

A Significant Item

Here is an item which appeared in the Syndicate newspapers recently:—

YOUNG MEN DRIVEN FROM MINISTRY.

New York, Jan. 14.—Rev. Dr. Gandier, principal of Knox College, Toronto, speaking to the Home Missionary Societies of Canada and the United States, declared that the cold rationalism in the universities is driving young men from the ministry.

"Cold rationalism;" yes, that's the phrase used, and that means "a soulless system of doctrine which, rejecting revelation, makes reason the sole guide in the interpretation of Scripture and dogma."

Just how much of the above is true only those affected know. But we certainly lament that which *may* be true. Many of our young men are first guided towards the university through the Epworth League influence. How important, then, that our Leagues stand for and cultivate a strong faith in the divine inspiration and interpretation of the Bible—building its very life into their characters—so that when the young men reach the universities they will go through everything and become men, ordained by God as well as by the Church, and not be diverted by any "cold rationalism" that may exist. Our Leagues need the very best spiritual guidance obtainable, and everyone who has the future of Methodism at heart should be a member and strong supporter of the Epworth League.—*Tres.*

About the Third Department

There appears to be a general idea among Leaguers that the whole aim of the Third Department should be to produce entertainments and socials, and many of our Third Vice-Presidents will tell you so; all of which is the result of ignorance as to what the constitution says. Here it is:—

THE OFFICER.

"The Third Vice-President shall have charge of the Literary and Social Department. It shall be his duty to interest the members of the League in Bible study, and, wherever practicable, organize an Epworth League Reading Circle. He shall give attention to the circulation of our Connexional literature. He is expected to arrange plans by which newcomers will be visited, strangers welcomed and the social interests of the League and Church promoted.

THE DEPARTMENT.

"(1) This Committee shall provide the intellectual exercises and entertainments of the League by means of lectures, debates, essays, literary programmes, etc. It shall have charge of all 'courses of study' pursued by the members, and of 'reading courses' in connection with the League.

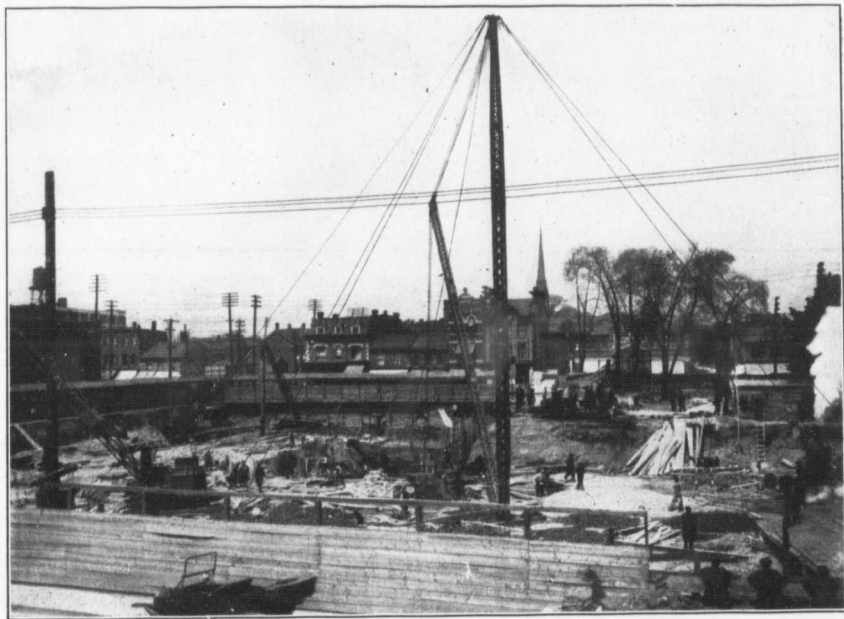
"(2) It shall be the duty of this Committee to promote the social interests of the League by welcoming strangers to the meetings, and by providing for the mutual acquaintance of the members. Where practicable, under the direction of

the Superintendent of the Circuit, in our central churches to provide parlors, reading rooms and kindred facilities for social enjoyment conducive to the proper development of Christian character.

"Fiscal Offerings.—This Committee may provide flowers for the pulpit on Sunday, and distribute them to the sick at the close of the services."

The information on page 94 of the April ERA must not be taken as an indication that "socials" are the whole thing in the Third Department. The need of socials should be the least need of all. The need is for social *fellowship*, and these "socials" are only a means of getting through a lot of formalism that is paramount in too many Leagues. The need of our young people to-day is education as to what are the fundamentals of *Social Fellowship*, and the programmes outlined in the February ERA for this Department, coupled with a faithful working out of the details in the constitution as given above will do more in two months to develop the social fellowship our League stands for, than "socials" will do in many times that period. Try it and see. Others have. And as for the "social" evening, have it occasionally, but see that it is *profitable*. Give our young people well prepared programmes—good sound food—and let the "socials" be the dessert, served when there are visitors or as a special evening's "extra."—*Tres.*

The little fly of selfishness will spoil any ointment, home or abroad.



GENERAL VIEW OF NEW BOOK ROOM, TAKEN MAY 16th.

The automobile is on Richmond St., the trees on Queen St., and John St. is at the extreme left of the picture. The property is 230 ft. on Queen and Richmond Sts., and 220 ft. on John St., so that the site comprises 50,600 square ft.