

Hamilton Conference Epworth League Convention

The eleventh Convention of Hamilton Conference Epworth Leagues was held in Norfolk Street Methodist Church, Guelph, Oct. 10th and 11th, 1912.

At the opening session about 100 delegates assembled, and the number grew to 142 properly appointed representatives, exclusive of the large number who were present throughout from Guelph City Leagues and throughout the district. These young people represented fairly well the many sections of the Conference, coming, as they did, from as far south as St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, and as far north as Hanover and Hobbsville.

Those who attended by the last Convention of this organization two years ago, at Berlin, remarked upon the almost complete change of personnel in the delegation. Each succeeding Biennial Convention gathers practically an entirely new representation. How, therefore, can such work as the Convention attempts ever become really out of date?

The Guelph Convention was under the efficient leadership of Rev. G. A. King, B.A., President, of Hamilton, in a way the Committee sought to make the Convention particularly educational. For this purpose it was divided into five group conferences, as follows, each group under the leadership of an expert for three consecutive sessions:—

"Christian Endeavor," Mr. Ralph Steble, Guelph; "Missionary," Rev. W. E. Stible, ported by W. S. Daniels, Secretary.

Revs. C. D. Draper, J. D. Fitzpatrick, Geo. A. King, W. S. Daniels, C. S. Applegarth.

On Thursday evening, Rev. S. T. Hart, gave an inspiring address on the work, and Dr. Wallace Crawford (missionary) an address with moving pictures of Japan and China.

The session engaged on Junior work adopted and presented to the Convention a very interesting report, which led to a helpful discussion and the adoption of resolution. (These will appear fully later, Ed.)

On Friday evening the Convention assembled for closing session. Hon. W. H. Hearst, Minister of Mines, Forests and Lands, Toronto, delivered a splendid address on "Our Country's Call to our Young People."

Rev. J. W. Aikens, Field Secretary of Temperance and Moral Reform, spoke on the great spiritual needs of our Church, and mentioned some signs of an approaching religious awakening. His words came as a benediction and found a most befitting conclusion in a successful Convention.

Officers for the ensuing term elected were:—

Pres., Rev. W. S. Daniels, Stoney Creek, Ont.; Vice-pres. (1) Miss Lettie Allen, Drumbo, Ont.; (2) Miss A. G. Joffile, Kootenay, Ont.; (3) Rev. M. E. Couron, Hamilton, Ont.; (4) Roy Stewart, Ferguson, Ont.; (5) Miss Agnes Gaudier, Rev. C. S. Applegarth, Galt, Ont.; Treasurer, Harry Carr, Elora, Ont.—Rev. J. W. Aikens, Secretary.

Just imagine his disgust a little later when he first broke the glass of the camera into the furnace. We accept the camera's compliment, and leave the readers to interpret what it would mean had it happened at their District Convention. (See actual picture on this page and mark the reporter's error. The Editor rarely depends on one plate.—Ed.)

The Conference Epworth League President, Rev. T. H. Sawyer, opened the afternoon session with an address on "The Citizen of Epworth." He stated that the Epworth League is a better school for the training of citizens than the naval policy of any political party, and that the modern moral ideal as very low, if judged by the bad workmanship of the average citizen in public life.

Leaguers to train and cultivate a citizenship that will be above reproach.

No more practical or substantial paper was given at the League Convention than that given by Rev. D. N. McMillan, on "Personal Evangelism." Every Epworth League in this district will become an evangelistic organization if they but catch the spirit of inspiration in this paper.

The above address is to appear in full in the Era, we understand.

The Convention was then held in a round-table conference. Despite the optimism of our General Secretary, Rev. D. N. McMillan, the Convention was somewhat in favor of a pessimistic outlook on present conditions. We assume the General Secretary we caught some of his enthusiasm and that we sincerely appreciated his interest in the League.

The following compose the newly-elected Executive:—

Hon. Pres., Rev. Geo. N. Hazen, B.A.; Pres., Mr. J. H. McRoberts, 790 Queen St.; Vice-pres. (1) Rev. J. W. Herbert, Brynston, Ont.; (2) Miss Amy McMillan, (3) Miss Elba Baker, Littlewood, (4) Alfred Jones, Grand Avenue; (5) Miss J. Long, 44 Elmwood Avenue, (6) Rev. W. H. Hiles, B.A., Delaware, Sec., Mr. J. W. Showler, 44 King Street, Treas., Miss Eva Van Deinder, Lambeth, Corr. Sec. of Summer School, Miss L. McMechan, 64 King Street, Dist. Sec. Temperance and Moral Reform, Rev. A. E. Jones, Belmont.—C. J. Moorehouse, Reporter.

Wiarion District

The Annual Epworth League Convention of the Wiarion District was held at Epworth, on Thursday, Oct. 17th. The Convention was well attended, and the interest manifested in this work deepened and increased throughout the three sessions, making it a most helpful and inspiring gathering.

One of the most encouraging signs was the ready way and excellent manner in which the different Leagues presented their reports, it being a decided improvement on former years.

The principal speaker of the session was Rev. W. Sibley, returned missionary from China, who gave an inspiring and instructive address on the "Advancement of the Mission Work in China."

Another of the attractions was the awarding of the prize in the essay contest, which was given to Miss Wulpole, Oxenden League, the subject being "What I can do to Make My Country Better."

After each session the delegates were invited to the Sunday School room, where they were entertained and tempting refreshments served. This feature of the programme was highly appreciated by all, and a pleasant time was spent in getting acquainted with one's fellow workers.

The officers for the ensuing year:—Hon. Pres., Rev. A. J. Jackson, Tara, Ont.; Pres., Mr. H. H. Hiles, 112 Victoria St.; Vice-pres. (1) Mr. Geo. Hamby, Shallow Lake; (2) Mrs. J. Jewell, Havelock; (3) Mrs. T. M. Foxwell, Havelock; (4) Mrs. W. McNeill, Wiarion; (5) Mrs. B. Danard, Kemble, Sec., Mrs. E. Brown, Havelock, Treas., Mr. Howard Baldwin, Oxenden.

Cobourg District

On Wednesday, October 23rd, afternoon and evening, most successful meetings were held at Cobourg, Ontario. The weather was very much improved and bad roads the attendance was most gratifying. The delegates were entertained by the League of the church.

The afternoon session consisted of papers and discussions on different aspects of young people's work in the Epworth League.

At a paper on "A Social Evening" was given by Miss Maggie Mills, of Canton. "A Literary Evening" was the subject of a paper presented by Mrs. Susan, Port Hope. Rev. Dr. Laker discussed the subject of "Canadian Citizenship." A paper on "The Epworth League in West China," was read by Miss Margaret, of the Cobourg Epworth League. Centron, spoke on "The Life and Work of Rev. Dr. Smith."

The morning subject was further dealt with in papers by Mr. H. Harper, of Cambridge, and Miss Mary Lawless, of Stratford. The morning session of the Cobourg Epworth Department" was presented by Mr. Harold

LONDON DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATES AT DINNER.

B.A., West China, "Literary and Social," Rev. M. E. Couron, B.A., Hamilton; "Citizenship," Rev. F. L. Farewell, B.A., Toronto; "Junior Work," Miss Agnes Eutler, Brantford.

These Conferences, though hindered slightly for lack of separate rooms, in which to meet, really accomplished the best and most lasting work of the Convention.

Another striking feature of the session was a debate, "Resolved, that Summer Schools and Epworth League Conventions have outlived their usefulness." The affirmative was supported by Revs. C. D. Draper and G. S. Cassmore, and the negative by Rev. J. H. McCarthy and Mr. Robinson. Of course no decision was asked for nor given, the debaters simply fulfilling the wishes of the Committee by placing all facts possible before the Convention, pro and con, in the most favorable light.

The report of Summer Schools for two years past, which have been held at Elora, was presented by the Secretary, and evoked considerable discussion. The affirmative schools have not been as well attended as the promoters desired, and by some it was argued that the results did not warrant the expenditure of time and money entailed.

Two uncontrollable factors seem to render such schools within the Conference difficult:—(1) There is no connexional college building within the Conference where such a school may be held; (2) the cost of living at lake-side resorts within the Conference where a school might be held is very high. However, it was pointed out that very much good work had been accomplished at the schools already held, and the Convention almost unanimously voted to continue the same. The following were appointed a special Committee on Summer Schools:—

London District

The London District held its annual Epworth Convention in the Wellington Street Methodist Church, Oct. 17th, 1912. The Rev. W. L. Hiles, B.A., District President, was in the chair, and gave the opening address. The programme proved to be profitable and practical. A letter was read from Rev. G. Hartwell, and the Rev. O. Darvill was present and gave a brief outline of his experience during his travel by automobile, railway and ship.

The Convention expressed its appreciation of Mr. Hartwell's letter, and particularly on being favored with a visit from Mr. Darwin. The Leaguers assure our missionaries of our continued prayers, sympathy, and support.

The Rev. A. E. Jones, Secretary of the Conference Summer School, presented a very full report of the development of the Epworth League and the natural evolution of the summer school. He reported the last session of the summer school at St. Thomas, the most successful, both in attendance and the spiritual fervor of any session yet held.

The general Secretary of our Young People's Societies gave the closing address for the forenoon's session. We thank him for pointing out some of our failures. We hope we may not only be able to retain the spirit of our forefather, but more, and in the adaptation of ourselves to the tasks of to-day reveal we have their spirit in a double portion.

The Convention were entertained for dinner and tea in the basement by a young people of Wellington Street. All enjoyed the social hours very much. Only one serious disaster marred the whole day's proceeding. At the dinner hour the Rev. S. T. Hart, enjoyed the opportunity to photograph the Convention.