

## YOUNG PEOPLES' SOCIETIES.

The General Assembly's Committee on Young Peoples' Societies met on Thursday, the 1st, of Sept., in Knox Church, Toronto. There was a good attendance and a large amount of business was transacted. The convener, Rev. Dr. MacTavish of Deseronto, presided. Two courses of study one literary and the other missionary, were drafted. Representatives were appointed to visit the various Presbyterian Colleges to bring before the students the aims of the Committee and to explain its efforts on behalf of the young people. Arrangements were completed for publishing a new missionary textbook. This will be a book of 200 pages and will deal largely with the various fields where the Presbyterian Church is carrying on missionary operations. The Westminster Company of Toronto will be the publishers, and the work will be issued early in the Autumn. Other literature for the use of the Societies will be published as formerly. Rev. George C. Pidgeon Toronto Junction, was appointed convener of a committee whose aim will be to encourage societies to send letters commending to sister societies any members who are moving from one district to another. An effort will be made to keep in touch with the hundreds of young men who are every year flocking to the large cities from smaller centres. Those present in addition to those already mentioned were Rev. D. R. Drummond, Rev. W. R. MacIntosh, Rev. H. Munroe, Rev. J. A. Smith, Rev. G. S. Logie, Rev. R. W. Ross, Rev. J. J. Haid and Mr. Thos. Yellowlees.

## REV THURLOW FRASER IS BACK.

Rev. Thurlow Fraser, Presbyterian missionary to the Island of Formosa and former assistant at Bank street church Ottawa, is in the city. He is the guest of J. M. Garland, 40 Nepean street, and is accompanied by his wife and child, whose delicate health compelled his return to Ottawa.

Mr. Fraser gave an interesting account of his work in Formosa, during the past two years.

"Few difficulties are met with in the mission work there," said he "as the inhabitants display no anti-foreign feeling invariably extending a friendly welcome to the missionaries. The only drawback, in fact, is the climate, which is excessively warm, and this with the very heavy rainfall, makes malaria fever very prevalent. Although not affected by it myself, few foreigners escaped it, and my wife suffered a great deal from it making our return at once necessary.

There are only two churches carrying on mission work there—the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic. In Southern Formosa the work is controlled by the English Presbyterians, who have about seventy-five churches and 2,500 communicants and a number of ordained native preachers. In northern Formosa the Canadian Presbyterian church controls the work, and have fifty-six churches and

2,000 communicants. They also have a school of native preachers. The Japanese Presbyterians also are doing a good work, and there is a possibility of the three Presbyterian divisions uniting, which will greatly facilitate the work.

The Roman Catholic work is in charge of Spanish Dominican fathers.

"To give you an idea of the great rainfall last year, the average at the Chinese observatory at Kee Lung was 158 inches. The average temperature is 97 degrees, and for a month at a time will remain as high as 90 degrees. At night it seldom goes below ninety.

When asked if the Russo-Japanese war had any effect on the island, which is Japanese, Mr. Fraser said not, "For a time" said he "the marine service was slightly affected by the taking of the Japanese ships to act as transports. They were promptly substituted by chartered foreign vessels, however. There was a slight increase in the taxation and customs duties, but very slight.

"My future movements are uncertain" said Mr. Fraser, "and I cannot say whether or not I shall return."

## Royal Muskoka

"The Royal Muskoka" Hotel is the largest and most magnificent summer hotel in Canada. Location unsurpassed, in the centre of the famous Muskoka Lakes District, Highlands of Ontario, (1,000 feet above sea level), about six hours journey north of Toronto.

The grounds include an area of 130 acres, containing pine and hemlock groves, and many beautiful walks and points commanding lovely views. There are Tennis, Golfing, bowling, fishing, Bathing, Croquet, Bowling Green and many enjoyable water trips. First class in every respect. Excellent transportation service.

Descriptive literature and information how to reach the "Royal Muskoka" on application to.—J. Quinlan, Montreal Que.

## RITSON ON THE BIBLE.

A representative turnout of clergymen, of all creeds welcomed Secretary R. J. H. Ritson, of the British and Foreign Bible Society at luncheon in Toronto on Tuesday of last week. The event was under the auspices of the Upper Canada Bible Society. The chair was occupied by Dr. N. W. Hayles, K. C., president of the society. At the guests' table with Rev. John H. Ritson and the chairman were Chancellor Wallace, Principal Sheaton, Dr. Thomas, Canon Cody, Professor McLaren, Rev. Dr. Parker and Rev. T. B. Hyde, all of whom delivered addresses welcoming the guests. Rev. Ritson refused to talk about Canada; "I may when I get to the other side of the Atlantic, if no Canadians are present." He would speak of the enemies of the Bible Society; not enemies, but critics, candid friends, people we love, but don't like. Criticism has been made because the society issued the Vulgate. It was said to be Roman Catholic. The Vulgate was issued by three or four countries where the Bible could not be published. But the society was not Roman Catholic. The Vulgate was a blessing to Wyckliffe and Martin

Luther. Some said that bibles were sold too cheap. Belgian gold beaters were said to have smuggled gold leaf into England between the pages of the Gospel. Korean people were said to paper their walls with the Bible. They might do much worse. If they took to reading their wall paper it might do them good.

## A Bit Of Scotland In Canada.

At a point 145 miles north of Toronto on the Grand Trunk Railway System is reached one of the most magnificent districts in the Highlands of Ontario, known as the Lake of Bays District. The region comprises a series of connected lakes over which large steamers are navigated. What greatly adds to the Lake of Bays value as a healthgiving and sportsman's resort is the unmatched purity of the air one breathes upon its heights. The visitor forgets his ills under its reviving influence in less than a week and erases life's problems in a smoother light, enjoying the good things in this life which Nature and Providence have prepared for him. Its bracing morning breeze, which rivals the celebrated atmosphere of Pike's Peak, Col., imparts new lung power and fresh vitality.

Handsome illustrated publications sent free on application to

J. Quinlan, Montreal, Que.

The first General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, India, will meet in a few weeks in Allahabad, to be composed of commissioners and delegates from ten Presbyterian bodies formerly carrying on separate work in that vast country. These missions were established by the Presbyterian churches of England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Canada, and the United States. The thousands of converts belonging to these missions, speak at least eight distinct languages, are now to be gathered in one great, self governing body, a native Church of Christ, as was done some years since in Japan. A Confession of Faith, a Book of Discipline and all the rules necessary for the conduct of business, have been prepared by joint committees, and the whole translated into various tongues to be employed. The work is now ready to be adopted or amended by the joint Assembly, which will meet about the first of December.

The observance of some one Sunday in September as a day for collecting the church and Sunday school forces, scattered by summer vacations, has become fairly general and might with profit be made universal. An army which never orders a muster and a business which never takes account of stock, will be found poorly fitted to meet emergencies. Not a few churches with large enrollment have small congregations, and we have known a Sunday school with three hundred names upon the record whose usual attendance was between fifty and sixty. Pastors and superintendents owe it to their charges to call them together promptly upon the resumption of regular services, and they ought to mark the day as the psalmist says, by getting up their banners.