

Echoes from the Sunday School Convention

Convention Notes

The Mayor told the audience at Massey Hall that more young people were enrolled in the Sunday-schools of Toronto than in the day schools of the city.

There was strong rivalry between Hot Springs, Arkansas; Louisville, Ky.; San Francisco, Cal., and Winona Lake, Ind., for the next convention. Louisville won.

Nearly all the addresses were read from manuscript, and consequently there were few really eloquent speeches, although most of them were scholarly instructive and suggestive.

In presenting invitations for the next convention, the strongest plea made by the speakers was that they would endeavor to give the delegates as good a time as they had enjoyed in Toronto.

Never before in the history of the International Association was money subscribed so freely and generously to carry on its work. The handsome sum of \$60,000 was given to be used during the next three years.

Aspirants for the next convention shipped loads of ammunition, in the form of printed matter and buttons. When they found it was subject to a duty of 15 cents a pound, much of it was never taken out of bond.

The ten thousand children who attended the rallies on Saturday afternoon were ten thousand reasons which Toronto offers for the existence of the Sunday-school Association and the holding of its convention in the Queen City.

The registration of delegates was a little over 1,700. At Denver in 1902 there were only 1,168. In addition to official delegates there were many visitors in Toronto, so that the total attendance from outside the city was probably about 4,000.

There were twenty Sunday-school workers present from Newfoundland, nearly all of them Methodists. Taking into consideration its remoteness and population, the Island Colony was better represented than many of the States or Provinces.

It was little wonder visiting Americans gazed with envy on that Massey Hall temperance meeting on Sunday afternoon. Five thousand people inside a hall at a temperance meeting on a hot Sunday afternoon was a spectacle which would not be witnessed in many cities of the United States.

The greatest applause of the whole convention was given when a speaker from across the line declared that he did not believe the Canadian people would ever allow any foreign power, ecclesiastical or otherwise, to control or destroy the public schools. The hand-clapping was long continued and renewed.

"We have had our squabbles in the past, but that only proves that we belong to the same family," said Rev. Mr. Hudson, in speaking of the relations that exist between the people of Great Britain and the United States, "but if any other country 'butts in,' it will be met by the united front of the whole family."

"When I'm a man

I'll be a delegate if I can."

—Recitation by the Sunday-school Boy.

When the convention was engaged in the task of raising money to extend Sunday-school work in Japan, a delegate shouted, "This will be a good investment, for if we get the Jap fighting the devil, as he has fought the Russians, he will accomplish something."

Rev. Carey Bonner, of London, England, in replying to the addresses of welcome, said that the one song which impressed him most was, "Blest be the tie that binds." Stronger than the ties of nationality is the feeling of loyalty to Christ that unites us. Not Great Britain, not the United States, but Calvary, is our fatherland.

Rev. Mr. Hudson, of Brockton, who responded to the addresses of welcome in Massey Hall, referred humorously to the vivid manner in which the Mayor had painted the beauties and advantages of Toronto. He declared that he had the idea he was coming to the capital of the Province of Ontario, but had now discovered that he had come to the gate of paradise.

At the commencement of the discussion on the International Lessons, President MacLaren held up a gavel, which had been presented for his use by one of the pilgrims to Jerusalem last year. It was made of various woods of Palestine, and the President brought it down with a resounding whack on the table as he announced that the discussion on the report would be restricted to five-minute speeches.

Some Sunday-school problems not on the programme:

"How to make Willie as eager to put his copper on the collection-plate as to spend it for chewing gum."

"How to make the class as interesting to the boy as the 'Swimming-hole' on a hot Sunday afternoon."

"How to make the Sunday-school as interesting just after the picnic as it is just before."

The great organ of the Metropolitan Church was a never-failing source of wonder and delight to the delegates, and at the close of almost every meeting Dr. Torrington, the veteran organist, was surrounded by a group of musical enthusiasts. After the preaching on Sunday evening the Doctor entertained several hundred people who remained, by playing a number of selections, beginning with the stately "Hallelujah Chorus," and concluding with several familiar airs that charmed the listeners.

"The most remarkable Sunday-school Convention in the history of the world," was the pronouncement of Rev. Dr. Potts, on Tuesday night, as he closed with a benediction the great series of meetings. The same judgment was rendered by the other leaders of the convention, and "enlargement" was the motto that was impressed upon the mind of every delegate. Mr. W. N. Harshorn, Chairman of the Executive Committee, announced at the close of the meeting that the pledges to carry on the work had reached the sum of \$75,000, but that the committee would not stop until double that amount had been reached, and it had placed in the field double the number of secretaries that were now employed.

Organized activity spoke in the whole inaugural gathering. It was not a festival, not a holiday cutting, not a mere demonstration. It was a congress

of work. To this end all the speeches, the singing of hymns, the choruses of trained singers and the distracting labors of the billet all contributed. Mere rhetoric was at a discount. Practical, progressive work was at a premium. The remarkable enthusiasm of the convention expressed the buoyant, almost irrepressible energies of two young nations side by side in a great continent. Yet more clearly it demonstrated that the genius of this continent, in religion, as well as in commerce and industry, is work.—Toronto News.

A speaker from the United States referred to the friendship existing between Canada and the United States. "I wish to say, Mr. Speaker," he went on, "that we are one. I think we are first one in lineage. Who disputes it? We are one in language. Who disputes it? We are one in the Lord we serve, we are one in the lesson we study, we are one in the Book we revere, we are one in the purposes we have in view, we shall be one in the possibilities for the time that is and the eternity that is to come. We are to be one, I hope, Mr. Speaker, before long under the same legislature, under the same lawmakers, under the same great national institutions, for we are living in a day of the convergence of great things as well as small things, and I shall not be surprised to live to see the day when the confederation of these two great countries on the American coast shall take place, and we shall be recognized, as we are recognized, and as we were recognized in our world's great Sunday-school travel, as 'Americans.'"

The speaker probably expected that these remarks would be greeted by loud applause, but he was disappointed, for dead silence followed. He had probably not heard that nothing is more unpopular in Canada than talk of annexation.

Personal Items

The Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario evoked great applause when he told the people that he had been a Sunday-school superintendent for ten years.

Mr. Frank L. Brown, a retired banker of Brooklyn, N.Y., who now devotes all his time to Sunday-school work, told of the great rally in Brooklyn on June 8th, when 125,000 children marched in procession through the streets.

Bishop Vincent was referred to by the chairman, who introduced him, as "The Nestor of the Sunday-school Army." Dr. Hamill spoke of him as "the brainiest Sunday-school man who ever grew on this or any other continent."

The splendid executive ability of Mr. Marion Lawrence, International General Secretary, was one of the most noticeable features of the convention. The ease with which he raised money for the International work was marvellous.

Mr. H. J. Heinz, the famous pickle manufacturer, made a short speech and closed by offering to be responsible for the support of a Sunday-school field worker in Japan. This announcement was received with great applause, and as Mr. Heinz sat down, Rev. Dr. Potts remarked: "You have listened to a very remarkable man, known as 'The 57 varieties.' This is the 58th variety."