

AMONG THE LEAGUES

Bathurst St. Holds Notable Mock Parliament

A Missionary Mock Parliament which, from the results attained by it, proved to be a "mock" only in name, was held at Bathurst St. Epworth League on Nov. 10th. The parliament had neither Mr. Borden nor Mr. Asquith as its premier, yet surely no more important theme was ever debated at Ottawa or Westminster. The subject considered by this parliament was Missions, the object was to arouse greater missionary effort, and, to complete the analogy suggested, the predicate was "that we can do whatever we really try." The President of the League, as Prime Minister, in introducing the Government measure, declared that it marked the commencement of a strong, progressive policy, designed to ensure that whatever position Bathurst St. had occupied in the past, she would henceforth be found in the van in all forms of missionary endeavor. The inadequacy of missionary meetings in accomplishing their true purpose, was pointed out, unless they resulted in some

AND WHEREAS the recent meeting of the General Board of Missions held in Amherst, N.S., report that from both China and Japan, came not only a second triumph and success in the work being done, but a story of unexpected and wonderful opportunity.

AND WHEREAS the Board, through lack of funds, was forced to refuse all invitations to open new fields, or to undertake aggressive work, and to content itself with the maintenance of the missions for the year on the present basis,

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED, that the House, composed of members of the Bathurst St. Epworth League, accept the missionary watchword, "A Million for Missions and Missions for the Millions."

AND THAT, in order to take its proper share in this great campaign, it adopt a forward policy in its missionary department, included in which shall be:

1. A campaign to raise not less than \$250 in the present League year for the funds of the Young People's Forward Movement.
2. The adoption of a monthly envelope system for the collection of its missionary funds, as an aid in this direction.



THE EXECUTIVE OF BATHURST STREET EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The Pastor, Rev. T. W. Neal, in the center, with the President, Mr. H. A. Hall, at his right.

definite, concrete action, in a practical attempt to aid in the solution of this great problem. The individual responsibility of each member was brought vividly home to him by the citation of figures which revealed the fact that, in order to accomplish the objective which the Methodist Church of Canada has set before her. Every one of the 1,000,000 Methodists in this country (which includes non-church members and children) must undertake the evangelization of thirteen heathen in this generation. "China, with her teeming millions, just now breaking asunder the bands which have held her for centuries in darkness and ignorance of the civilized world," declared government speakers, "is thirsting for Western ideas, and we are to supply her with the satisfying and steady influence of our gospel, she must inevitably become possessed of the civilization which her by the baser elements of our civilized life, and before many years prove an intolerable menace to the rest of the civilized world."

Without an intelligent knowledge of missionary conditions the efficiency of our methods must be far from satisfactory. If we are serious in our determination to do our share in forwarding this great enterprise, we must be well informed, and what are better than mission study classes and good missionary literature?

These were among the arguments advanced and driven home by various members of the government in support of the

FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

"WHEREAS recent political and social development in the foreign field render it of strategic importance that a great advance in missionary endeavor should be commenced at once,

2. The circulation of missionary literature among its members.

4. The organization of mission study classes, if upon consideration it is found feasible.

AND further, be it RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the missionary department of this League, that it may be put into effect; to the Secretary of the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions, that he may be assured of our support, and to the Editor of the "Canadian Epworth Era."

What attitude was the Opposition to take? A real live Opposition is generally expected to "fight" the Government. Would the opponents of the administration have the heart to oppose such obviously good legislation? Mr. W. H. Flewman, who led the Opposition forces, showed himself well versed in political tactics. A bold frontal attack must suffer defeat—in any case is not warranted; but surely there are vulnerable points in the armour of the Government. On these the Opposition trained their artillery. "What kind of a Government is this which has just now awakened to its responsibilities? Do you call these one hundred members raise no more than \$250 for missions before next May? What a time for a study class, which declares that mission study classes should be organized if upon consideration it is found feasible? Why not be courageous?"

When, finally, the oratorical bombardment had ceased, three amendments had been moved to the Government's resolution:—1. That the amount aimed at should be increased to \$300. 2. That a weekly envelope system should be substituted for the proposed monthly system. 3. That the

words, "if upon consideration it is found feasible," should be struck out from the clause re mission study classes.

The Premier was in a conciliatory mood, and, confessing that he had entirely misjudged the missionary enthusiasm of the members of the Opposition, readily agreed to increase the objective to \$300. He declined, however, to accept the other amendments, for reasons which he detailed. And the vote—in which he secured some Opposition support—upheld him. The main motion was then carried unanimously, after ringing words of encouragement to the pastor, who, while he had occupied a seat in Opposition, he nevertheless had declared that he found himself in entire agreement with the Government.

What was the meaning?—It proved a most enjoyable programme—it did mean anything else? A partial answer may be found in the fact that the Missionary Committee have adopted this policy in toto; and Dr. F. C. Stephenson, at which this new policy is to be launched. Will the financial objective be achieved? The Leaguers are contributing to missions through a multiplicity of organizations—the church, mission circle, etc. The League, however, will not be neglected, and if you are really anxious to learn how Bathurst St. has just turned up the next Missionary Report.

Ontario Methodist Men's Association

The second Annual Convention of the Association was held on November 18th, in Howard Park Methodist Church, Toronto. Addresses were delivered by the following: Rev. C. W. Watch and Dr. W. E. Willmott, the retiring President. Among other speakers and subjects dealt with were: Our Relationship to the Temperance and Moral Reform Work of the Church; paper prepared by Rev. H. A. Graham, London, and read by Rev. Mr. Lavell, Brantford; Mr. M. Benzo, Berlin, "Organization of Men's Work and Affiliation with the M. M. A. of O. Movement," Rev. A. Mackenzie, Toronto; "How to Work Up and Hold a Good Membership," Dr. Watson, Brantford, and Mr. Thompson, Brantford; The Transfer System; Bert S. Wemp, Toronto; "Temperance and Moral Reform," A. A. Eby, Berlin.

In the evening Rev. J. W. Aikens, pastor of the Metropolitan Methodist Church, and Ven. Archdeacon Cud, delivered wonderful and impressive addresses.

The following resolutions were passed: "That this Methodist Men's Association places on record its unchanged opposition to the liquor traffic as an unmitigated and tremendous national evil, and that this association pledges itself to do all that is in its power to bring about by education and by law the complete annihilation of this traffic. We cordially commend the work done by our Temperance and Moral Reform Department in this direction, and further that persistent and effective efforts in the bringing about of higher Social and Economic ideals and conditions, and further that this association commends its local associations to aid actively this department and every other movement and effort that leads in the direction of temperance and moral reform.

The officers are: Hon. President, Rev. Dr. Carman, Toronto; President, F. W. Thompson, Brantford; Secretary, B. S. Wemp, Toronto; Hon. Vice-President, Dr. W. E. Willmott, Toronto; Treasurer, A. Benzo, Berlin; Hon. Secretary, A. Eby, Berlin; Boys' Work and Athletics, Aubrey Day, Newmarket; Temperance and Moral Reform, Dr. Watson, Brantford; Treasurer, G. W. Gibbard, Nanapan.

New Liskeard District

The first New Liskeard District Epworth League Convention was held in Central Methodist Church, New Liskeard, Ont., on November 19th, 1913. The three sessions being largely attended. Thirty-five delegates from outlying points, in addition to a large number of local delegates and members, were present at the morning, afternoon and evening sessions.

Rev. F. L. Farwell, R.A., Toronto, Field Secretary of Sunday School, spoke on the League was an interesting visitor at the Convention, and spoke on various subjects. Other addresses: Halbert C.A., of Englehart, who spoke on Christian Endeavor Department, Mr. Bruce Adams, of Haldimand, spoke on the Missionary Department. Miss Cella Rowe, of Cobalt, took the Literary and Social side of the League. W. J. W. Evans, of New Liskeard, Ont., spoke on the Junior Department.

Supper was served by the Haldimand Epworth League, and was followed by the evening session held in the same church. The meeting was closed with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, by the Chairman of the District, Rev. J. S. I. Wilson, Haldimand, Ont.