

How the Central District Came to be Organized for Special Missionary Work.

BY G. HERBERT WOOD,
Missionary Vice-President, Toronto Central District.

MANY earnest missionary meetings, addressed by different Campaigners and conducted by officers and members of local Leagues, have been held during the past year in the Toronto Central District.

Early in December, 1896, a special meeting of the Central District Executive was called to meet Mr. F. C. Stephenson, who explained the work some of the other districts in Ontario had undertaken along the lines suggested in connection with the "Forward Movement," and more especially the supporting, by a District Epworth League of a missionary in the home or foreign field.

The Executive were impressed with the importance of the work and the opportunity that was offered for some practical work for our Leagues to take up. They accordingly decided to call a meeting of representatives from every League in the district, believing that if the object was to be attained, every League should co-operate. The Pastor, the President, Missionary Vice-President, and the members of the Missionary Committee of each League were invited, and a fairly representative meeting held at Broadway Church, December 28th, 1896, was the result, at which the President of the District, Rev. J. C. Speer, presided.

As far as the Central District is concerned, the matter first assumed definite form at this meeting, when it was unanimously and enthusiastically resolved to undertake the support of a missionary, and a committee, consisting of the Missionary Vice President for the district, Mr. G. H. Wood, and the Convener of every League Missionary Committee, was appointed to carry it out.

This committee has met frequently, and, as a result, nearly every Young People's Society in the district has fallen into line, even those in the extreme northern part—too far from the city to attend our meetings—writing to inform us that they are in hearty sympathy with our work; and, better still, are going to help financially.

A very important and largely-attended meeting was held on January 29th, at the home of Mr. Fred. C. Stephenson, to select, if possible, the field or missionary to which the money raised by the district should be applied. On invitation of the committee, Rev. Dr. Sutherland was present, representing the General Missionary Society, and Mrs. (Rev.) W. H. Hincks, representing the Woman's Missionary Society, both of whom spoke impressively upon the work and needs of their respective societies. While the committee thoroughly appreciated the grand and self-sacrificing work done by the Woman's Missionary Society, and were especially anxious not to encroach upon their sources of income, it was felt that, at any rate at present, it would be better not to divide the proceeds between the General and Woman's Missionary Societies, as suggested by Dr. Sutherland, but to devote all our efforts towards supporting, through the General Board, "our own" missionary. As Dr. Sutherland had intimated that there was great need of a medical missionary being sent to the West Coast of Vancouver Island, it was unanimously resolved that the Leagues of our district undertake the support of a missionary of the General Society in that field, at a cost of \$800 per annum. At a later date it was found impracticable to occupy the West Coast, and the Missionary selected was sent to Bella Bella.

The suggestion was made that Junior Leagues of the district might hand their missionary funds to the Woman's Missionary Society, which, if carried out, would more than make up any loss that society might otherwise sustain.

A word as to the district might not be out of place. In the city, its limits east and west, are Yonge Street and Spadina Avenue; but its length is much greater than its width, extending as it does from the Bay to Richmond Hill. The district includes seventeen Young Peoples' Societies, which altogether have a membership of about 1,000.

It is very gratifying to know that the young people are taking the matter up so enthusiastically. In fact, in April, only about three months after organization, in response to a request from the committee, asking for an intimation of the probable amount their League would raise before May, 1898, ten of the societies replied naming amounts which aggregated more than \$500. We understand some of the societies—such as Broadway, \$150; St. Paul's (Avenue Road), \$75; Yonge Street, \$75; New Richmond, \$50; Elm Street, \$25; Davisville, \$25; Thornhill, \$12; and Edgeley, \$5—have actually *pledged themselves* to contribute these amounts during the first year. There is therefore good reason to believe that in the future, as the young people of our district realize, as they undoubtedly will, to a still greater extent, the privilege which is now offered to them of doing something practical in helping on Christ's cause, and of putting into practice our motto, "Look up! *Lift up!*" they will take hold so earnestly, that even more than the necessary \$800 will be raised without trouble.

Our League motto can most appropriately be our motto in this movement also, for it is based on the "pray and pay" principle. Equally important with giving is praying; and thus, in joining this new movement we perhaps, more truly than ever before, both "look up" and "lift up."

There is even greater reason for activity on the part of our members now than when the work was first undertaken, for the Missionary Board have, as a result of the Central District organization, appointed Rev. J. A. Jackson, S.T.L., M.D., as Missionary to Bella Bella, an important point on the West Coast of the British Columbia mainland, where, especially during the summer fishing season, as many as four or five thousand people are there at a time. A hospital is being erected, and, as Mr. Jackson is doctor as well as minister, a field of untold usefulness awaits him. Although he is not going to Vancouver Island, as we at first expected, we believe the Missionary Board know the needs of the work so well, that we must simply accept the change; and while Dr. Jackson and his young wife labor amongst the Indians and whites thousands of miles away, we must be ever active at home, and constantly in prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our missionary, and also on ourselves and our societies.

The "Missionary Campaigner" Club Rates.

THE object of publishing this paper is not to make money. You will notice that we advertise club rates from July to July for 10 cents, or from any month between July and January to the next July for 10 cents; from January to January for 10 cents; any month between January and July to the next January for 10 cents; or single copies for 25 cents from the date of subscription until a year from the next July or January, whichever comes first. This is done for two reasons: 1st. It saves the time of one person in keeping the subscription list. You can easily understand that it would be a great task to keep correctly thousands of subscriptions at 10 cents, and notify subscribers when their subscriptions expire in the various months. We therefore have all subscriptions end either in January or July. We can thus keep and handle them better. 2nd. If we wish to enlarge our paper or change it to a magazine, which we hope to do in the near future, it can be done more satisfactorily.