

Young Men and Older Boys' Conference

Peterboro, Dec. 28-30, 1914

THE success of the first Conference of the older boys and young men under the auspices of the Bay of Quinte Conference Epworth League, was assured at the opening meeting on Monday evening in George Street Methodist Church. Over 160 were enrolled, in addition to the speakers and about twenty ministers who accompanied the delegates.

Following an enjoyable meal served in the basement, the Conference began with a song service in the church from seven to eight, conducted by Rev. R. A. Whittam, Rev. E. W. Roland leading the singing.

The groups from each District were then organized with leader and secretary. Rev. R. G. Peever, pastor of the Conference church, presided at the evening session.

His Honor Judge Huycke, in an address of welcome, assured the young men of the heartiness of the welcome extended to them, and hoped that the Conference, called with so noble a purpose, would inspire every delegate to develop a Christian character, courteous, informed, cultured and firm.

Dr. F. C. Stephenson responded in words of cheer.

revelation of the possibilities of this practical way of developing all-round life and efficiency. With the words of Luke 2: 52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man," as the divinely-given standard of efficiency, the need of a fourfold development most effectively presented. Boys who are backward in either the intellectual, physical, spiritual or social qualifications and fitness may find in this standard a test and an encouragement to measure up.

A practical demonstration of organized Bible Class work was presented by the Excelsior Bible Class of George Street Church, conducted by Mr. Carson.

A portion of Tuesday afternoon was given to group conferences for the discussion of the special problems of church work among young people. Rev. H. W. Foley, B.D., of Brooklyn, led those interested in the rural problem; Rev. C. W. Demille, B.A., of Havelock, the section on village work, and Rev. R. G. Peever, B.D., the conference on the problems as coming before the city church.

On Wednesday afternoon each District group of delegates met for a discussion on plans for carrying out the suggestions

ference came to a close, and the message and inspiration it gave to its nearly two hundred members will not soon be forgotten nor fall of a far-reaching effect.

REV. W. H. CLARKE.

Neepawa—Portage la Prairie District

The second annual Epworth League and Sunday School Convention was held at Portage la Prairie on January 6 and 7, beginning on the evening of the first day. Four sessions were held and a lively interest was sustained throughout.

The double theme of the Convention was "Evangelism—Missions," and the time was evenly divided between these two general subjects. The President, Rev. T. W. Price, gave the missionary address of the first session. The subject was "Empire Building." After referring to the British empire and its solidarity, he drew a comparison between it and the larger Spiritual empire, of which the ammunition is not bullets, but truths, and the motive power love. "The war is teaching us to think in world ideas." The unity of humanity was emphasized. In the army of this larger empire the young people of the Leagues and Sunday schools are soldiers. Mr. Price outlined the progress of our battle in the various foreign fields where mission work is



THE FIRST DENOMINATIONAL BOYS' WORK CONFERENCE, HELD IN PETERBORO, ONT., DEC. 28-30, 1914.

"Glad you've come!" was the word of welcome conveyed by Mr. Leo Copp. He said he hoped the boys would return determined to start more wheels turning.

"What we've come for!" was the response of Mr. J. F. Lane, of Oakwood. Not to gather a few notes to be taken home and forgotten, but to receive new ideas to put into practice, a new determination to put "first things first" in loyalty to Christ and the Book of books, by the help of the Holy Spirit.

A message to inspire enthusiasm for a high ideal of manhood was that delivered in the closing address of the evening by Rev. C. W. Bishop, B.A., Secretary of the Dominion Y.M.C.A. Each boy has a definite work before him, each a potential leader, for leadership is not so much born as acquired by the cherishing of great and worthy ambitions and the guarding of the life-powers from all that weakens and hinders.

The morning hour on Tuesday and Wednesday until 9.45 was given to devotional exercises and to Bible study. Rev. H. B. Kenny on Tuesday morning led the Conference in a study of the quality and joy of true friendship for Christ; and on Wednesday morning Rev. R. Bamforth gave one of his unique studies of Christian experience. The gripping power of these morning talks will not soon be forgotten.

The close relationship between the aims and methods of the Y.M.C.A. and the organized young people's work in the church was happily illustrated by the presence together on the programme of Rev. F. L. Farewell, B.A., of our own Field Staff, and Mr. Taylor Statten, Dominion Secretary of Boys' Work for the Y.M.C.A. Their presentation of the Canadian Standard of Efficiency was a

of the Conference in their respective Districts.

Following the service of praise on Tuesday evening was an inspiring address by Rev. J. H. Arnup, B.A., on "The Call to Arms."

A most enjoyable occasion was the banquet tendered by the Methodist people of Peterborough to the Conference. After the enjoyment of the good things provided, songs and music, appropriate toasts, and excellent speeches by the boys made up an hour that rang with wholesome jollity. In response to the toast to the Rev. Mr. Peever and the pastors, each minister present expressed in a few words his pleasure and interest in the Conference and its aims.

Amid the festivity and good cheer, a more solemn note was struck when reference was made to the boys who had volunteered for service for the Motherland and her cause, and a prayer was offered for their own and the empire's welfare.

Following the banquet, each District reported the resolutions of the separate conferences held in the afternoon, pledging themselves to earnest effort in the organizations of their home churches, to seek to win the boys now away from Christ and the Church, to fight the cigarette evil, and to hold in some of the Districts "echo" conferences.

Mr. Taylor Statten then took charge of the farewell and commitment service, in earnest words calling the boys to definite personal dedication of their best service to Christ.

At Mr. Statten's request the majority of the boys committed to writing some definite pledge of consecration or service. With the singing of "Blest be the tie that binds," the first Methodist Boys' Con-

ference done. "The nineteenth century made the world one neighborhood; may the twentieth century make the world one brotherhood."

Our Field Secretary, Rev. Manson Doyle, followed with an address on "The Gleaners." He pointed out that the method of gathering in the grain had changed greatly since Bible times. In connection with the spiritual harvest, too, the methods have changed. The Sunday school and the Epworth League are factors in evangelism. The speaker made an eloquent appeal for evangelistic work in line with the gleaner method—an appeal for individual personal work.

The morning session on Thursday was devoted to Missions and the afternoon session to Evangelism. After the opening exercises in the morning Mrs. Robert Buckingham, of Burnside, dealt with "The Challenge of the Foreign Field," and outlined the conditions as they are in China and Japan. She was followed by Rev. Arthur O. Rose, the home missionary supported by the District. Mr. Rose spoke of "The Challenge of the Non-English-Speaking People in Canada." Their challenge is, "Show us that of which you boast." Mr. Rose emphasized the importance of the public school—the Christian teacher is a missionary—and said our main hope is with the children.

Miss Ida Watts then dealt with home mission work among the English-speaking people in Canada. Rev. R. E. Spence, in opening the discussion, said the need when seen is the challenge. But we can meet it if we "Pray, study, and give."

Rev. G. H. Peacock read a most instructive paper on "Organizing the District for Campaign Work." "The pastor is the key to the situation: unless the clergy