

large congregations. The former is a prosperous cause in a growing part of the city, but its new building is already too small to accommodate the congregation. Zion is trying to sell its property, and is looking for a new site for a new building, which it greatly needs.

The evening before a holiday, when all the stores are open, is not a good time for a public meeting, but there was an excellent audience for the Sunday-school and Epworth League meeting at Zion Church on Monday night, June 30th. Many, doubtless, came specially to hear Rev. George Jackson, of Edinburgh, who happened to be in the city and kindly consented to speak. By request he gave an account of his mission work in Edinburgh, which was intensely interesting. His description of

#### A SUNDAY EVENING SOCIAL MEETING

which is held every week, during the season in connection with the mission was especially appropriate. In most of our Leagues the social evening does not occur more than once a month, but in Mr. Jackson's church it is a weekly event. They had found, he stated, that there were, in a large city like Edinburgh, many young people living in lodgings, and the hour, immediately after the preaching service on Sunday evening, was to them the dulllest hour of the week. They are therefore invited to come in to the parlors of the Mission

of the League Presidents and other officers of the city was held, when it was resolved to organize a "Winnipeg District League." A committee was formed, with Prof. Riddell as chairman, to arrange details. The Leagues of Manitoba are greatly indebted to the Professor for the unflinching interest which he has shown in Epworth League work throughout the Conference.

It is intended also to hold a Conference League Convention in Winnipeg during the General Conference. For some time there has been a Conference Executive, but on account of the great distances by which the workers are separated, and the multiplicity of other gatherings, no Conference Convention has yet been held. It will be a decided benefit if representatives of the different Leagues throughout the Conference can get together for a day or two, and the General Conference affords a convenient opportunity, as many of the ministers and laymen will be in the city.

Leaving Winnipeg on Wednesday, July 2nd, we have a pleasant run on The Canadian Northern through

#### THE PRAIRIES

which at this season of the year are a delight to the eye. Everywhere one looks there are fields of waving grain, of the most luxuriant growth. It is difficult for one who has never seen these fields to form any idea of their extent.



SAULT STE. MARIE RAPIDS.  
(Indians Fishing.)

Hall for a social time. They mingle freely with one another in pleasant chat, affording the pastor the opportunity of becoming acquainted with strangers. Some good sacred music is sung, light refreshments served, and the evening ends with family prayer, thus providing an "at home" away from home. Mr. Jackson added that the results had been such as to warrant the continuance of this feature of his work.

An interesting incident occurred during Mr. Jackson's address. As he continued speaking after ten o'clock at the urgent request of the audience, a woman who sat almost in the front seat rose and walked out by the door near the pulpit. Addressing the speaker, so that everybody could hear, she said, as she passed, "Pardon me sir, you have my prayers, but I must go home to my baby." The audience appreciated the natural and easy way in which the thing was done, and Mr. Jackson proved himself equal to the occasion by remarking, "I have four of the dearest bairns myself that ever tugged at a parent's heart-strings, and I can appreciate the good woman's desire to get home to look after her baby."

It seemed as if she felt that the preacher was talking to her personally, just as if they had been in the parlor, and that it would have been rude to go without apologizing.

At the close of the service a meeting

Imagine a hundred-acre farm, and in thought take down all the fences. Add to this ten or twelve other farms with the fences all gone, and you have some notion of a Manitoba prairie covered with wheat as far as the eye can reach.

The story is told of an Easterner who got off the train at a little wayside station in the midst of the prairie and spent some time looking around. When asked what he thought of it, he said: "I feel as if I had got out of doors for the first time in my life."

#### MOSQUITOES AND WHEAT.

It seems strange that there should be any connection between the two, but an old resident informed me that whenever there were many mosquitoes, they also had lots of wheat. The fact is that when there is very much wet weather the mosquitoes are propagated in great numbers, and this same moisture brings on the wheat. Whatever may be thought of this there is a fine product of both in Manitoba this year. The people say that the prospect for a great harvest was never better, and the expectation is that forty bushels to the acre of number one hard" will be quite a common thing.

The "skeeters" are particularly attentive to strangers, and seem to prefer their blood to that of those who live in the country. Those who are coming West for the General Conference may,

however, congratulate themselves that the little pests will probably have disappeared by the month of September.

The prairie does not have the bare appearance that used to characterize it ten or twelve years ago. Farmers' houses are now very generally surrounded with a cluster of trees, which, although they do not grow to any great size, afford shelter in winter, and a most agreeable shade in summer.

One of the pleasant features of life in Manitoba during the summer is the long evenings which the people enjoy. The boys commence a game of ball at seven o'clock and have plenty of time to play all full nine innings before dark, and at half past nine, in June and July, it is light enough to see to read outdoors. No matter how hot the day may have been it is nearly always cool at night.

#### CARMAN DISTRICT CONVENTION

was held in the village of Roland, and was a decided success. Although this district is much larger than the average district in Ontario, and the distances for delegates to travel much greater, there are few districts that are better organized for Epworth League work, and scarcely any that hold a better convention. The chairman, Rev. Dr. Maclean, took an active part in the proceedings, and the young people seemed glad to have him as a leader. All the preachers of the district were on hand, except those who were moving. They appeared, to the writer, to be a particularly fine lot of fellows, active, alert, aggressive, and very much devoted to their work. Every man seemed to recognize that the Epworth League was worth looking after, and his relation to it was one of hearty participation in its enterprises.

The programme prepared for the Convention was, in its mechanical make up, one of the most complete and attractive that has ever been published by a District League, and the bill of fare which it presented was, with the exception of several contributions from Ontario, of the very best quality. Each of the departments was given attention, and the papers and discussions were of a high order. Prof. Riddell gave several inspiring addresses.

In missionary work Carman is the banner district of the Manitoba Conference, having raised \$400 during the past year toward the support of Mr. Endicott. On calling the roll of societies, it was found that there was the probability of a much larger sum being raised for next year, and a resolution was introduced looking toward the support of a missionary by the Carman District alone. It was felt advisable, however, to give the matter further consideration before taking so decided a forward step.

The most unique thing about the work of the Carman District is their Lecture Course. This consists of a series of lectures on Methodist history, doctrines, hymnology, and polity, by ministers of the district, during the year. The plan is arranged by the executive. A small admission fee is charged, and the profits are devoted to the funds of the District League. The object, however, is not to make money, but to afford the people information upon important matters relating to their own church. After one year's trial, the Convention was unanimous and enthusiastic about continuing the course. It is a feature which our eastern districts might copy to good advantage.

I am inclined to think the space allotted to this letter is about filled, so that further scribbles from Manitoba will have to be left over for our next issue.

A. C. C.