

The Presbyterian Review.

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Toronto, July 16, 1896.

Sunday Cars.

Writing to the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, "An Elder" says:—"While in common with many others I recognize the gravity of the due observance of the Lord's Day, and the admirable work done by your paper during the last campaign, I write to suggest that you may bring on a fight by merely raising the question prematurely, as your very defence may challenge an attack which otherwise would not be made." Following on the heels of the letter of which this is an extract came an interview with a member of the Lord's Day Alliance who called on account of our articles in the last two issues. He believed a vote would not be sought for this year; possibly it might at the Municipal Elections next January, as it would then suit Mayor Fleming as an election cry on which he would win a second term. "There's nothing to fear in the meantime" was the summing up of his forecast. Now a word of explanation is in order. To our esteemed correspondent, who does not wish us to use his name, we have to say that we have not begun the campaign. We noted the fact, commented upon it and warned our friends. He cannot have read the newspapers containing the articles and letters in favor of a Sunday car service for Toronto. The writers made a distinct demand for such a service and the subject was actually launched on the public before we drew attention to it. Our warning was no false alarm, for the discussion of the subject is developing rapidly and to all appearance will take the form of a definite demand for a vote before long. It must not be forgotten that an agitation for a Sunday car service in Toronto, to be a hopeful undertaking, must be fanned into life a considerable time before a vote is taken. The soil has to be prepared and the seed sown, which, in time, it is hoped will bring forth a rich harvest; and should the prognostications prove a little premature, as to the date of the vote, the public may depend upon it that the vote will be taken as soon as the promoters believe the time opportune. It may be at the municipal elections or earlier, or later, but the fact remains that the Sunday car men are now in the field and will not quit the fight until the issue has been decided. That any one should have been deceived as to the meaning of the first move only proves what we pointed out from the beginning, viz., the astuteness of the movers in following a circuitous route to their objective point.

Let there be no mistake. The gauge of battle has been thrown down and must be promptly taken up. This truth ought to get into the minds of ministers and people before the holidays pass away so that their plans shall be arranged for active work in September. The enemy must not be allowed to steal a march. Their

emissaries are busy and it is noticeable that the warm weather and the holidays do not interfere with their constant efforts.

Financial Estimates.

The statement of money required for the year 1896-97 as estimated by the Boards of the Church has been issued. It is to be hoped that ministers and office-bearers will not stow it away in their desks for perusal "after the holidays," a euphemism as fatal to many reports as Felix's "convenient season." Now is the time, when the estimates are fresh from the Treasurer and when the echoes of the General Assembly are still ringing in their ears, to con over the figures carefully, and to take to heart the requirements of the church's work.

The statement is issued as a guide to "Presbyteries and congregations in the amount at which they should aim, as well as in the appropriation of their contributions." It is suggested that Presbyteries should apportion certain amounts of money to the congregations within their bounds, according to their ability, and thus arrive at a definite system of giving. Rev. Dr. Warden remarks that "in Presbyteries where this has been done, and where the supervision of each scheme has been committed to some one member of Presbytery, the results have been generally much more satisfactory than when left to each congregation to give as it pleased."

The estimate sum amounts to \$348,940, as follows:—Home Missions, \$80,000; Augmentation of Stipends, \$28,000; Foreign Missions, \$78,600; Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, \$50,840; French Evangelization (including Pointe Aux Trembles Schools), \$19,000; Colleges, Knox, \$18,500; Queen's, \$4,000; Montreal, \$5,000; Manitoba (exclusive of amount from Synods of Manitoba and British Columbia), \$5,000; Minister's, Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$10,500; Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$13,500; Assembly Fund, \$6,000.

It is stated that an average contribution of \$2.00 per member would meet the demands of all the schemes. This ought to be aimed at generally. An important point is to make prompt payments to the Treasurer as in that way interest charges will be saved.

French Evangelization.

As in previous years the collection for this scheme is appointed to be taken up on the last Sabbath of July, and it is fitting that the contributions should be even more liberal than in previous years for various reasons.

In the first place the contributions for last year did not quite equal the expenditure though this had been kept down to as low a point as possible without absolutely giving up some portion of the work. It is true that a small balance was reported to the Assembly, but this was owing to the fact that the deficiency was made up out of the Ross bequest. It is not desirable that this should be repeated. It would be much better to devote this money in some special way that would permit or encourage the extension of the work. The ordinary expenditure ought to be met out of the ordinary receipts and it is hoped that this year they may prove sufficient. They will be so if every congregation and mission station in the church does its duty.

A second reason for liberality is the hopeful condition of the work at the present time. The work done in past years is now telling on the condition of French Catholic thought. Some part of the surprising result of the recent election is no doubt due to the