

OUR NORTH-WEST MONDAY
LETTER.

It is now the anniversary time. St. Andrew's, Winnipeg, is celebrating its twenty-fifth birthday. Rev. John McKay M.A., of Montreal was the preacher. The missionary to India, Mr. D. F. Smith, who is being supported by the congregation took part in the services.

Thanksgiving is also here. How manifold the blessings for which we ought to thank our God. Continued mercies, fertile fields, successful enterprises, abundant harvests, contented peoples, a Christian land with gospel privileges. Yet the peril of forgetting God is an overhanging cloud. The danger of self-aggrandizement, vain boasts, grasping and rapacious greed and "graft" are apt to cause us moments which possibly may become a permanent disability of memory. Thankful we should be for the immediate blessings of which we are the happy recipients. Thankful because we have the prerogative of ascribing before the very presence of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and presenting our petitions. Thankful because God has given us the opportunity of being his witnesses. Well may the Canadian government remember with joy the season of Thankfulness; and long may a day be zealously kept for acknowledging all our good gifts.

Calls are still being prepared. Mr. Graham has declined the call to Rathwell. Mr. Bontie has accepted the call to Miami. Glenborough is proceeding with the call to a Manitoba man. Kenora and Fort William are both settled. Emerson has a man for the winter. Some few congregations are not yet settled. The cry is for more men for the mission fields. It is hoped that by doubling us, may keep our work in hand till the ice bands of winter is lifted by the balmy breezes of April and the sunny smile of spring.

St. Andrew's church, Winnipeg, continued their Silver Jubilee Anniversary all week. The third day of the celebration was marked by the ordination and designation of Mr. D. F. Smith as a missionary to India. Rev. Dr. Wilson presided.

Winnipeg had also in session last week in the Congregational church, the Christian Endeavor Society, which now comprises 61,000 societies. In looking over the list of delegates one is struck by the absence of delegates from country points and also the large tracts of our country which is wholly unrepresented. The Synod of Manitoba conference is to meet on Tuesday evening, 13th of November, in Knox church. A conference has been arranged in Knox college convention hall on Monday evening and continuing on Tuesday. Three papers are to be given by Rev. George Bennet, J. W. Little and Prof. Bland.

Rosebank, a little congregation on the C.N.R., had an induction service last week when Mr. Whiting became their minister. One of the speakers said that it was customary in some fields to arrange that one congregation should keep him humble while another kept him poor.

Rev. Dr. Bruce conducted anniversary services at Hartney last Sabbath. The Brandon people have had their anniversary lately. A petition has been forwarded to the proper authorities, complaining that certain parties are breaking the Sabbath by shooting, etc., on that day. The name of the Governor General of Canada is on the list of alleged Sabbath breakers.

The adoniferous revelations of the Ontario election courts will not be pleasant to these assembly commissioners of 1906, who dared not say a word in favor of the national school but who unjustly refused even to hear Mr. McBeth's motion on the matter.

BARNABAS McMAN

The West, Oct. 22nd., 1906.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTERDENOMINATIONAL MISSIONARY CONFERENCE AT OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, A GREAT SUCCESS.

By Earl S. Bingham.

To say that the Young People's Interdenominational Missionary Conference at Oakland was a greater success than its most sanguine supporters anticipated is simply stating the fact. The meetings were held from October 15th to 18th, in the First Presbyterian Church. Much of the success of the conference was due to the preparation made for it through extensive methods of advertising, and the coming to the coast of Mr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and Mr. William Shaw, of Boston, Treasurer of the International Christian Endeavor Union of the Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School work.

The principal speakers from the East were Presbyterians, because they were on the coast to attend the meeting of the California Synod. The other denominations were more numerous represented on the programme in consequence.

Founded on Prayer.

One of the first things done in connection with the preparation for the conference was to enlist the prayers of the General Committee, pastors, Sunday school and Young People's Society workers. It was requested that in addition to prayer in private, that in every public service prayer be made for the meetings. Beginning a week before the conference a prayer service was held every day at the church, and throughout the entire conference a continuous prayer meeting was held in one of the rooms set apart for this purpose. Between each of the addresses five minutes were planned for to devote to prayer. No small part of the success of the conference was due to this.

The Programme.

The programme of the four days' sessions included every phase of Home and Foreign Missionary work. The speakers were limited to twenty and twenty-five minutes. Each session began with reading and exposition of a passage of Scripture which was the basis for the work of that session. The meetings opened at nine o'clock in the morning and continued all day and evening excepting intermissions for lunch and dinner. It would be impossible in this brief history to tell at length what was said and done.

The first day, Monday, was preparation day, and was considered under three heads, one for each session: "The Bible Basis of Missionary Work, Hells and Hindrances, and Entering the Open Door." Under the latter title, Rev. Charles R. Brown gave his great address, "The Haystack Centennial Celebration."

Tuesday session was devoted to Home Missionary work. "City Missions, Aliens or Americans, The Country Church, and Needy American Fields," were among the topics discussed. A great address was delivered under the topic "The Freedmen," by Rev. O. E. Jones, pastor of the A. M. E. Church, which called forth great applause and admiration. Dr. Alexander Henry delivered an address and conducted a conference of Sunday School Superintendents that was very helpful.

The Wednesday session was devoted to Foreign Missionary work. "World Evangelization, Race Reform, Needs and Opportunities Abroad, Industrial Missions, Medical Missions, Educational Work, and Evangelizing Our Generation" were considered. One of the most interesting hours of the day was when

Rev. J. H. Laughlin, Superintendent of the Chinese Mission Work in San Francisco, which since the earthquake and fire has been removed to Oakland, had charge, when classes of Chinese, Japanese and Korean children appeared on the platform, and sang and recited. Their voices were good, and they sang in English our American hymns with expression and feeling. Mr. Robert E. Speer gave one of his great addresses, "Spiritual Need." Miss Carolyn MacDonald, International Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. in Japan, spoke of "The Needs and Opportunities of Missionary Work in Japan," and Rev. Ng Poon Chew, editor of the Chinese daily newspaper of Oakland, delivered an address upon "The Opportunity We Have and the Obligation We Owe to the New China That is Awakening." It was an address that called forth the sympathy and admiration of the audience.

The last day was conference day, when the delegates considered "Study, Pray Give Go: Forces at Work; and Unto the Uttermost Parts." A number of conferences were held and Mission Study was considered, and all the plans and methods for successful work for Churches, Sunday Schools, Women's Societies, and Young People's Societies were discussed.

Mr. Speer delivered an address, "A Call to Service," and the conference closed with a powerful address by Mr. Wm. Shaw on "The Young People's Society a World Force."

As an expression of what the delegates would do to promote Missionary work, a Missionary Covenant Card was signed on which the persons pledged themselves to one or more of the following things: To pray more for Missions; to work more for Missions; to pay more for Missions; to study more about Missions; to seriously consider going; to go as a Home or Foreign Missionary, if God permit.

From the number of cards signed it was shown that there was real deep and earnest interest on the part of many delegates.

Missionary Federation Formed.

The success of this conference was so encouraging that it was deemed wise to arrange for a permanent organization which is to be called "The Interdenominational Missionary Federation," which will hold similar institutions on a smaller scale in other cities in California; promote Missionary interest by exchanging of Missionary speakers between the denominations; and maintain a Bureau of Information. The permanent officers of the organization have not yet been named, but it will be controlled by a General Committee of seventy-five, selected from the different denominations. Rev. Dwight E. Potter is chairman of the Nominating Committee.

"Rejoice with us, brethren, for the Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

There are many who walk amid the most beautiful things of nature and are blind and deaf to it all. Will it be so with any who walk amid the joys of the celestial world? Is it possible for some stolid soul to be saved "so as by fire," and yet be untrained to the splendors of the Father's house—dumb and dull and uncomprehending? Certainly all will not have the same vision, but each soul, however untainted in fellowship with heavenly things, though its grasp be weak and its vision faulty, will be filled to its poor capacity. Whatever the pitcher we bring to the fountain, large or small, God will fill it to overflowing.

God gives us the vision of our yesterdays that we may turn and enter the gateway of our to-morrows with less haughtiness of spirit.