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Toronto, August 12, 1897.

THE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

THE Christian public have by no means lost interest in the work of the Lord's Day Alliance during the holidays. The quiet mission work carried on is watched with deep sympathy and the information that a more active propaganda has been decided upon meets with wide spread approbation.

It is proposed to hold a Provincial Conference in Toronto on Friday the 10th of September, when the travelling facilities in force during the Industrial Fair will meet the convenience of delegates and friends wishing to attend.

One of the features of the Conference will be organization work. It is pointed out that the Alliance is a provincial body, with provincial interests on its shoulders, and steps will be taken by which the duties of the Alliance can be discharged effectively on provincial lines. This decision will involve the formation of many new branches throughout the province, and of awakening a practical interest in the proper observance of the Lord's Day in every community. The necessity for a comprehensive plan of campaign is quite obvious and the proposed conference has been called none too soon. As a matter of fact much valuable time has been already lost. The political conventions held this summer ought to have been taken advantage of, as we some time ago advised, to pledge candidates for legislative honors against legislation permitting encroachments on the sanctity of the Sabbath and in favor of new restrictive laws. In dealing with the members of the Local Legislature the Alliance must, not merely prove the justice of its cause, but in addition be prepared to bring forward the never failing argument of ballots, and in order to do so the gauge of battle must be thrown down in the constituencies.

The success of the Conference will mean a great deal. It will enable the Alliance to secure the systematic co-operation of its friends throughout the province and therefore it is of great importance that ministers, elders, and all interested should keep the meeting prominently before the people, so that the country may be prepared for the conference, and that its object may be well known in every section of the country. It is the question of the hour.

Whole-souled enthusiasm is necessary. Let us have a rally worthy of Sabbath-loving Ontario, and which will produce the best results.

MONTREAL GRADUATES.

From the 4th to the 8th of October—from Monday to Friday—a Re-union and Institute will be held by the graduates of the Montreal College, for which an important programme has been provided. The subjects, as will be seen, are of practical value, seasonable and interesting. Quite fitly, the first day is devoted to a discussion on “The work of the Holy Spirit” to be opened by Rev. Prof. Ross, B. D. On Tuesday the topics will be “Recent Discussions in Old Testament Criticism” opened by Rev. Prof. Scrimger, D. D., from whom an able contribution on the subject may be expected. A discussion on “The Minister and his Reading” will be led by Rev. D. Currie, B. D., and on the evening of the same day Rev. Robert Johnston, B. D., will contribute a paper on “The Church and the Young,” which ought to call forth some practical suggestions from some of the church leaders who are expected to be present.

A narrow field will be occupied on the Wednesday, but by no means a less fertile one than on the other days. The list consists of papers on “The Preparatory Course,” by Rev. Robert Eadie; “The Question of Fees in Arts,” by Rev. Principal MacVicar, D. D.; “The Course of Study in Theological Colleges,” by Rev. G. D. Bayne, B. A., and the “Opening Lecture,” by the Rev. Principal MacVicar, D. D.

What will doubtless be an important day will be opened on Thursday by a paper by Rev. Dr. Warden, on “Missionary Finance,” a subject absorbing the attention of missionary workers these days. Rev. S. Rondeau, B. A., will follow on the “French Problem,” and on account of the difficulties experienced by the Methodist Church in this field, more than usual public interest will attach to the facts and opinions which the conference will give birth to. “Foreign Missions” will occupy the evening of this day.

The closing meetings on Friday, promise well. “The Pardusia” will be introduced by Rev. D. J. Fraser, B. D., to be followed by “The place of Evangelists in the Church” led by Rev. Prof. Campbell, LL. D., and the Institute will be closed by a discussion on “The Relation of the Church to Social Problems,” to be opened by Rev. James Barclay, D. D., who is known as a broad student of the subject, and who may be counted on for a strong statement of opinion.

The Re-Union and Institute will doubtless prove to be beneficial to those who will participate in its sessions and the committee in charge may be credited with having laid out a really good syllabus.

LASHING THE PRESS.

The summer holidays may be responsible for the unusually vehement outburst against the secular press, at present filling the columns of many esteemed contemporaries. When the pastors are resting from their labors in some quiet rural retreat, or on the ocean blue, the church courts enjoy a recess, the congregations a breathing spell, and at such a time the editor scans the horizon for a “live” subject with more than ordinary anxiety. Anything passable will do, and what more easy and convenient than the daily press, with its reports, its pictures and its quack advertisements. It is always easy to scold. There is no limit to strong epithet, and very little difficulty in the management of reproving phrases. And the essay can be made to appear quite effective from the standpoint of the moral censor. If the scarcity of good “copy” be the cause, we must not be too severe on the laxity of principle involved in such work, for we all know how the critics do pounce on a dull page, and perhaps the public too, see through the