be attended to, and the midnight hour often strikes ere the weary and worn-out young toilers reach their homes. The result is a lassitude and fatigue which the few hours of sleep until breakfast time do not remove, and in that fact lies much of the cause of non attendance at church of the young people. There ought to be a mean in hours of labor, and there is no reason why the law of the land should not decree the closing of stores at a certain hour on Saturday night, say eight or nine o'clock. This is a subject which ought to be agitated in the churches and on the public platform.

At the public meeting of the Alliance, the voice of Rev. Principal Caven rang out loud and clear for the Sabbath, as it ever has done. There was working sense that should not be lost sight of in the following sentences: "There was one thing he would impress upon members of the Alliance, he said, and that was the necessity of keeping a brave heart. What, though the forces of the world were arrayed against them? That should not prevent every Christian man and woman doing his or her duty. Secular forces were so strong, ruthless, and aggressive, that unless they were held in check the Sabbath day as an institution would soon be lost. He believed that if the religious idea was dropped out of the question, the end would soon come. But if a man came to him and said that, although he did not believe in a God or in religion, yet because he thought that man should have one day in the week for rest, he would vote for the observance of the Sabbath, he (the speaker) would not be foolish enough to refuse his assistance." Other speakers, such as the chairman, Mr. J. Macdonald, Rev. Dr. Potts, and Mr. Hoyles, were earnest in their appeals which it is to be hoped will find a fruitful response. Altogether the meeting was most successful and showed conclusively that there are champions ready for battle, and sentinels on guard for the interests of the divinely-appointed day of rest.

### Their Special Claims.

In these days when the great schemes of the church are attracting wide-spread attention, and when great efforts are being put forth on their behalf, there is a possibility that some of the smaller, less clamorous, but not less important schemes may be lost sight of. To this latter class belongs the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund. There are few indeed, in the whole catalogue of the church schemes, whose claims are stronger than those of the Aged and Infirm Ministers. Should it be necessary at this time of day to set forth some of the many reasons that could be urged in behalf of these fathers of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It should not. The information in the possession of the members is full and detailed, and it only remains that members should do their duty. The church simply cannot afford to neglect her aged ministers who have been wedded to her interests, and who have served faithfully for long years within her pale. She could not hold up her face to the world, were she derelict in her duty to her war worn pensioners; nor can she vindicate the Christian doctrines of right conduct should she place her standard of action on the worldly level of commerce as a slave-driver does with his human cattle. It must not be, and now is the time to open the purse-strings and to contribute liberally to the Fund. It is with regret that we have to publish the following appeal from Mr. J. K. Macdonald, the convenor, and Rev. Wm. Burns, the secretary, both of whom have put forth herculean efforts for this blessed cause. They speak as follows: "We regret the necessity of speaking of a deficit in the Aged Ministers' Fund. No arrearage in rates this year makes these receipts less by \$500. Congregational collections are less this year; several congregations have sent no contribution so far. Interest account will not be greater. Our income is \$3,000 short at this date. It was necessary to reduce annuities in November, and, unless aid is given at once, we must face the painful necessity of a further reduction in May. Your congregation has not yet contributed. We plead with you for help." Let this appeal not go unheeded, but let the hearts of the Aged Veterans in Christ's Army be rejoiced by a liberality which will prove that