

Concerning Boys

By Herbert Fiddes

C. S. E. T. NEWS.

In Vancouver on 28th January a conference of Boys' Leaders was held in the Y. M. C. A. The conference was a sequel to that held last year. The work done during the interval was reviewed.

Mr. J. W. Storey, the Boys' Community Secretary, presented a very interesting report, which was enthusiastically received. Owing to the refusal of MOST OF THE CHURCHES in the City to give returns it was found quite impossible to give exact data, and most of what was to hand was gathered by personal investigation. Many clergymen entirely ignored the request for a statement.

Mr. Melvin Bell for Kitsilano, reported the District had 20 groups, six Registered Mentors, and 298 boys. One Church (St. Mark's), had excellent equipment for carrying on Boys' Work. The other three carried on in a Community Building.

Fairview, by the report of Mr. W. R. Morrow, showed progress for No. 2 District. They had 8 groups, 5 Registered Mentors and 118 boys.

The Grandview report (Mr. H. Ratcliffe), showed a woeful lack of equipment. In spite of great handicaps, however, the District had 20 groups, 16 Registered Mentors, and 247 boys. This was a clear demonstration of what energy and enthusiasm can do in face of apathy, and indifferent facilities.

Numerous other reports were submitted, and considerable business transacted, and a most enthusiastic and inspiring meeting was brought to a close on the motion of Mr. Storey.

—(H. R.)

C. C. C.

BOYS' BRIGADE.

The latest in the field in the Boys' Brigade world is a very healthy, and enthusiastic Company lately organized at Marpole. The captain is Mr. W. Leverette, and with some 35 boys (many of whom travel many miles through mud to attend), he is looking forward to a most successful season.

First West Vancouver Company have now the use of a large hall, where they are drilling feverishly for the J. R. Seymour Cup. West Vancouver is justly proud of her boys.

Fifth Vancouver Company has just completed a census of the District in aid of the "Forward Movement."

C. C. C.

UNSEEN WORKERS—SNAP-SHOT No. 1.

In many districts throughout the Province are men working vigorously and faithfully for the young boyhood of our nation, but whose efforts are unknown beyond the limits of their immediate district. They do not seek—nay, rather avoid publicity—and are in the work for the work's sake. Such an one is MR. WALTER LEVERETTE of Point Grey (Marpole Methodist Church). Against big obstacles, handicapped by very limited accommodation for many years he has been working for the "Good of the Boys." At much personal expense he has organized a Company of the Boys' Brigade, and equipped it. A man of unbounded energy, his enthusiasm is in-

fectious, and one feels that "when he starts something"—"Something will have to go." His spirit has been instilled in the boys and a deep and lasting influence is being sown, which will be reaped in future years in a fine strong, healthy manhood, which is righteous, loving and God fearing. Every good wish to Mr. Leverette. People of Point Grey play the game—don't pass by on the other side—but give punch to this work by your liberal support.

C. C. C.

BOYS AND BOOKS.

There are Books and Books. There are few things a boy desires more than a REAL BOOK—a book replete in adventure and stirring incidents, where heroes fight for right and scorn anything savouring of the underhand. But there are many books on the market that are merely sensational, impossible imaginary narratives, which, when one gets older, become too absurdly foolish to look at. Such literature, if it does no immediate harm (and that is a matter of opinion), at least does no good, and boys are urged to read Books by reliable writers. There is no better companion than a good book. Human friends may fail and falter, but a book "never speaks back," and is always to be relied upon.

Canada has few National Books for Boys, such as the older countries have, and it is of general interest, therefore, to learn that Rev. R. G. MacBeth, has at the request of a large Publishing House in the East, consented to be Editor of a Canadian Boys' Annual, which will bear the name of the SCARLET and GOLD BOYS' ANNUAL. Here Canadian national characteristics and environment will predominate, and the boys of Canada will have an Annual of their very own.

THE VALUE OF PUBLIC SPEAKING.

During recent labor troubles in the Province, men by their oratory swayed audiences to decisions that were regretted by the public afterwards. Many men, as was well said by a prominent public speaker, did not agree with the views expressed, and had very decided opinions of their own, but had not the courage to get on their feet, and speak their minds. The result was the Community was the loser by a very great deal. The time to start public speaking is when a boy is young. Every Boys' Leader should make a point of encouraging the boys to lead their classes; to express their opinions, and develop the habit of public speaking. Many an invaluable thought has been lost to the world because men lacked confidence to "get on their feet."

Incidentally it might be added that it would not be amiss to teach boys the value of brevity. One orator said: "If you have anything to say—say it and sit down." Many a painful hour would be spared innocent sufferers if this rule was more rigidly observed.

A FOUNTAIN PEN GIVEN AWAY.

Boys! Do you want a real fountain pen? Well, write the Editor of this Page a short story (not more than 300 words), about anything you like, humorous or otherwise, and to the boy who writes the best story the B. C. M. will present a pen. Give your age, name and address, and have your teacher certify that it is original, and written by yourself. Stories must be in this office (204 Winch Building), not later than March 20. Come on boys — all together. Swamp us out with stories. The best story, and perhaps some of the others, will be published. Address your communications to the Editor Boys' Column, B.C.M.

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