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Toronto April 22, 1897

THE SUNDAY CAR FIGHT.

FOR quite a long time the Lord's Day Alliance has been kept busy with Toronto. The Sunday Car struggle has been the fruitful cause of great efforts and great sacrifices, and it is clear that were it not for the rooted conviction of standing by the right many would become weary and faint. Time and again the battle has been fought, but as if to prove their mettle another trial of strength is at hand. A popular vote will take place on May 15th which will declare the sentiments of the voters as to Sunday Cars. On both sides, for and against the cars, there is much activity and determined exertion. On Saturday, openly and above board, a meeting of the friends of the Sabbath was held at which steps were taken to open a campaign on broad lines. The meeting was largely and influentially attended and a general committee was appointed of leading and representative men and women. Organization is now proceeding rapidly under the direction of the following Executive Committee:—Hon. G. W. Allen, S. Caldecott, E. A. O'Meara, J. A. Paterson, J. K. Macdonald, Henry O'Brien, J. J. MacLaren, Thomas Crawford, M. P. P., N. W. Hoyles, D. J. O'Donoghue, Ald. Spence, G. T. Ferguson, R. S. Legaur, Beverley Jones, C. S. Gzowski, J. C. Copp, Surgeon Stewart J. Tweed, H. T. Benson, J. J. Moore, J. B. Fee, T. R. Clougher, Mrs. Rutherford, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Brunnell together with the chairmen and secretaries of ward organizations, chairmen of the various sub-committees, together with two representative ministers from each denomination.

Citizens desirous of helping on the good work should lose no time in communicating with this committee, and volunteering services. Now is the time to declare emphatically against Sunday Cars and against the shilly-shallying policy which plays with this question and keeps it continually open.

PAN-PRESBYTERIAN COMMISSION.

Closer unity among the Presbyterian churches was the leading topic discussed at the meeting of the Western Commission of the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance, which met last week at Chicago. Whatever may be the immediate result of such discussion, there surely can be no room for doubt that the closer drawing together of all the churches would be of great advantage

to the cause of Christ, and it would appear that there is a growing opinion in favor of co-operation in many departments of church work. The foreign field has afforded examples of what may be done in this direction, and there are not wanting instances in Home work, where the setting aside of denominational barriers has been attended by satisfactory results. Discussion will not only furnish interchange of opinion but will keep the question alive and before the churches.

The Chicago meeting was presided over by Rev. Principal Caven, and fourteen branches of the eighty-nine of the Presbyterian Church were represented.

The statistics contained in the report of Committees dealing with Foreign Missions, Presbyterian History, Home Mission, Sabbath Schools, etc., were of great interest.

In 1900 the great council of the Alliance will meet in Washington, and the programme for it will soon be in course of preparation.

THE CANADIAN TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

A work which is quietly, and with no small success, carried on in Toronto, is that of the Canadian Temperance League, the series of whose meetings for this season will be brought to a close next Lord's Day. To the public the main effort of the League appears in the meetings held on the Sabbaths afternoon at the Pavilion at which the foremost temperance orators of the day appear, delivering impressive and heart-stirring addresses. These meetings attract much public attention and are believed to be productive of much good, but the League is engaged in effective missionary work among the needy and neglected ones and in the homes scarcely worthy the name of home—where the power of drink reigns. At the close of an active season it is in place to acknowledge this unobtrusive Christian work in the slums and to join in the satisfaction felt by all the well wishers of the cause of temperance and social reform. At the meeting next Sabbath the officers of the league will tell of their work and it is to be hoped the citizens of Toronto will signify their approval of what is being accomplished, by being present in large numbers.

CHURCH UNION IN SCOTLAND.

The meeting of the Synod of the United Presbyterian church will this year be of more than usual interest in view of the fact that it is the jubilee of the Union of 1847 by which the United Secession and Relief churches became one organization. It may also be signified by some decided step towards a further union with the Free church. The subject of amalgamation between these two churches has been advanced considerably of late by the unofficial conferences which have taken place between prominent members belonging to all sections of the two bodies, and it is not improbable that the forthcoming General Assembly of the Free church will give such a deliverance on the matter as will lead to the immediate beginning of formal negotiations for union. The Committee appointed by the last Assembly to report regarding it has had its final meeting and is understood to have decided by a large majority in favour of reporting that the time has come for a definite step in the direction of Union. A number of those who were a few years ago opposed to this action have passed away and others have changed their attitude. There seems a growing disposition to give effect to what is obviously the conviction of the great majority of the Church.

Projects of this nature are apt to move forward slowly in Scotland, but this question has already received such full consideration that once formal action is taken there would be nothing surprising in seeing the consummation within two or three years.