

THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA

A. C. CREWS, Editor.

WILLIAM BRIGGS, Publisher.

Vol. VI

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1904

No. 11

The Epworth League and the Lord's Day.

Rev. T. Albert Moore, one of the Secretaries of the Lord's Day Alliance sends the following note, which should receive earnest consideration:

Never more than to-day have Canadians needed to "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." Our fathers were loyal to this divine institution and won for themselves and our country the promised blessings of God for obedience to His law.

To-day there are many forces attacking the Sabbath—among them the greed for gold; the passion for pleasure; the influence of the foreigners who have migrated to our goodly land, and brought their lax Sabbath notions and loose Sabbath conduct with them; and that too general tendency to hold moral and religious principles less tenaciously, which seems to characterize the opinions of many people in this new century. As a consequence the Sabbath is not what it once was. Many lax practices are becoming common in Canada.

The General Conference in 1902, and every conference of Canadian Methodism has this year urged upon the people called Methodists to arouse themselves and assist in the effort to stem the flood of Sabbath desecration which threatens to sweep over our country.

"Sunday is the core of our civilization," said Emerson. "The most imminent menace to self-government in our country to-day is the saloon and Sabbath desecration," said Joseph Cook. "An abiding civilization has always gone with the Christian Sabbath, and I believe it always will," said Beecher. "It is ours to keep that day in its true significance by all diligence of personal example and effort, by all vigilance and care of domestic fidelity, by all strength of social influence and by all majesty of public law," said Dr. Carman.

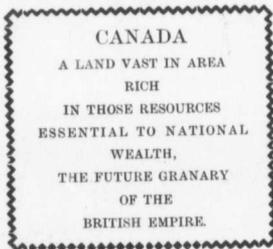
We must use every means to arouse the people from indifference and secure their co-operation in the efforts to resist the forces that imperil the Sabbath.

Among the active organizations of to-day there is none having greater influence, nor achieving larger success in its work, than our Young People's Societies. Cannot Presidents of District Leagues bring this important topic before the Committee which has the preparing of the programme for next Convention, and arrange to have the question practically discussed, so that the help of the organization and the assistance of the youth of Methodism will be enlisted in the struggle for the Sabbath?

The Lord's Day Alliance will gladly send literature for distribution or information for speakers when requested to do so.

Sacrifice for Principle.—"Tis done, 'tis done, the great transaction's done," sang Thomas Shannon, a local grocer of Findlay, Ohio, as his entire stock of cigars, including many choice brands of tobacco, went up in smoke from the fire kindled by his own hands. He had just been converted, and felt that it was wrong for a Christian to sell tobacco. The stock destroyed was worth hundreds of dollars, and the cases which held it are now filled with clean soaps. He wants people to be clean inside and out, and certainly has set them a good example.

Showing Canada.—There is an appalling ignorance concerning our country in the rest of the world, which we should seek in every legitimate way to remove. *The National Monthly* thus calls attention to the necessity of advertising ourselves: "One of the most successful attempts to advertise Canada that has been yet made is



One of the placards in the Canadian Section Agricultural Building, St. Louis Exposition.

the Canadian exhibit at the World's Fair. Every Canadian visitor to St. Louis will find reason to be proud of his country, and to the thousands of other visitors the powers and resources that lie behind the display are proving a revelation. Good seed is being sown at the St. Louis Exposition that will bring forth fruit in future years. Attractive as the building and the exhibits are, there is an evident air of business about it all. Canada is advertising herself and is carrying on an active immigration canvass at the same time that she is helping to entertain the crowds. Surely this kind of showing off is both justifiable and profitable.

The Workingman's Salvation.—Upon a recent Sunday, at the special service held by the department of religion in the Festival Hall of the World's Fair, Rabbi Emil Hirsch, of Chicago, in the course of an eloquent address, said: "Whenever any nation ceases to recognize

or observe the Sabbath, that nation has passed the period of its usefulness and is on the decline. The Sabbath is, and has been, the workingman's salvation. We may differ on the manner of its observance, but its essential importance and its divine mission in the universal scheme of things cannot be ignored."

Unique Society.—In Sendai, an important city in Northern Japan, is a large and unique Christian Endeavor society made up of the employees of the Government Postal Telegraph Office. Its name, literally translated, is the "Communications" Christian Endeavor society. Six or seven of the members of this society have gone to the war, some as regular soldiers, and others as telegraph operators in connection with the army. One, who has studied Russian in a Tokyo school, is telegraph operator for a Tokyo regiment. Quite recently a social was held to cheer the families of the absent Endeavorers.

Unlike Other Troops.—A correspondent writing from the Far East says: "The Japanese troops, too, are unlike any other troops in the world. There is not a bottle of liquor within fifty miles of the battle-line, but the things upon which the Japanese soldiers insist on having handy are fans for their comfort, fishing-rods so that they can have some quiet sport during a halt near a stream, and also big iron kettles to enable them to take the daily bath in the 'honorable hot water,' which to Japanese notions is among the necessities of life." It is not strange that a nation which goes thus to war should prevail over a people whose armies are given to drunkenness.

Japanese Valor.—A Japanese field-officer, in *Leslie's Magazine*, gives the following illustration of the valor of his men: "I saw two soldiers who were pretty badly shot, one of them had at least three bullet wounds. The only thought of these men seemed to be to conceal their wounds. They hurried into the thick of the fray—and upon them was that thievish air which, you sometimes catch in a bad boy or a man who is hounded—the air which seemed so ill at ease on the face of a Nippon soldier, and so striking, too, because so rare. They were frightened, these fellows who laughed in the face of death, lest they might be caught by the hospital corps. At first the officers so foolishly took the trouble in telling these wounded to look after themselves a little more carefully, but they met a blank wall whenever they sang that tune."