

young people, many of whom are worthy of high admiration, seem to love and desire to know the truth, and to be willing to do right, but the church is not reaching them. Unless there be a speedy change that church is doomed to disintegration. Within fifteen or, at most, twenty years the leaders and workers will be disqualified or dead. None are ready or becoming ready to take their places."

The distinguished editor is right. Any such church is sure to go to pieces in time. There are not many of this kind in Canada, but we happen to know a few. The church of the future is the one in which the young people occupy a large place.

If we had our choice, however, we would prefer "The Bicycle Christian." He keeps from falling by an onward movement. When he stops he falls. This is the class of workers we want in our Leagues. No one ever backslides who keeps actively engaged in work for the Master.

Our Next Issue.

Next month we are planning to publish a special Sunday-school number of this paper, on a scale never before attempted in this country. The help of many of the best Sunday-school workers in Canada has been enlisted, and almost every phase of Sunday-school work will be treated by specialists. Arrangements are being made by which this number will be supplied at actual cost for distribution among Sunday-school teachers and officers.

WHILE hymnals are coming from the press in such numbers that it is difficult to find names for them, our splendid Canadian Hymnal goes on the even tenor of its way, becoming every year more popular. A standard music book of this kind is much better than the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, which are continually appearing.

It is positively sad to see a grown man, who ought to have more sense, leading a convention of young people in singing ditties that have neither poetry, theology nor music to commend them. Those who have charge of programmes should prevent the peripatetic singer from exploiting his little song book at the convention.

THE Lord's Prayer is intended to be a part of the public worship in which all the people may join. In most churches it is not a very great success, as its repetition is nothing more than an inarticulate mumble. If the congregation are expected to repeat the Lord's Prayer with the pastor, they should be trained to do it in an impressive manner and in an audible voice, as is done in the Church of England.

AN Easter service without a flower and a patriotic service without a flag are not complete. Quite a number of churches had patriotic services on the last Sunday in June, but not one in six displayed our national emblem, of which we are so proud. Our friends in the United States do differently. In many of their places of worship the stars and stripes are seen every Sunday in the year.

YOUR pastor did good work last year, and everybody was pleased with the results. The church showed its appreciation by passing a complimentary resolution, and asking him to return for another year. So far, so good. No doubt the preacher felt gratified over these resolutions, but really they did not help to pay the butcher's or the baker's bills. We would suggest that the next resolution be put into the form of an increase of salary, which would be a practical way of expressing gratitude.

THE parsonage may look like other houses from the outside, but in its internal appointments it has an individuality of its own. A moment's glance at the parlor identifies it as a parsonage at once. The carpet often looks as if it had been bought at a bargain store, the chairs and sofas are all old-fashioned, and some of them entirely worn out, but they will probably have to do duty for years to come. There has been great improvement in the class of houses supplied for ministers' residences during recent years. Now let there be a little attention to their internal arrangements. Send a lot of the old furniture to the auction room and cheer the preacher's family by brightening his home. It is a shame that the pastor's wife should be forced to go and ask the Ladies' Aid Society for any little addition to the parsonage furnishing.

THE tendency everywhere in business circles is toward combination and consolidation. The "trusts" and the departmental stores come in for a large amount of abuse, but they go on prospering just the same. It is perhaps as well to recognize that they have come to stay, and indicate a trend of the times. As these great combines are now manifest, they are intended for the benefit of the few. The ideal condition of affairs would be for them to be conducted for the benefit of the many. Public ownership of railways, steamship lines, electric lights, street railways, etc., seems to be growing in favor year by year.

WHAT is the reason that the secular papers make so many blunders in referring to church affairs, is a question frequently asked by preachers and others. The answer is evident. For reporting the markets they employ a reporter who understands commercial affairs. The man who has charge of the sporting column is generally an old "sport," and the writer who prepares the political articles understands party questions thoroughly. As a rule, the youngest and greenest reporter on the staff is detailed for duty to write up church conferences and conventions. What he does not know about ecclesiastical methods would fill a whole library. Of course he makes plenty of mistakes. As far as we know there is only one daily newspaper in Canada that employs a thoroughly competent church reporter, the *Manitoba Free Press*, of Winnipeg.

OUR Reading Course for this year, which is advertised on page 256, is quite a radical change from former years. The number of books has been reduced from four to three, and the price from \$2 to \$1.35, with postage added. By purchasing a number of sets together, and having them sent by express, the cost will be considerably less than \$1.50 per set. Now is the time to talk up the Reading Course, and get it under way. Many fail because they leave organization until too late in the season. The bulk of the work of a Reading Circle ought to be done before the Christmas holidays. If at all possible, plan to have your Circle commence its reading early in September.

Sunday-school Rally Day.

During the summer, in most city and town Sunday-schools, there is usually some falling off in attendance, and consequently lessening of interest. It may be claimed that this should not be, but as a matter of fact we know that it is so. In order to bring together the scattered forces, and give the school a good start for the season's work, the General Sunday-school Board has appointed the last Sunday in September as a general Rally Day. Such a day has been observed in many of the larger schools for some years past, but it is desirable to introduce it into every school. A programme for use on this occasion has been prepared under the direction of the General Board. See advertisement in this issue for particulars.

Curious Christians.

THE latest kind of Christian we have heard of is "The rocking horse Christian." The name itself is new, but not the kind of character to which it refers.

There are many professing Christians who are fussy and noisy who, after all, accomplish but little. There may be plenty of action without progression.

"The wheelbarrow Christian" is also a character frequently found in our churches. Such people only walk over and they are shoved. They easily fall over and must always be helped up. This class of character, however, is much more desirable than the former.