



Something Doing in Sarnia

At the March meeting of the Executive Committee of Devine Street Epworth League, Sarnia, the following among other important items of business were resolved upon:

The committee passed a recommendation approving the formation of a tennis club in connection with the League, the club to be under separate organization, conducting its own finances, etc., but to be connected with the League by a clause in its constitution allowing only members of Devine Street Epworth League to become members of the tennis club.

A series of debates was arranged with one of the other Leagues of the town; a social for March 14th, and a lantern lecture entitled "A Trip to the Holy Land" with a lunch when we get back, for March 21. These social and literary evenings are all to be held on some night other than Monday, so as not to interfere with our regular meetings.

Arrangements were partially completed for a "past-members' meeting." A list was made up of all the members who have belonged to the League during the past ten years. Those members who have moved away and who can be located will be written to and requested to send a letter to the present League to be read at a meeting to be held some time in April. At this meeting some of the old members who are now on the honorary members list will conduct the meeting, and every member who formerly attended but has left the League, will be personally asked to be present at the meeting if at present living in town.

A move was made towards forming a "win-one" class, to revive evangelistic work in the League. Three members of the Executive Committee will each give a three-minute talk on the subject next Monday evening, with the aim of enthusing the members of the League with an interest in this work. After the three talks, the President will appoint new members to "win-one" in the work by taking the "win-one" pledge.

The Missionary Committee were instructed to place a missionary question-box in the League-room. This box will be placed on the wall of the room, so that Leaguers can ask questions on missionary subjects. The box will be opened monthly and the questions answered by the Missionary Committee at the regular missionary meeting.

With regular meetings and an aggressive spirit such as is manifest in these resolutions and plans for increased activity, nothing but a growing measure of success need be expected. We congratulate President G. B. Storey on the prospects ahead of him and his League.

Practical Training

We commend the following letter to all our readers, especially those who are in search of new and attractive methods of work that combine entertainment, profit and permanent benefit. The Citizenship Department of every League might well lay plans to emulate the work of this enterprising Hamilton League.—Ed.:

"The Epworth League of Charlton Avenue Methodist Church held an oratorical contest in collaboration with the Royal Temple system, and it was a huge success that a subsequent elocutionary contest for the same purpose was held later. This was even more successful, a third vice-president does not know what to do to make the literary evening interesting. I would urge upon any who wish to try these contests. The Hamilton Spectator said: 'The contest was an extremely interesting matter made up of one of the most interesting and enjoyable affairs held in the city in some time.' The silver certificate presented at the door amounted to nearly four times the expenses. The silver certificate filled with temperance enthusiasm, and the Literary Committee was satisfied. No one can over-estimate the literary advantage from an educational standpoint if a thousand Canadian audiences listened to well-thought-out addresses upon the subject of

temperance given by our own Canadian young men, says the Royal Templar.

The winner receives a beautifully engraved silver medal. All recipients receive 75 per cent. receive a certificate of honor and their names are placed on the honor roll of Canadian orators. The contest was a mere trifle. Particulars may be had by writing T. J. Shanko, editor Royal Templar, 400 Front Street East, Toronto, Ontario. The elocutionary contest is similar to the oratorical contest. Instead of original orations, temperance recitations are given. A medal is also given to the winner.

The winners of silver medals in either contests are eligible to compete for a gold medal, and the winners of gold medals to compete for a diamond medal. The elocutionary contest held by Charlton Avenue Methodist Church Epworth League was also highly successful, and the following from the Hamilton Times, which gave nearly a column to a report of it speaks for itself: 'Six young ladies, all members of the League, comprised the class of contestants, and it was deemed remarkable that the Young People's Society of one church could produce both a band of young men for an oratorical contest such as that of about a month ago, and a band of young women for a reciting contest. Hoping that this information may gladden the hearts of some third vice-president who has 'run out' of ideas, I am yours, very truly,

"PERCY E. NORTH,

"Pres. Hamilton District E. L."

Circuit Organization

We have repeatedly recommended that circuits comprising two or more Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues should form a circuit organization for the furtherance of their work. This means intensive cultivation of the field, and is what is most needed. The larger the convention or rally the more general the subject matter.

The greatest good results, not from the great central gatherings representing a wide extent of territory, but from the small local assemblies where matters of immediate practical concern are freely and fully canvassed and a local solution sought. Great conventions frequently spend themselves in oratorical proleptics, but such a rally as is described in the following report must be fraught with much practical benefit. The more of such meetings that are held the better.

RAVENNA CIRCUIT RALLY.

A gathering of unique interest was the First Annual Rally of the Ravenna Circuit held in Victoria church on Tuesday, February 28th. This rally was of the form of a convention or institute in which all the papers and addresses were by the local workers of the circuits, with the exception of one outside specialist. There were three sessions. The morning session was devoted to the discussion of church matters generally as "Missionary Work," "Church Entertainments," and "The Church's Losses and Gains."

The afternoon session was the Sunday School Rally, when the Sunday School workers discussed the problem of the special work. "The Teacher between Sundays," "What to do on Review Sunday," "Supplemental Teaching," and "Children as Members of the Church," were some of the subjects discussed. During the afternoon session a "Round Table Conference on Sunday School Work" was conducted by Rev. F. L. Farewell, B.A., when he read of blackboard and leaflet, question and answer, a most inspiring and helpful heart-to-heart conference was held. Teachers told of their difficulties and of their successes, and were mutually greatly heartened and helped. The evening session was

the Epworth League Rally. Addresses on "The 'Missionary Work of the League,'" on "The Young Man and the League," were given by Leaguers of the circuit. Then followed an exceedingly practical and beautifully illustrated address by Mr. Farewell on "The Boy Problem." Throughout the rally the singing was led by a union choir of the circuit. The visiting friends were right royally entertained by the Victoria young people. The influence of this great meeting will doubtless be felt throughout the year in church, Sunday School and League work. The people are very grateful to their pastor, Rev. R. S. Fralick, for planning and carrying to so successful an end this rally, which they purpose shall be an annual affair.

A Pastor's Testimony

When in Beausville recently attending the sessions of a Sunday School Institute, the Editor heard many expressions of gratification from various persons regarding the last consecration meeting of the Epworth League. From the pastor, Rev. J. Truax, he has secured some information. The letter says in relation to the first meeting in March:

"On Monday evening last this meeting took place at the usual hour in connection with it may be of interest to other Leaguers, as I suggest a few points. First we had bright, but devotional, singing, followed by prayer, all kneeling, as, by vote, we decided months ago that this was the most fitting attitude. After song and the lesson another prayer period followed, when several engaged most helpfully in sentence prayers. We then, in an original, bright, interrogative manner, had the subject presented so that many informally took part. 'The Value of Your Life and Mine' was discussed by the president, Miss J. Albright, who developed the subject by a most profitable way. It was a very interesting and fitting attitude, so interesting it had become to all.

It was mentioned that we would not respond to our names by the formal 'present,' but give experience or expressive lines. Such a delightful response was realized many members who had not done so before gave short but effective experience that the meeting felt by the large number present cannot be overstated, it was deeply enriching to all. Spirituality, developed by prayer, study and experience, is the soul of the League."

A Pastor's Party

The Mount Royal Juniors discovered the date of their pastor's birthday, some time ago, and through the Birthday Convener, invited him to meet with them the following Wednesday, as they were going to have a party to help him celebrate. Children and mothers filled almost every available seat when the hour for the short programme arrived.

Two interesting items (a song and recitation) were given by the pastor, Mr. Young, and the Birthday Convener and President, and half of the Juniors, presented him with a fountain pen. The Birthday prayer was sung twice, for we too of three years, and afterwards for the pastor, who very carefully dropped in the proper number of pennies.

One of the mothers baked a birthday cake, which was presented by two boys, with instructions to light the candles. When these were extinguished—to the delight of the children, Mr. Young cut the cake and shared it with them. Refreshments were afterwards served by the Juniors.

The Amherst, N.S., Epworth League has added a reading-room and gymnasium to its equipment and is making a strong effort to interest the young men. In such an important centre the League should make provision for everything needed for the culture of the whole man, and Amherst is moving along right lines in its enterprise.