

plan of visitation that with the co-operation of the Field Secretaries the work of every part of the connexion may be extended and improved by Conventions, Institutes, Schools, Circuit rallies, and local meetings, all of such character as shall best serve the requirements of the case. He shall co-operate in all this with the duly appointed Conference, District, and local officers, and shall likewise receive their hearty assistance in making the provisions of General Conference and the policy of the General Board effective in every possible part. He shall provide for the publication and distribution of such departmental literature as the General Board may advise for the increase of general and intelligent interest in Sunday School and Young People's work. He shall edit the monthly paper now known as "The Canadian Epworth Era," under the Central Section of the Book Committee, and shall be *ex-officio* a member of said Committee. He shall supervise the making of grants of Sunday School literature to newly organized or dependent Sunday Schools according to the regulations of the General Board concerning the same. He shall have authority to receive collections and contributions for the support of the General Board and its work. He shall report to the General Board and its Executive, as directed by the Board, concerning his office and all connected therewith.

#### FIELD SECRETARIES.

The Conference ordered that two or more Field Secretaries shall be appointed by the General Board to co-operate with the General Secretary in carrying forward the work. The section defining their duties is as follows: "The duties of the Field Secretaries appointed by the General Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies shall be to make effective as far as possible the policy of the General Board throughout those sections of the field allotted to their official supervision. They shall be subject to the direction of the General Board according to such provisions as the Board may determine to govern the case."

#### FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE BOARD.

The name of the "Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund," as it has been known in the past, is changed to "General Sunday School Fund." The paragraph dealing with the offerings for this fund reads as follows: "That on the last Sunday of September in each year special offerings be taken up in the Sunday Schools, and special envelope offerings in the regular church services in support of the General Sunday School Fund, and that this Sunday be observed generally as Rally Day. It shall be the duty of Superintendents of Circuits and of Chairmen of Districts to see that such offerings are taken up."

The fund formerly known as the "General Epworth League Fund" is now designated "The Young People's Societies' Fund," and all Young People's Societies, not Epworth Leagues only, are required to make an annual contribution thereto. The Board in the past has had two treasurers, but this has not been altogether satisfactory because of overlapping interests. The new legislation provides for but one Treasurer, who shall have charge of all moneys belonging to the General Board. Dr. W. E. Willmott, 96 College Street, Toronto, was elected to this office by the Conference.

The changes effected in the Sunday School work of the Annual Conferences, the provisions made for the more effective operation of the Sunday School Committee, the duties of the District Sunday School Secretary, as well as other matters of interest and importance dealt with by the General Conference in relation to the local Sunday Schools, will be found recorded on the Sunday School pages of this issue. Every person concerned in the good management of our schools should carefully study those pages, 242 and 243.

#### THE EPWORTH LEAGUE PLEDGES.

The attention of every Epworth Leaguer is called to the changes made in regard to membership tests in the League. Formerly a pledge was exacted from every person joining the League, whether adult or junior member. Memorials were received from several Conferences asking for a simpler form of active members' pledge, and at least one Conference requested the total abolition of the pledges and the substitu-

tion of church membership as the test of active membership in the League. Very careful and prolonged consideration of this problem of the pledges was given in committee, with the result that the following course was recommended to the Conference, and was adopted without dissent. The matter now stands thus: There are three kinds of members in the Epworth League: Honorary, Active, and Associate. No change is made in the Honorary, which remains, therefore, as in the past. The article in the Constitution dealing with membership now reads:

"Membership in the League shall be constituted by election at the monthly consecration meeting, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Active members shall sign the active members' pledge, and associate members shall sign the following declaration in affixing their names to the roll: '*As an Associate member I subscribe to the Constitution of the Epworth League, and will endeavor to promote its interests and sustain its character as a Christian Society.*'"

The pledge now required from the Active members is much briefer and less detailed than the one formerly used. Its simplicity and comprehensiveness should commend it to all, and we trust its use will be very general in all our Societies. It reads:

*"Trusting in the help of the Holy Spirit, I promise that I will follow the example of my Saviour and Lord, and make an honest effort daily, in all things, to do the will of God, my Heavenly Father."*

It is purposed to issue but one form of pledge card—the Active pledge as given above—and to have the names of the Associate members signed by the persons themselves on the membership roll of the Society. The use of the one pledge should unify all young Christians in the membership of the League, for no person can be so strictly conscientious as to object to its clear statement of principle, as many did to the former pledge, with its detailed inventory of daily duties. And it is believed that to put our young Christians on honor to carry out the will of God in the "all things" of daily life will give them a higher sense of responsibility and of loyalty than merely to confine them to certain well-defined rules of daily conduct. The new pledge is by no means less emphatic or comprehensive than the old, but more inclusive than ever, though it does not prescribe certain duties or proscribe certain habits, but makes it a personal concern between the Christian and God. There can be no higher standard nor any more glorious purpose than that announced by our Lord: "I do always those things that please Him." Our new pledge binds the individual to just such study of the Heavenly Father's will, and to a similar spirit of loyal obedience thereto in all things of daily life. There was no objection to it in Conference.

#### THE JUNIOR MEMBERS' PLEDGE.

A similar restatement has been made for the Junior League. The Associate members' pledge has been abolished, and the Active members' pledge simplified to read as follows:

*"Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, I promise that I will try to follow Him that I may learn to do the will of God, my Heavenly Father, in all things."*

Associate members are those boys and girls who wish to attend, and who promise to keep good order when at the meetings. A similar method of keeping the roll of members is advised for the Juniors as for the adults.

#### RECONSTRUCTION OF DEPARTMENTS.

On page 238 of this issue there will be found a full statement of the nature and purposes of the newly formed Fourth Department. It has been realized for some time that the Epworth League was lacking in virility, and that there was needed in its scope and plan something that would give practical form to the study and work done. The new department of Citizenship should rally to the standard of the League the brainiest and best young men in every community. Study the outline of its character and place as a distinct department in Epworth League life, and we think it will appeal to all as a most worthy enterprise.

**Thirty-three persons are pictured in this number. Who are they?**