

METHODIST RECORDER.

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EDITORIAL.

SALUTATORY.

The *raison d'être* of the Methodist Recorder was briefly and clearly stated in our trial number, which, by the praiseworthy energy and ability of the Rev. W. H. BarracloUGH was issued in April, and mailed to all of our Ministers, and many of our representative laymen, for their consideration. It was shown that: from the peculiar geographical position of our Conference; from the great distances separating our fields; from the variety of enterprises involved in our work; from the rapid changes constantly taking place; and also from the cosmopolitan character of our population—British Columbia Methodism greatly needs some unifying medium. We need some Intelligence Department, so to speak, in order to understand the nature and needs of our work; to appreciate one another's difficulties; to preserve the connexional bond, and to develop our connexional interests, and generally more effectively to promote the claims of Christianity and public morals, in this young, progressive and yet in many respects perilous Province.

The courage and convictions of Mr. BarracloUGH and his associates were fully justified by the Nanaimo Conference. With a sample copy of the proposed monthly in the hands of each member, with a clear outline of the proposal laid before them, and after a most earnest and thoughtful discussion of detail, the Conference endorsed the scheme with practical unanimity. Every one thought it desirable, the only serious objection urged by a few was the fear that it could not be made pay. We are now fully convinced, that on its present basis, difficulty along that line may be obviated if our ministers and representative laymen will only cheerfully and heartily bring the matter before our people. Methodism has a following of approximately 20,000 in the Province. And with the price placed at 50 cents per annum, there should be no difficulty in securing a list of 2,000 subscribers by the end of the Conference year.

Our Twentieth Century Fund. It was a surprise to many that the Twentieth Century \$1,000,000 Thanksgiving Fund occupied so little time in the discussions of our recent Conference. Certainly no more important subject came up for consideration, and some had taken for granted that hours would be spent in its debate. It was perfectly clear however that the brethren were of one mind about it before they met. It was a foregone conclusion that the scheme would be heartily approved, and pushed with hopeful energy throughout our entire conference. All that was needed therefore was the formal endorsement of the scheme, and the appointment of a competent committee to thoroughly organize our fields for the effort. This was carefully done, and the personal of the committee is a sufficient guarantee that no necessary detail will be overlooked. We are confident that British Columbia will give a good account of herself when the totals are made up.

Nature of the Scheme. As to the provisions and objects of the Fund, abundant information is promised by the General Committee in due time. Of the two great features of the proposal, the first to fasten itself upon the imagination is the magnificent purpose of Canadian Methodism, to raise a million dollars for the vigorous and effective promotion of its Christian enterprises at home and abroad. Marvelous possibilities are involved in the realization of this purpose! What a mighty impulse will be given to our missionary operations! What days are in store for our Educational Institutions! And what work our Churches will be able to undertake when once the fetters and shackles of Mortgages and liens are broken! Wonderful things can be done with a million of Money.

But the vaster, the supreme purpose of the church in the launching of this great scheme is not the matter of raising that large amount of money. We need the money, and believe God will enable us to raise it, but what we need infinitely more is a mighty and universal deepening of the Spiritual life of the Church. And the greatest object of the Fund is to bring this about. It is supremely a Thanksgiving Fund; this must be emphasized. The minds of our people must be concentrated upon the abundance of God's gifts to us hitherto. What a glorious heritage he has given Methodism, and what possibilities lie before us. Without this Spiritual awakening, this adoring consecration, the money will be of little good to us. It may become a curse rather than a blessing. Let us keep it steadily before us that the occasion, gives us a unique opportunity of quickening the old time fire of Methodism, which coupled with the increased enlightenment of our own day, will lead us forward to unprecedented triumphs for Christ.

The Indian Missions. One of the important matters dealt with by the Conference was the necessary adjustment of relations to meet the new conditions under which our Indian Missions were placed by the last General Conference. The Conference was evidently not agreed upon the point as to whether the change is a good one or not. There was, however, a cheerful disposition to abide by the new legislation until it has been fairly tried; when we may claim the right to speak on the question again.

Amalgamation Of Temperance Orders. We are quite sure that many of our readers will be delighted to hear that there is a movement on foot, looking to the amalgamation of the three leading Temperance Orders, viz: The

Independent Order of Good Templars, the Royal Templars of Temperance, and the Sons of Temperance. The honour of initiative belongs to Mr. George Spence, Grand Chief of the I. O. G. T., in Ontario, who through correspondence with the heads of the other two bodies, arranged for a Union Committee of Grand Officers to meet and consider the matter. The Committee met, and reached a perfectly unanimous agreement. They embodied their heartiest endorsement of the proposal in a resolution which is to be submitted to the Supreme Courts of their respective organizations. The resolution recommends a World-Wide Union of the Orders; but if that should be found at present impracticable, then it asks that it may at least be tried in Canada. We are aware that great changes cannot, as a rule, be effected in a day, and it is probably too much to expect that unanimity will immediately be reached in the three Supreme Lodges; but the closing up of the ranks of Temperance workers is so transcendently important, both for saving expense, and also for increasing our effective strength, that we earnestly hope that no serious obstacle will appear to the success of the movement.

C. M. College. It was gratifying to note the hearty and almost enthusiastic spirit will prevailed in the Conference when the Report from the C. M. College was presented by Principal Sipprell. This was largely due no doubt to the fact that Mr. Sipprell was able to show a decided improvement in the financial and general position of the institution; but the deeper reason, doubtless lies in the revived hope of our people resulting from a revival in trade. The merits of the institution are now more readily considered, and the conviction grows that it must be maintained. It was significant that in the space of half an hour or so, over \$2,000 was subscribed on the floor of the Conference.

Epworth League Convention. The recent Epworth League and Sunday School Convention at New Westminster was one of the most profitable and hopeful ever held in this Province. There was a very