

Our Letter Box

Railroad Camps

A Leaguer writes from Saskatchewan calling attention to the great need of Christian work in the railroad camps of the West. There is every prospect that the number of men employed in railroad construction between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains will be more than doubled during the coming season, which means a great responsibility for Christian people, and also a great opportunity. The writer asks whether there are not some District Leagues that will assume the support of a missionary who will work in these camps. There are probably a number of theological students who would be willing to spend their summer holidays in this way if a modest provision could be made for expenses, etc. What do our readers think of this proposal? Who will help?

A Gold Mine Meeting

Mr. H. P. Nicholls, President of the League of First Methodist Church, Hamilton, sends a fine list of new subscribers from that society, totalling 18 names, accompanied by the following very suggestive letter. We trust that many Leagues will follow up this "gold mine" suggestion. It is capital.

Our increase of subscriptions this year has been effected mainly through what we named a "Gold Mine Meeting," held last Monday evening. Following the opening exercises, the leader for the evening spoke for a minute or two on the subject of gold mines, referring to the romance connected with the names given to many mines, the means by which the value of their product is ascertained when they are changing hands, and the two essentials to make them valuable—quality and quantity. It was then explained that the precise gold mine being exploited this evening was named "Knowledge" and was so named some centuries ago by two well known inhabitants of history—Job and Solomon. To prove the value of at least one section of this mine, the leader proposed producing several experts who had made investigation of the merits of the various veins in this branch, and would give expert testimony on the quality of its product.

Seven Leaguers were called on, each reading an article they had previously selected from some number of the "Era" as being, in their opinion, the most interesting they could secure, each article being from a different department of the paper. These "experts" were appropriately introduced one by one by the leader, who indicated the precise vein upon which each would give evidence. In this way were covered the vein of knowledge of oneself and one's thoughts—taken from the "Quiet Hour"; of knowledge of one's opportunities—taken from the editorial columns; branching from these, the vein of knowledge of the doings of kindred societies—from the Epworth League news; broadening yet more, knowledge of our country—from Canadian sketches; stretching out over continents, the vein of knowledge of missionary effort—from the "Mission Field"; knowledge of other lands—from "Travel Talks"; and last, but not least, the vein of fun and humor. This completed the testimony relating to the quality of the ore.

At this point two Leaguers unrolled and festooned about the walls a strip (comprised of three numbers of the "Era" cut into columns and pasted end to end) 125 feet long. This represented but

one-fourth of the yearly output of this mine. Up to this time no mention had been made of the name of this section of the mine, but here the leader gave up the secret and set forth a concise statement of facts concerning the "Era," of the quality of which paper it was left to the Leaguers to judge after having heard the evidence given; and if any were yet undecided, they were invited to inspect the many excellent illustrations from the "Era" which were to be seen about them on the walls of the meeting-room. (These had been cut from several numbers of the "Era" and placed on the walls before the meeting.) This was followed by an appeal to the Leaguers to take advantage of the opportunity which offered to secure a bona fide gold mine and "get in on the ground floor," for to-night was being offered for sale 500 feet of the brightest, most helpful and most interesting of reading matter for the reduced price of 42c. Much enthusiasm was shown throughout the entire meeting, and several took advantage of the opportunity at once. Others will probably give in their names shortly.

League Administrations

Mr. T. Arthur Briggs, of Killarney, Man., very kindly forwards a few more spicy paragraphs from the manuscript of "Forward," published by the League of that place.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

Wanted—Three first class teachers in the Sabbath-school. Only those with consecrated talents need apply.

Wanted—Five members to invest in ten dollar shares in the Forward Movement fund. Compound interest paid. A sure and splendid paying investment.

Wanted—A smart choir librarian, must be neat and methodical. The usual salary paid to the right man.

Wanted—Two new members on the Lookout Committee. Those afraid of work need not apply.

Wanted—A few more praying members at the Wednesday evening meeting. Any reasonable salary paid to those having the necessary faith. Pay orders read "Ask and ye shall receive."

Wanted—A number of our young people to prepare for service in the foreign field. In this work we are confident that they will grow rich and lay up much treasure in a bank that is both safe and sure pay.

LOST AND FOUND.

Lost—Last Sabbath afternoon by three of our teachers, a grand opportunity of helping 28 scholars along the uneven road of life.

Lost—Some valuable time during the third hymn last Sunday morning.

Lost—Several members of our Sabbath-school choir. Anyone finding them kindly placard and send them back.

Lost—A good chance to invest in the greatest paying venture of the century—the Mission Fund. A few good chances still open. Do not put off too long.

Found—An almost sure cure for the absentee—make him feel that he is really missed.

Found—Some new talent in our League. We are confident that it will increase when put to use.

Found—That appearances seem to indicate a few of our active members find it easier to break their pledge than keep it.

Found—During the last few weeks that we have a fairly good preacher of our

own. Let us keep him at home as much as possible the balance of his term.

BIRTHS.

Born—At the roll call of last consecration meeting, a fresh responsibility for the Lookout Committee.

Born—During the missionary anniversary, a generous impulse. May it live and thrive.

Born—In our League meetings, a little enthusiasm. It will prove a help and a blessing if rightly directed.

Born—To our League, a new financial problem, \$150 for the Sibley fund. Youngster appears very strong. Do you think we can raise him?

MARRIAGES.

In the Sabbath-school, by the Rev. True Love, Miss Thoughtless Scholar to Mr. Sincere Desire.

In our League meeting, by the Rev. Kind Word, Miss Little Discouraged to Mr. Hopeful Worker.

At the last consecration meeting, by the Rev. New Resolve, Miss Forget-the-Past to Mr. Press Toward-the-Mark.

DEATHS.

Died—in our last League meeting, Mr. Luke Warmness. Some "faithfulness" microbes killed him.

Died—Of want of exercise after last consecration meeting, Master Fresh Resolve. His end is untimely and is much deplored.

Died—From natural causes, Miss Unsociable. Death due to too much hand squeezing.

Unique Missionary Method

Rev. J. J. Ferguson, of Alliston, has introduced a new feature into his missionary plans in the form of a Round Table Conference. He says: "We held the Conference on Jan. 20. The day was exceedingly stormy, and the attendance rather small, but the interest was good. Our subscriptions will go over \$800 this year. The Round Table Conference deserves some of the credit. It gets the people interested and forces them to express themselves."

Here are some of the questions, used on this occasion, which were printed on small slips of paper:

1. Why have I given so little to spread the Gospel?
2. Does my last year's contribution do justice to my obligation?
3. Do donations to church purposes at home justify me in withholding my contribution from Missions?
4. Would an average of one cent per day be too much to expect from any congregation for this purpose?
5. How can you account for the man who professes to love Christ and will not obey His commands?
6. Why has our church no Missions in India or Africa?
7. What is the highest ideal you can plant in the life of your child?
8. What is the greatest need of humanity?
9. How can we meet the men of our generation at the judgment and explain to them why we did not send them the gospel?
10. What explanation shall we give our Saviour for not doing what He told us to do?
11. What is the most patriotic thing we can do for our rapidly developing country?
12. How can we best show our gratitude to God for our heritage?
13. On what condition did Christ promise to stay with His church?
14. What is the greatest difficulty that the missionary cause has to grapple with to-day?
15. How long should it take the Christian church to undertake this work?