

## Fourth International Convention of the Epworth League

HELD AT INDIANAPOLIS, JULY 20-23.

A  
DECIDED  
SUCCESS

### A Great Gathering.

THE fourth International Convention of the Epworth League is now a memory instead of an anticipation, and a most delightful recollection it will be to those who had the privilege of attending. The number present was not quite as great as at Toronto in 1897. Up to Friday afternoon eight thousand persons registered, while at Toronto, for the same period, over eleven thousand names were received. In each case, however, the place of registration

Every man declared that he had the most delightful home in the city. The citizens seemed to vie with one another in the hospitality extended, which was generous and cordial in the extreme.

For the meetings a large tent had been pitched near the county buildings, to seat about seven thousand persons, and it was literally packed at every evening meeting.

The decorations were very pretty. At the entrance there was a large Maltese cross, ten feet square, and lighted by 225 incandescent lamps, red, yellow and frosted. When it was illuminated the effect was very fine. Inside there were banners galore. The stars and stripes were everywhere to be seen, but British flags were rare. This was chiefly due to the difficulty of securing them, and not to any feeling of indifference. If we had been thoughtful enough to have loaned the committee a bundle of British flags, no doubt they would have been freely used. The mottoes were numerous and well chosen. Over the speakers' platform was the League benediction in red letters, margined with old gold, in a field of white, and read as follows:



OFFICIAL FLAG.

was some distance from the auditoriums, and, without doubt, many did not attend to the formality of registration. It was therefore difficult to estimate the attendance, and all sorts of guesses were made, from ten thousand up to thirty thousand. The probabilities are that at least one-half of those present entered their names. If so, this would make a total of about seventeen thousand at Indianapolis, which certainly was the outside figure. The claim of thirty thousand was a greatly exaggerated estimate.

It should be remembered that Indianapolis did not present any special attractions in the way of mountain, lake, or waterfall. Those who went to the Hoosier city were attracted by the Convention alone. Under these circumstances an attendance of seventeen thousand was remarkable, and indicated a growing interest in the Epworth League.

The local committee had worked hard to prepare for the gathering, and are to be congratulated upon the signal success which crowned their efforts. Dr. C. C. Lashby, the indefatigable Chairman, is deserving of special mention. He was here, there, and everywhere, keeping his eye on everything and everybody, and doing all in his power to make visitors feel at home.

Rev. Dr. Quayle had charge of the billeting arrangements for the speakers, and his plan was the most perfect we have ever seen at any convention. Those whose names were on the programme were met at the station and sent to the homes provided for them in carriages.

Leader—The Lord bless thee and keep thee.  
Response—The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.  
All—The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace. Amen.

Other mottoes displayed about the tent following the inner line of quarter poles were:

"In today walks tomorrow."  
"Look up, lift up."  
"One heart, one way."  
"All for Christ."  
"The Church should be a force to work with, not a field to work in."  
"If we are saved to serve, we should serve to save."  
"I desire a league, offensive and defensive, with every soldier of Jesus Christ."—John Wesley.  
"We live to make our church a power in the land, while we live to love every other church that exalts our Christ."—Bishop Simpson.

The singing, which was perhaps the most inspiring feature of the Convention, was led by Professors Excell, Black, and Hemphill. It was exceedingly hearty and unanimous.

The music of the Juanita Glee Club of Chicago, was very fine. When the young ladies were first introduced the chairman

requested that there be no encore, but the audience demanded a repetition with such determination that the chairman was forced to yield.

The Claffin Quintette, a band of colored singers, also greatly pleased the people, and were frequently recalled. The voices were rich, and two were of peculiar and original quality. They first sang "Give me that old-time religion," which was received with a rapturous clapping of hands and fervent cries of "Amen!" The audience demanded another song, and the sextet sang a medley, with the line "Ain't I glad I'm out of the wilderness" running through it.

The programme was a solid one, in the opinion of some, almost too much so. It was certainly a hazardous experiment to give a whole evening to "The Intellectual Life," with such subjects as "The High School and the College," "The Bible and the Intellectual Life," "Books and Reading," but it proved quite a success. Christian Citizenship and Temperance, received a large amount of attention.

It is quite out of the question to undertake anything like a full report of the



CONVENTION BADGE.

speeches, when it is remembered that there were three meetings going on simultaneously, three times a day. We have endeavored simply to give our readers some idea of the good things that were said, giving special prominence to the Canadian speakers, and to the more practical topics.