

THE AYLESFORD UNION.

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BY THE

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EDITORIALS.

As we go to press the joyous strains of the celebration of Victoria's Diamond Jubilee are ringing not only throughout our own Canadian land but over her world-wide Empire. So much has been said and written in exalted vein under the inspiration of an event unique alike in the history of the empire and of the world, that it seems uncalled for that we should attempt to rise to the dignity of the occasion. Yet we beg the indulgence of our readers for a single sentence expressive in a measure at least of the sincere and loyal thanksgiving which is in our hearts. Although no national flag floats above the sanctum and editorial dignity forbids that we should join the popular jubilation which expresses itself in vigorous hat-throwing and vociferous shouting, yet none the less loyal pulsations are felt within, mingled with devout thanksgiving for the unparalleled blessings of an unprecedented reign, and an earnest breathing to the great Giver of all good for their undiminished continuance to both sovereign and subjects.

The near approach of the season for Associations and Conventions suggests some problems in connection with these gatherings which must soon be dealt with. Two serious facts are already quite patent to the eyes of all: first, that the attendance upon our annual denominational assemblies is in the majority of instances attaining unwieldy proportions, and second, that the delegates are not in the

main fairly representative of the intelligence, piety and executive faculty of our churches. One undesirable result of the first fact is the growing difficulty of finding a church willing to undertake the responsibility of entertaining an association or convention. The task is so great that only the stronger churches or those which least need the help which such a gathering ought to bring, dare assume it. A remedy might easily be provided in the reduction of the delegates which each church is entitled to send, coupled with the distinct understanding that free entertainment would be provided for delegates only.

The other fact referred to is much more serious, and one to which is traceable in large measure many of the unsatisfactory and unbusiness-like things done in the name of the churches. The cause of this condition of things is we believe due to the miserable system, or rather lack of system, employed in the appointment of the representatives of the average church. When delegates are to be selected, instead of a careful choice being made of persons best suited to represent the church and its interests, there is a general enquiry of "Who is going?" or "Who will go?" with the result that persons are chosen whose one qualification is that they are able to afford the expense or find it convenient to avail themselves of excursion railway rates and free entertainment for the enjoyment of a cheap holiday trip. With such a basis of selection it is not to be wondered at that a large percentage of the lay delegates thus sent are totally unfit to perform the duties of their position and exert little if any beneficial influence upon the findings of the body to which they belong. As a preventative of such results we would suggest that each church bear the expenses of its delegates to and from the place of meeting. With expenses provided for, there would be little difficulty in prevailing upon almost any whom the church might designate, to go, for many could bear the loss of time who could not afford loss of time with cost of travelling added. After the churches shall have put this much of business into their share of the constitution of our general bodies, it will be sufficient time for them to offer adverse criticism of doings of these bodies.

Our highly esteemed brother pastor, Rev. J. S. Coffin of the Aylesford Methodist circuit, closes his labors upon his present field on Sunday, July 4th, after which, as we have just learned, he goes to a charge in Lunenburg County. We desire to take this opportunity of giving public expression to our unfeigned regret at the near approach of the dissolution of our association, which from the first has been of a most cordial character. One of the very first hands extended in friendly greeting upon our coming to Aylesford was that of Pastor Coffin. What he then seemed to be we have ever found him, a thorough Christian gentleman. In his removal we shall sustain a loss not easily repaired. Our earnest wish is that Bro. Coffin may find in his new field opportunities worthy of his high endowments of mind and heart, and that before him may lie many years of joyous and fruitful service. The UNION bids him, his wife and his family "God speed."

The most suggestive bit of advertising which has caught our attention for some time is contained in an exchange. In it appear these words: "At a bound Pattison's Whisky has come to the front," and just beside them is a Bengal tiger leaping as if upon some prey. It may be an inadvertency but is none the less true to fact.

The UNION congratulates Miss Augie M. Lee and Mr. Frank B. Jacques upon the securing of their B diplomas.

And now the Plebiscite Bill is dead. "How long, oh Lord, how long?"

The Toronto Mail and Empire has the following:

"Once again have Canadian military men distinguished themselves. The 48th Highlanders, at Islington tournament, defeated the Australians in individual bayonet competitions. Now a team of eight Canadians has defeated a picked team of eight experts from the Life Guards, the Coldstream Guards, and the Grenadier Guards. We have taken the Queen's prize, and have had the championship of almost everything; but to beat the crack regiments at fighting with the bayonet—well, 'that's a pretty go,' as our fellow subjects across the water would say.