

# DIGEST OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE Annual Convention of Epworth League and Sunday School Workers of the Manitoba Conference of the Methodist Church

HELD IN ZION METHODIST CHURCH, WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 3, 4, 5, 1913

This Digest is issued for the sake of information to Pastors and Workers in the Epworth Leagues, Young People's Societies and Sunday Schools throughout the Manitoba Conference

## To the Epworth Leagues and Sunday School Workers of the Conference.

We hereby gladly present to our constituency the Fourth Annual Digest of our Conference Young People's Convention. This Convention, held in Zion Church, Winnipeg, was the most representative of any of the past gatherings, as every district within the Conference was represented. This is the first time that such has been the case, and hence in matter of delegation it was the "best yet." The number of circuits and missions represented was about 100. There were 270 registered delegates of whom 212 were from points outside of Winnipeg. 66 Pastors were in attendance. The Convention gathering represents a force of 25,967 identified with our Sunday Schools, and 5,503 associated with our Epworth Leagues and other Young People's Societies. Still there is a vast field apparently unworked for there are at least 84 appointments where there are no Methodist or Union Schools, and the number of appointments is greater than the number of Societies by 265.

It is not possible to furnish in this digest a detailed report of the inspiring messages conveyed by the church leaders and special speakers who addressed the Convention. This information we presume has already been received by all local Societies and Schools through reports taken back by the several delegates to their respective Leagues and Schools. We wish to record here those features of the business proceedings which the Convention that should be kept before our Pastors and workers for their guidance and inspiration during the coming year.

One reason for the splendid success of the Convention was the hearty co-operation of the local organizations of the city and the generous treatment accorded the delegates by the ladies of the several churches, both in the matter of billeting and entertainment. The musical features of the Convention were splendidly carried out under efficient leadership. Resolutions of appreciation were carried by the Convention thanking all those who thus so ably assisted at the various sessions.

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE.

Your committee desires to express its gratitude to Almighty God for the unmistakable evidences which abound on every side that He has been pleased graciously to smile upon and bless the work our Young People's Societies have striven to do.

We can confidently say that progress has been made. Interest increases. Higher ideals prevail. Enthusiasm rises. Spiritual life flows deeper and deeper.

We desire to thank each one of all local societies for their hearty co-operation and prompt response to circulars sent broadcast. We believe a "world's record" has been established in the matter of replies received in answer to a circular card sent out. Every Minister in the Conference responded save two—One of these was in B.C. on sick leave, and the other a probationer, had gone to Wesley College.

There are not as many Epworth Leagues as there should be. We cannot help feeling that many appointments would greatly benefit were such societies multiplied; nevertheless in the existing Leagues excellent work is being done.

In the great majority of cases Leagues are operating four departments, but the Junior League has been almost entirely neglected. We urge, therefore, that an earnest endeavor be made to promote, wherever possible, Junior Epworth Leagues and run them on constitutional lines. *There is nothing which can take the place of such Societies.*

We find that almost all societies which report large membership and sustained interest use the programmes arranged by the Young People's Department of the Church. Local Societies should think long and earnestly before discarding the programme which is the result of much careful and expert labor by the wisest of our leaders and the ripe fruit of wide and long experience.

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

From reports received it would appear that the activities of the Christian Endeavor Department have been largely confined to the study of the topic. A few societies undertook the special week of Evangelism in accordance with the recommendation of the Brandon Convention of 1912, and were greatly blessed. The recommendation for the coming year is the establishment of "Personal Work Bands." Let a few consecrated young people meet for half an hour, lay their plans, inspire and strengthen one another by prayer and testimony; and then go two by two forth to seek individuals whom they desire to win for Christ. This method yields fruit one hundred fold; does not need to wait for a large beginning, and can be continued twelve months of every year. If an inspiring text book is used, M. Clay Trumbull's "Individual Work" (35c) is excellent.

We commend Bethel (Hartney Circuit) Epworth League. The pastor preaches in the morning. The League holds its Christian Endeavor meeting each Sunday evening, and meets during the week for the work of the other departments. Rural points might copy this example and profit thereby.

We desire to call attention to the fact that in a great many of the homes of our people, no systematic study of the Bible is made, nor is family worship observed, and that in many cases boys and girls are growing up without proper conception of the truth or to their duty as citizens. We therefore recommend that special efforts be put forth by Pastors, parents and all members of our Epworth Leagues and Sunday Schools to have family worship introduced into all our homes.

The Missionary Department exhibits a healthful determination to advance. Aims are high.

We find however a lamentable lack of precise information as to the function of the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions. In view of the fact that some of the Leagues seem to be entirely unaware of the specific object of their missionary givings, it is desirable that the District Executive be charged with the responsibility of conducting a thorough campaign of the Leagues and Schools of their respective districts. Suggestions are: Pastors to give an address upon the subject. District Missionary Vice-Presidents inform the local officers what missionary is supported by their

own district and where he is working. Introduce the *Missionary Bulletin*. Use the Missionary Post Office. Correspond directly with your missionary. Write Dr. F. S. Stephenson for any information you wish.

The Convention concurred in the report of the committee on policy of the Epworth Leagues and Sunday School re foreign work which is as follows, provided that definite action in the matter be not longer delayed than next Conference:—

1. That no more men be sent to Europe at present.

2. Several places of usefulness are open for Missionary activity by our Leagues; e.g. Port William Docks, Rural Itinerant Mission, La Pas English school, etc., each of which requires help, but inasmuch as a western commission on Missionary policy has been appointed to take advisement of the Missionary work of the Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta Conferences, your committee further recommends that no policy be decided upon before Conference, but that money received be sent to the Mission rooms to be held in trust for the Epworth Leagues and Sunday Schools of the Manitoba Conference.

The following report of the Missionary Givings of the Young People's Department of the Manitoba Conference for the past year will be found interesting:

District	E.L.	S.S.	Total
1—Winnipeg, North	\$1,024	\$ 863	\$1,887
2—Winnipeg, South	128	477	605
3—Port Arthur	140	419	559
4—Rainy River		45	45
5—Carman	419	382	801
6—Souris	167	26	193
7—Roland	318	290	608
8—Crystal City	277	419	696
9—Delaoraine	50	20	70
10—Portage la Prairie	134	205	339
11—Brandon	382	210	592
12—Neepawa	463	292	755
13—Birtle	333	353	686
14—Dauphin	115	108	223
15—Swan River		23	23
16—Lake Winnipeg		3	3
Total	\$3,950	\$4,145	\$8,095

The Districts showing an increase are: Winnipeg North, Winnipeg South, Port Arthur, Carman, Delaoraine, Portage la Prairie, Brandon and Birtle. There is an increase of \$696 over the year before, and there is yet to be provided for, in order to meet the full amount we are airing at, viz: \$10,000 about \$1,195. Let each District aim to make a good increase this year.

The allocation of missionaries for the Manitoba Conference is as follows:

Districts	Missionaries.
1—Winnipeg North.	Dr. Jas. Endicott.
Winnipeg South.	J. S. Woodsworth.
Port Arthur.	J. S. Wood.
Rainy River.	S. D. Kern.
2—Carman	Dr. Jas. Cox
3—Roland	W. E. Jones
4—Crystal City	T. F. Welsh
5—Brandon	E. N. Meuser, Ph.D.
6—Souris & Delaoraine	J. W. A. Henderson
7—Neepawa	A. O. Rose
8—Birtle	J. H. Lowes
9—Portage la Prairie	W. B. Alberton
Dauphin, Swan River	