

## From the Field.

### Conference Chips

The young people of the Bay of Quinte Conference gave \$3,992 for missions, an increase of \$297.

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The young people of the Toronto Conference contributed for missions the magnificent sum of \$9,377, an increase of \$1,677 over last year.

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That no department is more important, and none more full of hope and promise, than the Junior League, was the pronouncement of several of the Conference reports.

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The League report of the Toronto Conference called attention to the fact that more than thirty-five Leagues took no collection for the General Epworth League Fund.

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The Alberta Conference rejoices in an increase of ten Leagues and 286 in membership. For so small a Conference, this is an excellent showing. Contributions to missions are in advance by the sum of \$255.

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Montreal Conference reports a falling off of nineteen young people's societies, but an increase in membership of twenty-one. The League Committee urged that the work of the Lookout Committee be pushed more vigorously.

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The report of the Young People's Societies in the Manitoba Conference was very encouraging, showing an increase of 10 societies and 592 in membership. The amount contributed for missions was \$3,094, which is an average increase of \$5 per League.

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The Nova Scotia Conference Epworth Leagues have made an increase of \$562 in missionary givings, making their total for the year \$1,169. This splendid result has been brought about by good organization and energetic work upon the part of Conference officers.

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In the Toronto Conference the young people's societies increased by nine, and the membership by 787. This indicates that the "Increase Campaign" has been a success. The League Committee's report declared that there was "cause for sincere gratitude for the evidences of marked progress in almost every department of the work."

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The Bay of Quinte Conference had the following paragraph, which we commend to pastors everywhere: "Brethren, is it not possible and highly desirable to have many times the number of Junior Leagues that we now have? Do twenty-six Junior Leagues in the hundreds of appointments truly represent the idea of our pastors and people as to the importance of cultivating the minds and the hearts of the children in a definite, practical work for Christ and the church? We make bold to say that notwithstanding the excellence of the work of Sunday-schools and other societies, no organization can accomplish so much for the child life as the Junior League; it trains the children for future usefulness. From the breadth of its constitution it directs the minds of the youth not simply to one particular phase of church work, but to all parts. It is not true that the one great problem to-day is how to retain our young people, more especially our young men; and what organization in our church appears, or should appear, to our boys so strongly as the Junior League?"

The Bay of Quinte Conference did a sensible thing in ordering the Epworth League report printed, and several copies sent to the young people's society within the bounds of the Conference, accompanied by a request that it be discussed at a public meeting. The report urges Trustee and Quarterly Boards to give every encouragement to the development of the young people.

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The final clause in the Epworth League Report of the Manitoba Conference is worth emphasizing: "Realizing that all our successes, financial, educational and missionary, must necessarily be proportionate to the depth of spiritual life in our Leagues, we recommend the pastors to emphasize largely the spiritual development and engage the active members in some form of Christian work."

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Special emphasis was laid upon the subject of personal evangelism by the Bay of Quinte Conference report. It says: "There should prevail in all our Leagues the idea of individual work throughout the year. Our young people are associated more closely with one another in social life than are our older members; our League meetings are more largely attended (if our experience be that of others) than our mid-week prayer services, and we believe the coming years should bring an abundant harvest if the cleaners work faithfully to win souls for Christ. We recommend for study that splendid work of the late H. Clay Trumbull, 'Individual Work for the Individual,' and believe if every Leaguer, and more especially the members of the Look-out and Evangelistic Committees, would read it this summer, we would report a fine increase next Conference.

### Just a Line or Two

Walkerton Sunday-school raised \$68 for missions, and the League \$105.

In quite a number of places the Epworth League took charge of the public service on Conference Sunday.

Halifax District young people have raised \$270 during the year just closed, as against \$225 the previous year.

The Biennial Convention of the Toronto Conference Epworth League will be held in Orangeville, Oct. 11th and 12th.

The League at Regina, N.W.T., has had a prosperous year, new members having joined at every consecration meeting. Nearly \$200 was raised for missions.

Oban, on the Camlachie Circuit, has a live Junior League, which raised \$25 for missions last year. The boys and girls who joined this League when it was first organized are now actively engaged in Senior League and church work, some of them filling important places.

The Twelve O'clock Park Summer School programme (24 pages) is now issued, and contains a list of speakers and services, cuts of last year's school and of Victoria College Evangelistic Missionary Band, record of F.M.M. givings for the Bay of Quinte Conference, and other useful information. Order from Miss Alice M. Booth, Trenton. Price, 5c; 3 for 10c; 25c. per dozen.

Maryland Street League, Winnipeg, is to be congratulated upon securing as president Mr. Wesley Stewart, a former prominent worker in Parliament Street League, Toronto. The report from this comparatively young League is very gratifying. During the year they contributed \$150 towards missions; their regular meetings have been well attended, the average being fifty-five, and often one hundred members being present. All departments of work active. The Reading Course was purchased by the Literary Department, and loaned to members of the League. The Era sub-

scribed for by a goodly number. After the recent marriage of their president the League presented him with a handsome Morris chair.

The Ridgetown District Summer School will be held at Elgin, Erie, from July 25th to 30th. A very interesting programme has been prepared, and among the speakers will be Dr. G. J. Blewett, of Wesley College, Winnipeg, on Bible study; Mr. C. B. Keenleyside, B.A., of London, on Sunday-school work; Miss Jessie Porter, of Toronto, on Missions, as well as local ministers and workers.

### Local Union

A local union has just been organized in Regina, the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist young people's societies joining together. Their first great move was for the advancement of the Chinese in our city, there being a large number of them here now. For one hour, two nights a week, they are taught the English language, and on Sunday afternoon the Christian religion. Religious teachers were taken from each of the societies. The union is also trying to induce the Y. M. C. A. to organize, there being at present nothing of that nature in the city, and owing to the great number of young men coming to the west, we feel that it is very much needed. E. N.

### A Successful Epworth League

Not long ago there was a request for more reports from the field as to the working of the Epworth League. In response to this, and also to a desire of my own, I write these few lines.

I have heard slighting things said about the Epworth Leagues, not by outsiders, but by members of our church, who look with fear and trembling at the social element in the League, and make such remarks as, "The League has no spirituality," or, "It is only a social affair." I confess that some time ago these things had a tendency to weaken my faith in the League, and may have the same effect upon some of our young people. Since I have come in touch with the League of which I now write, all my doubts in this matter have been shattered, and I am now more wedded to the League than ever, because I see and work in a League where there is spiritual life along with the social element, and they do not have a counter action one on the other. As I look at this League I see that it supplies a need in our church which could be met in no other way. I hold the League, therefore, as one of the grandest and most useful organizations of our church.

In the beginning there was a nucleus of about a dozen young people, who were Christian, some stronger than others, but in all a fair foundation. Our work in Bible study and the study of missions gave inspiration, which nurtured a spirit of anxiety for these at home. Before long the pastor was reminded of the aid which would be given in the event of special meetings. Such were held, and it is only right in saying that although there was no coldness on the part of the church people in general, the Leaguers were the most faithful workers. The result showed many conversions, many strengthened, and as a rule, all benefited.

At the close of the special effort, the converts were taken into the League. Some who were associate members were taken into full active relation. On the whole, they are doing good work in leading the meetings, and taking part in all the work of the League. We have not experienced that "falling away," of nearly half the converts, which is sometimes the case in a revival. One thing is specially