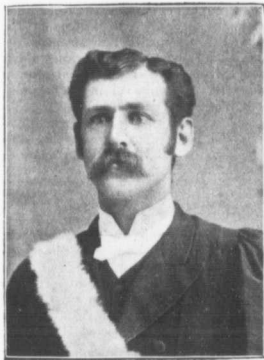


gate from the M. E. Church, and Rev. Dr. Sledsd from the M. E. Church, South.

#### THE SEVENTH GENERAL CONFERENCE

met in Queen's Avenue Church, London, September 6th, 1894. Rev. W. I. Shaw was elected Secretary.

A warm debate took place on the official title for our Young People's Society.



REV. H. WIGLE, B.A.  
Pastor Zion Church, Winnipeg.

It was decided to call it "The Epworth League," allowing local societies the privilege of taking the name "Epworth League of Christian Endeavor."

The pastoral term was extended from three to four or five years, "in special cases where the necessities of the work seemed to demand it," and by a three-fourths vote of the quarterly board.

Important changes were made in the Superannuation Fund.

Rev. A. C. Courtice was elected Editor of the *Christian Guardian*.

This Conference authorized the appointment of a General Secretary of Sunday-schools and Epworth Leagues.

The fraternal delegates were: Rev. J. H. Potts, D.D., from the M. E. Church; Rev. Dr. Hoss from the M. E. Church, South; Rev. H. J. Pope from the Wesleyan Church.

#### THE EIGHTH GENERAL CONFERENCE

was held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, September 1st, 1898. Rev. J. S. Ross, D.D., was elected Secretary.

A prolonged discussion took place in reference to eliminating the note in the General Rules referring to amusements. No change was made.

A Constitution and Course of Study for Deaconesses was adopted.

The Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund was inaugurated.

The social event of the Conference was a banquet in the Pavilion under the auspices of the Toronto Social Union.

Rev. Dr. Raymond represented the M. E. Church as fraternal delegate; Rev. A. Coke Smith, D.D., the M. E. Church, South, and Rev. John Bond the Wesleyan Church.

#### OUR HYMN BOOK.

BY "THE EDITOR."

THE revision of Church hymnals is a subject that is attracting much attention in several branches of the Methodist family at present. Our friends of the Methodist Episcopal Church have an important committee busily engaged in compiling a new hymn book, which will be considerably smaller than the one now in use. In England, Wesley's collection of hymns has been left intact, and supplements added at different times so that the book is now very bulky, and badly arranged. There is quite an agitation for an entirely new hymnal, although some of the older people are simply horrified at the idea of giving up any of the hymns written by Charles or John Wesley.

Most of the hymnals are altogether too large, and contain many hymns that are seldom or never used. Our own hymn book is no exception in this respect. Including the doxologies and chants at the end, there are 960 hymns, a large number of which are never announced in any of our churches. In the opinion of many, a book of about 500 hymns would answer the purpose equally well, and could be sold at a much smaller figure.

Fifteen years ago Mr. Richard Brown, a prominent member of Sherbourne street church, in this city, commenced to mark all the hymns that were used in that church, and has continued it faithfully ever since. That he has been a fairly regular attendant may be judged by the fact that he has heard 3,700 hymns announced during that period. With the exception of occasional visits to England, he has seldom been absent from the services of his own church. The result of his records is very interesting and suggestive.

During these fifteen years 80 hymns have not been used at all in Sherbourne Street church, 128 have been used once, and 103 twice. Thus it will be seen that 511 of the hymns of our book have been of scarcely any service to this large and representative congregation. It cannot be said that these hymns have been set aside because of their peculiar metres, and the difficulty of the tunes, as the choir of this church is so efficient that no pastor would be asked to change a hymn because of the metre.

The following are the hymns that have been used twenty times or more during the fifteen years:

Rock of Ages .....	56 times.
There's a Witness in God's Mercy ..	44 "
All Hail the Power of Jesus Name ..	43 "
Holy, Holy, Holy .....	43 "
Lead, Kindly Light .....	39 "
A Charge to Keep I Have .....	34 "
How Firm a Foundation .....	32 "
O Worship the King .....	32 "
Jesus Lover of My Soul .....	30 "
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ..	28 "
My Faith Looks Up to Thee .....	28 "
Jesus Thou Joy of Loving Hearts ..	26 "
O Thou Who Camest from Above ..	26 "
Jesus the Name High Over All .....	25 "
More Love to Thee .....	25 "
Before Jehovah's Awful Throne ..	24 "
At Even Ere the Sun Was Set .....	24 "
I Need Thee, Precious Jesus .....	23 "
Let Him to Whom We Now Belong ..	22 "

Nearer, My God to Thee ..... 22 times.  
Now the Sowing and the Weeping .. 20 "  
See How Great a Flame Aspires .... 20 "

It is somewhat remarkable that "Holy, Holy, Holy," should have been given out 43 times, while "Come Thou Almighty King," a much finer hymn for opening a service, has only been sung four times. Thomas Olivers' magnificent hymn, "The God of Abraham Praise" has only been used once in the whole fifteen years.

Here are some of the hymns that were not sung at all during this period: 3, 5, 17, 19, 33, 39, 40, 49, 51, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 69, 72, 73, 76, 77, 83, 100, 114, 124, 148, 152, 164, 182, 199, 200, 224, 240, 244, 251, 252.

Toward the end of the book there are whole blocks of hymns that have never been sung. From number 310 to 336 there are only three which have ever been put up in the hymn board. From 622 to 632 no selections have been made. From 665 to 677 only two were used, and the same may be said of the hymns from 863 to 887, and from 907 to 918. From 929 to 960 not a single hymn has been used.

These facts seem to indicate that we have a large number of unsingable hymns in our present collection. The book would be greatly improved if about 450 hymns were eliminated, and fifty or sixty modern ones added, thus making a volume of about 550 hymns. There are a number of beautiful hymns in the Presbyterian Book of Praise and other recent musical publications that we really ought to have in our collection.

Here are some of them:  
"Let us with a gladsome mind,"  
"The King of love my Shepherd is."



PARSONAGE OF ZION CHURCH, WINNIPEG.

"Jesus I am resting, resting."  
"Forward be our watchword."  
"Brightly gleams our banner."  
"The radiant morn hath passed away."  
"The Son of God goes forth to war."  
"The Church's one foundation."  
"Jesus Saviour pilot me."  
In our next issue we shall have something to say of Church tunes.

"TRUTH, Duty, Valor," is the motto of our Royal Military College at Kingston. Can anyone suggest a better motto to guide and inspire our young people in life's warfare?