

## From the Field.

### Hamilton Conference Convention.

#### Successful Gathering at Norwich.

There were no evidences of decline of interest in Epworth League work, in the Annual Convention of the Hamilton Conference League which was held at Norwich, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 19th and 20th. The attendance of delegates from all parts of the Conference was large. At the afternoon session the spacious church was well filled, and in the evenings, it was crowded.

The local pastor, Rev. R. J. Elliott, and his efficient helpers, had worked hard to prepare for the Convention. The billeting arrangements were carried out successfully, and all the visitors were hospitably entertained by the people of Norwich.

The church was beautifully decorated with flags, streamers, and evergreens. The motto of the Convention: "Follow me, and I will make you to become fishers of men," was hung up in a prominent place.

The opening address at the first session was given by Rev. A. J. Irwin, B.D., on the topic, "What are we here for?" He touched upon three points as indicating the needs of the hour. 1. Intenser Life. The disposition to rest in old forms and activities must be resisted. There should be more spontaneity and aggressive adaptability. 2. Expansive realization or application. 3. Extensive operation, as expressed in the great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

#### THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT

received attention in the first session. "The where, when, how and why of Sociability," was the title of a fine paper by Miss E. Sherwood, Galt.

Miss E. Patterson, of Dundas, gave a paper on "Trid Methods," which bristled with valuable suggestions.

"The Social Side of Christ's Life," was discussed by Rev. S. A. Laidman, of York, in a fine paper.

Rev. T. W. Jackson, of Elora, President of the Conference, called attention to a number of misquoted texts of scripture.

Rev. A. E. Lavell, B.A., was not able to attend the Convention, but sent his paper on "The Hymnology of the Bible," which was read by Rev. W. B. Caswell.

#### REPORTS OF OFFICERS.

Rev. H. S. Dougall, B.D., Vice-President of the Christian Endeavor Department for the Conference, deplored the fact that the "Forward Movement for Bible Study and Evangelistic Work," had been largely dropped. One reason for this was said to be the general revival meetings which have been held this year. The leaguers have taken an active part in these services, and the testimony of the pastors is that the young people had been very efficient helpers in the Evangelistic movement.

At the last Convention, the Second Vice-President, Mrs. Lucy M. Smith, presented her report in the form of a bouquet of flowers. This year she brought to the Convention a basket of jewels, worth, as she said, \$7,776. Each District of the Conference was likened to a particular gem, and some words of encouragement or stimulus spoken concerning the work of each.

The report itself was a gem, and was greatly enjoyed by the Convention.

Rev. Edson Marshall, B.A., the Literary Vice-President, reported that he had found

difficulty in securing information from the District Vice-President. He was satisfied, however, from the returns received, that in the majority of Leagues there were no Reading Circles. Galt reported two Circles, with fifty members.

In answer to the question, "What books of the Course have been most popular?" the opinion was expressed by several persons that "Canadian Citizenship" was the best liked volume of this year's course, and "New Citizenship" for last year.

The efficient Secretary, Rev. J. F. Kaye, B.A., presented his annual statement. There are in the Conference 146 Epworth Leagues, 119 Epworth Leagues of G. E. Junior Societies 41, other societies 7—total 333. Amount raised for all purposes by the societies \$12,390. The secretary conplained, as did the other officers, that very few replies had been received to the letters and postcards which he had sent out.

#### THE EVENING MEETING

was large and enthusiastic. Addresses of welcome were delivered by Mrs. S. Kinsey, Mrs. Newton, and Mr. C. G. Hulet. Rev. J. H. Hazlewood replied to these addresses in a few appropriate words.

The President's address was given by Mr. W. H. Moss, who ably touched upon what our Church had done during the past century, and what remains to be accomplished in the new century.

John Taylor, jun., of Galt, delivered a unique and interesting address on "Our Church," in which he likened the different departments of the Church to the various ships of a fleet. Of course he regarded the training ship known as the Epworth League as the most important of all, supplying, as it does, workers for all the other departments. The essay Wakefield's paper on "The Twentieth Century Leaguer" was unusually good. We hope to give our readers some extracts from it in a future issue.

The closing address was given by Rev. G. K. Adams, who spoke enthusiastically on "Christ's Fishermen." He gave some practical suggestions on the subject of soul saving.

#### THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

was taken up on Wednesday morning. Miss T. Sumner, of Oakville, read a suggestive paper on "Methods with Juniors," and Rev. C. J. Dobson, B.D., of Chesley, sent a valuable paper on "Stories of Success and Failure in Junior Work."

Rev. C. J. Bowlby, spoke some strong words in regard to the dangers to which boys and girls are exposed, making special reference to cigarette smoking.

"The Question Drawer" was very ably conducted by Rev. J. H. Hazlewood.

#### THE MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

Rev. J. A. Doyle, of Hepworth, gave a stirring address on "The Forward Movement—Where are we at?" He regarded the Missionary movement as the hope of the League. While thankful for what had been accomplished, he thought that the movement was only commencing, inasmuch as the majority of our leaguers have not been yet induced to contribute. There is very much still to be done. Among the needs of the hour the following were mentioned: more missionary information to be circulated, more prayer among the people, especially district officers. The speaker specially urged that great care be exercised in choosing collectors for the fund in the local society. Much depends upon the faithfulness with which this work is done.

"The World's Greatest Mission Field" was the theme assigned to Rev. C. L. McIrvine, who gave an eloquent address on "China." He took an exceedingly optimistic view of the possibilities and probabilities of mission work in that great country.

Rev. A. H. Crosby gave an earnest address on "Christ the Model Missionary."

#### THE LITERARY DEPARTMENT

was considered on Wednesday afternoon. Rev. George E. Honey read a thoughtful paper on "Mind Culture in Religious Work." Mrs. Flagg's paper on "The Epworth League Reading Course" was read by her husband, Rev. E. L. Flagg, B.A. The paper was exceedingly practical and suggestive. It referred to the difficulty of selecting any course of reading that will meet the needs of all classes in the Leagues. The writer thought that a supplementary course of very cheap books might be a very good thing for those who cannot be induced to take up the present course.

An admirable paper on "My Favorite Authors and Why!" was read by Prof. Reynolds, of Guelph.

#### CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR DEPARTMENT.

Rev. H. S. Dougall, B.D., spoke on "The Work and Influence of the Holy Spirit;" Rev. J. D. Richardson's topic was "The League and the Twentieth Century Revival." Rev. A. C. Eddy, B.A., gave an address on "The Divine Call."

Rev. T. J. Parr, M.A., took up "The League Topic for the Coming Week."

At the closing session on Wednesday evening the following addresses were delivered: "Will the Epworth League Die?" by Rev. R. J. Treleven; "The League and the Sabbath," by Rev. J. R. Gundy; "The Dawning Century for Canada," by Rev. J. C. Speer.

Space will not permit any report of these speeches in this issue.

#### NEW OFFICERS.

The following officers were elected for the next two years:

President—Rev. T. J. Parr, B.A., Hamilton.  
1st Vice-President—Rev. H. S. Dougall, B.D., Bright.  
2nd Vice-President—Mrs. Lucy M. Smith, Oakville.  
3rd Vice-President—Mr. J. B. Reynolds, Guelph.  
4th Vice-President—Mrs. E. L. Flagg, Nassagaweya.  
5th Vice-President—Miss T. Sumner, Oakville.  
Secretary—Rev. C. L. Bowlby, Hamilton.  
Treasurer—Mr. J. Taylor, Jr., Galt.  
Representative on General Board—Mr. W. H. Moss, Dundas.

#### NOTES.

The sunrise prayer-meeting at 7 o'clock was largely attended, and proved a time of refreshing.

The familiar Convention phrase, "Along these lines," was not quite so much in evidence as usual.

Rev. G. K. Adams advised Christian workers, in seeking to save souls, to pray for an hour, and talk for five minutes.

Rev. J. C. Dobson recommended the organization of a Junior League as the best means of strengthening a weak Senior League. It will furnish a reserve corps of members.

In responding to the address of welcome, Rev. J. H. Hazlewood told of a company of young people who adopted as their motto, before coming to a Convention, "Let us keep sweet." He believed in a bright-faced and joyous-hearted religion.

In the opinion of nearly all the delegates the programme was a good one, but overcrowded with papers and addresses, so that there was very little time for discussion. It is better to have a less number of subjects, and more opportunity for general discussion.

Rev. T. J. Parr, M.A., the new President, is already well-known to readers of this paper, as he has prepared the Topic Expositions