

Mr. Doyle's Resignation

It was with great regret that we read the lettergram and subsequent letter from our beloved Field Secretary for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, stating that he had found it necessary, in the interests of his own health, and those of his family, to withdraw from his official relation to our General Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies. And the regret of those who have been associated with Mr. Doyle in the officiating of the board is shared by the whole army of Sunday School and Epworth League workers who have felt the inspiration of his leadership in the Western Conferences during the past five years or more.

Since his appointment as Associate Secretary in 1906, Mr. Doyle has labored



REV. J. A. DOYLE.

faithfully in the great field then allotted to him. What it means to be constantly on the road, meeting new people, organizing new schools and leagues, attending conventions, conducting institutes, addressing anniversaries, and meeting the innumerable calls incident to field work, only those who have served in the work. Intense physical strain, lack of home life, inability to find time or opportunity for serious reading or thoughtful study—these are some of the many drawbacks to the work of a Connectionist Secretary, and little wonder if any but the most rugged constitutions give way under the constant drain upon the resources of body, mind and heart. The many friends of Bro. Doyle will deem him wise to withdraw into the less strenuous work of the local pastorate before he may have become incapacitated for aggressive leadership in the work he loves so well, and in which he has had such signal success.

The Executive of the General Board, meeting in full session on April 24th, did not deem itself possessed of power to dispose of the resignation, and action thereon was by motion deferred until the meeting of the Board when it assembles on Sept. 6th next. The whole situation will be carefully considered then, and the wisest possible action taken to meet the emergency. Meanwhile, from July 1st, when Bro. Doyle's resignation comes into effect, to the meeting of the Board in September, the best possible arrangements will be made to carry on the field work of the two Conferences most intimately affected by his withdrawal.

The following resolution was unanimously passed by the Executive Committee, on motion of Rev. Dr. Crews, seconded by Mr. M. S. Madole: "Resolved, that we, the members of this Executive, having heard with deep regret that Rev. John A. Doyle has found it necessary to tender his resignation as Field Secretary for Manitoba and Saskatchewan, hereby place on record our high appreciation of the splendid service he has rendered the church, and particu-

larly its Sunday School and Young People's Department, during the past five years, and we earnestly trust that his health may be speedily restored, and that he may long be spared to render valiant service for the extension of the church and Kingdom throughout this land."

Thousands will join with the committee in this hope for our brother, and the best wishes of the whole Sunday School and Epworth League family will follow him in his future labors, together with the prayer that the seed he has sown in his official work will produce a harvest of abiding spiritual results to the glory of God and the permanent gain of His cause in Western Canada.

For the President-elect

I have no disposition to lecture you as to the way in which your League should be conducted. To do so would be impertinence on my part. But I may wish for you, newly appointed to the leading office among your young friends, a spirit of enterprise that will make your influence as their leader very stimulating indeed. I have no desire to reflect on the great body of Presidents in our Young People's Societies; but sometimes I cannot help thinking that we have Leagues that lack vitality and active force because of the inerness of their chief executive officers. I remember the saying of an old Indian chief which I heard quoted by a missionary when I was a boy. "I would rather have the pot boil over than not boil at all," were his words as they recur to my mind, and I think them quite apt now. The Epworth League President that never comes to the boiling point but merely simmers will not generate much heat among his sub-officers or in his various departments. It is the President that is always stirring up the fire that makes the kettle boil.

You know what I mean. When I do not personally interview your Vice-Presidents about their respective departments? Do you know that they are active, or if they are not, why? More depends on you than you may think. The contagion of your zeal will stimulate the other officers, or the depressing influence of your indifference will establish them in indolence. A live, aggressive President generally means an enthusiastic League officary. Be just the kind of President yourself, therefore, that you would like other Presidents to be. To teach rather than drive, to teach rather than scold, to enlist others rather than do all the work yourself; these are some of the essential qualities of successful generalship. May yours be a year of unprecedented achievement, and as an inspirer of others to work for Christ, may you be the best President that ever sat in the chair of your League.

The All-Important Trio

This refers to the chief three persons in a local church as its work relates to the young people of the community. Perhaps already you have settled in your mind who they are: The Pastor, the Sunday School Superintendent, the Epworth League President. No question will be raised as to the correctness of this little inventory, I think. One query has been oft-recurring to my mind lately regarding these three. It is: "How can they do the work required of them among the young people of their charge unless they frequently confer together?" And I confess that in my judgment the absence of such conferences is a cause of weakness in many congregations. These three officers are all aiming at the good of the young people. Their ultimate aim is one as it respects the children and youth. Neither one is capable of doing the whole work alone. And the organizations over which they preside are so inter-related and interdependent that they must be made mutually helpful or each will in

some measure be an interference with and a drag upon the other. The Sunday School cannot do the whole round of young people's work, the Epworth League cannot supplant the Sunday School; yet but infrequently are these considered as mutually related and dependent. In most cases they are considered as wholly separate and distinct, and in some cases, we fear, as competitive if not antagonistic. The whole educational and industrial programme of the Church for its young people cannot be compassed by either one alone. Both are indispensable. Each should be studied in the light of its relation to and bearing on the other; both should be made contributory to the salvation of the youth and their employment in the activities of church enterprise. This cannot be done unless the pastor sees that the interests of both School and League are duly considered in the Quarterly Meetings of his Official Board, and without frequent fraternal conferences between the three officers named, uniform successful work is impossible. Get together, study, plan, pray; pull together and make each organization a source of strength to the other.

Just Between Ourselves

"I always thoroughly enjoy reading the *Era*." This is a short but suggestive statement made by one of our many intelligent readers. "If our young people would only read the *Era* they would keep more abreast of Epworth League work." This is another wise sentence, made by a friend. "Many Leagues are starving themselves because they do not take enough *Erases* to supply the League." This is still another worth considering. "I find my *Era* scrap-book, made for several years past, a very great help in preparing my work." Perhaps this is the best of all. I might multiply just such extracts from letters coming to my table from time to time, but there is no need. These all suggest to my mind the simple facts that if the *Era* is to be read it must contain matter that is worth reading, and if the matter read is to be of practical value it must be preserved and practised. I am always very happy to receive the thanks of our readers for any help which the paper may give them, an equally appreciative of thoughtful suggestions for the betterment of its pages, and gladly welcome anything in the way of news items, tried plans, or any other contributions that will add to the value of each issue. Sometimes I wonder why more Leagues do not send along something in the way of report of work done, that the stimulus of their good example may set others to practical emulation of their efforts; and I like to assure every Leaguer that nothing is more sought after than first hand information from the field. While therefore, you and your League may get some good things occasionally out of the *Era*, I beg of you to put something into it as well. By so doing you will make the Editor glad, as you make it possible for him to more effectively help others. We greatly appreciate the compliments of our friends on the character of the paper, but will appreciate these none the less if they are accompanied by something in the way of contributions to its pages. Send along both.

Children and Church Membership

One serious consideration has been repeatedly brought to our attention recently on this important matter. More than one pastor has referred to the difficulty experienced in getting Sunday School scholars who have signed Decision Day cards to unite in church membership. To many it seems sufficient to sign the card in the school, and they decline to do in some cases positively shrinking from uniting with the church. One pastor says