

## THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA

ORGAN OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUES AND OTHER  
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES IN THE  
METHODIST CHURCH.

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## Editorial.

### Signs of a Revival.

Rev. R. J. Campbell, of London, England, sees signs of a revival of religious fervor, zeal and power in England. One of the indications, to his mind, is that the intellectual sermon is giving way to a more spiritual form of address which, without ceasing to be thoughtful, appeals to the spiritual instincts of the hearer and quickens the moral sense. Another sign is to be found in the attitude of the hearers themselves. With comparatively few exceptions, congregations do not ask either for scientific lectures, or literary theses in the place of sermons. They do not seek ornate and pompous discourses on the one hand, or conventional platitudes on the other; but they hunger for something strong, and deep, and true, suggestive of heaven and holiness, and the living, loving Christ. The more direct and simple the style, and the more rich and real the spiritual experience of the preacher, the more the people welcome the message. They crave the note of certainty.

We believe that the same conditions exist in this country, as far as the desire of the people for spiritual preaching is concerned. It is a fact that the preachers will do well to heed.

### The Greatest Work.

"If we were only as successful in saving souls as we are in raising missionary money, the Epworth League would be a mighty force in the Church," remarked a prominent League worker in our office, a short time ago.

This brother undoubtedly, laid his hand upon the weak spot in the Epworth League. Our organization is professedly a soul saving agency, but it is very doubtful if this aspect of the work is kept as prominently before the members as it should. While so much is being done to send the Gospel to the heathen abroad, our eyes should be opened to the opportunities presenting themselves right around us, of bringing our own associates to Christ. There is no antagonism between foreign missions and home; both should proceed together, one helping and stimulating the other. It will be a great mistake if we become so absorbed in the former as to neglect the latter.

Let our Leagues wake up on this question of home evangelization! Let them join with the pastors in pushing the battle to the gates, that this special year may be one of unusual blessing in the ingathering of souls.

### What's in a Name?

In considering the subject of better preparation for our Sunday School teachers, the General Board, at its last meeting, decided to discard the use of the word "Normal." In the past we have always referred to the provision made for helping teachers as a "Normal Course" and doubtless to many the name has been a bug-bear. They have conceived the idea that it must be something very difficult when such a technical title has been given to it. In future this department is to be known as "Teacher-Training," a very much simpler and more appropriate appellation. We trust that this change will help to dispel the misconceptions that have existed concerning this most important feature of Sunday School work.

### Hints to Correspondents.

Secretaries are asked to condense, as much as possible, reports of District League Conventions, and send them on promptly. It is very difficult, in a monthly paper, to do justice to these gatherings, when they are nearly all held about the same time. It is not necessary to write a minute account of everything that was done and said. It is much better to simply give some idea of the spirit and purpose of the convention, and the principal subjects that were emphasized in the speeches, than to give a complete catalogue of speakers and their topics. Some district secretaries adopt a very easy method of reporting the Convention by cutting out the three or four column account which appeared in the local weekly paper, entirely forgetting that it will take about an hour of the Editor's precious time to condense it into proper form for the Era. Please do not do this, but write an original report, and do not allow it to exceed three hundred words in length.

### "First in Importance."

The resolutions passed by the International Epworth League Convention in Detroit declared that the systematic and devout study of the Scriptures should be placed first in importance, among questions claiming attention. This sentiment will be warmly endorsed by the Epworth Leaguers of this country. During the past year or two nothing has taken such a hold upon our young people as the subject of Bible study. The summer schools, which have been largely devoted to the study of God's Word, have been attended by over a thousand registered students, who have thus made their holidays profitable as well as pleasant.

At the recent meeting of the General Sunday School and Epworth League Board, a very large portion of the time was devoted to the consideration of plans by which a greater number of our Sunday School teachers and League members may be induced to take up this work in a systematic way.

These are encouraging signs of growth and progress.

### The Forward Movement This Year.

A correspondent writes for information concerning the Forward Movement for Bible Study and Evangelistic Work, which has usually been conducted in the fall in connection with our young people's societies. As already stated in this paper, this movement is to be set aside this year on account of the Bicentenary Evangelistic Campaign to which the Church is called. This simply means that these two important features of work are to be done in a somewhat different way than usual.

A new and comprehensive scheme for Bible study was inaugurated by the General Board at its last meeting, which