

Messages from the Conference Epworth League Presidents

To the Epworth Leaguers of the Newfoundland Conference:

Has not the time come when we shall give many more young men to the ministry of our church at home and on the mission field? In union with our Sunday Schools we ought to provide the salaries of three missionaries within the next four years. The present is the most golden hour that has ever dawned upon our Methodism. It is also the hour of her greatest need. The Master has challenged our faith and devotion by flinging wide open such doors of opportunity as never were opened before. How shall we answer His pleading appeal. "Take me, Leaguers, to my sheep who perish?" He cannot reach them unless you take or send Him. Will you fail him?

Carbonear, Nfld.

T. B. DARRY.

Fellow Leaguers of the Montreal Conference:

This year bids fair to bring to us, as Christian workers, a wider range of possible activities than ever. The "temperance wave" now passing over our country challenges us to get out on our boats and ride on the crest to moral victory for our country's sake. The new missionary spirit will create a demand for volunteers to occupy new posts of service for Christ and the church in the organizations it will in part call into existence, and in part revitalize. The sociological trend of thought will urge us to show our faith by larger works of righteousness. In view of all this, let the motto of each League member be, "I am ready. Here I am, send me."

The record of the year will tell a tale of splendid advance in connection with all our Leagues if we prove "Ready" for the opportunities of service as they arrive.

WALTER S. LENNON.

Shawville, Que.

Dear Fellow Leaguers of the Saskatchewan Conference:

Let me again remind you of our course of study in "Christian Sociology." The problems of our age are social, to know them and what they bid us to do is the sum of knowledge. It is our duty in this new land to so shape and mould all national, civic and ecclesiastical institutions and to so adjust all human relationships that man will find it as easy as possible to work out his noblest destiny.

We must drive out the liquor traffic and all its attendant evils; stand ever as an open rebuke for all forms of political corruption; guard our coasts against trusts that would oppress our citizens; make for co-operation in all industries and utilities to the highest good of all; in short, build up a Christianity that in all human activities incorporates the three laws of Christ's kingdom—service, sacrifice, and love.

E. VAL TILTON.

Davidson, Sask.

To the Epworth Leagues of Nova Scotia:

My contact with the aggressive, consolidated League work of the West has convinced me that this work can be made a success and that in Nova Scotia we have much to do to realize it. At the last meeting of the Board of Missions, in Vancouver, I was astonished at the exhibit of literature bearing on the Forward Movement for Missions. This was attractive in form, rich in content, and offered on terms which make it available to all. Some Leagues in Nova Scotia have none of this or are very inadequately supplied. A liberal supply of this literature in circulation among the members of all our Leagues would produce good results. The League should have the hearty support of the Pastor. It can win this by making itself indispensable to the Church. Much can be done by every Leaguer making an effort to be present and take some part in the Mid-week Prayer-meeting. Let us make our influence felt there. Some Leaguers are suffering because no Junior Department has been organized. Let us strive to have a complete society in every place, and to this end organize the Juniors. Every vice-president of the Conference organization should make an effort to help the Department he or she represents. Find out what is being done in your Department throughout the Conference and how the work can be strengthened. This can be done by correspondence. Let us realize that our Conference organization cannot run itself. Let us, as officers and members, by consecration and faith, seek the "Power from on High," and thus make the Epworth League the power it should be throughout the Conference.

A. C. BORDEN.

Berwick, N.S.

To the Hamilton Conference Leagues:

The most pressing duty of the Epworth League at the present juncture is to train and furnish competent leaders for the church of to-morrow. I respectfully suggest that the next set of topics for your League studies ought to contain a series of studies setting forth the claims of the ministry and the mission field on the lives of the strongest, healthiest, most cultured, and most devoted young men and young women in our church. One of the great truths which needs special emphasis is that no man or woman can attain unto any higher honor than that of being a minister or a missionary. Further, our young people must be taught to gladly accept the sacrifice involved in church leadership. Then we will hear less from graduates and their parents and friends of the trite untruth that "by serving God in the ranks of the laity one can do just as much good."

J. R. PATTERSON.

Brantford, Ont.

To the Epworth Leaguers of the Bay of Quinte Conference:

My first wish for every Leaguer is the happiness that springs from right doing and the consciousness of divine approval. Then that life's duties may all be performed with cheerful and kind faces, that you may live in daily appreciation of the beauties of nature and of all other interests that are divinely bestowed, that you will "look up" to Christ as your Great Example, "lift up" your ideals to higher planes of living and rise to their level.

My first wish for every League is that its members may labor together in harmony, giving glory to God and good-will to each other. Then that your zeal for missions may increase, and that should there be any among our students who, regarding their life-work, are halting midway between doubt and indecision, between the call of the church and the call of commerce, that the Holy Spirit may help them decide for God. I wish that the spirit of devotion may pervade every meeting, helping each member to be attentive and reverent, that the Bible may be kept open in all your studies, that it may have its proper place in every life and every league, "for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and thou shalt have good success."

FRED. R. FOLEY.

Bowmanville, Ont.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE.

To the Epworth Leagues of all the Conferences:

Loyalty to wise and an enthusiastic leadership is essential to progress in our League activities. Your General Board is the organ where connexional plans are made. But your Conference Presidents are the Brigade Commanders, who, with their Executives, must arrange and manage the local campaigns.

The enthusiasm of a great enterprise may thrill us with high purpose, but a spirit of indomitable zeal is necessary to realize it. The inspiration of a great host may infuse a life into flagging spirits, but unity and co-operation all along the line, and persistence in all our undertakings, must bind us together in one grand connexional spirit, that will prove that "we are not divided, all one body we."

This call to united co-operation is the dominant note of this page. The Conference Presidents who granted our request for a "message," in time for this issue, have but one interest at heart—the prosperity of the League under their care. But devoted though they are, they cannot realize it alone. They need your help. May they depend on you? No League is so insignificant that its influence can be spared without loss. No Leaguer is so weak that his aid is of no value. For how much will you count in an advance movement in your local society? How far from your League be trusted in a Forward March of the whole connexional army?

Let no local or personal jealousies mar your peace or hamper your influence. Be true to yourself. Be loyal to your Leader. Be active in your League. The Kingdom of God in your own heart is in danger if you are either prayerless or unwary. The Kingdom of Christ in this laity is assailed by the forces of evil and an unbroken front is demanded of all Christ's followers by their Sovereign Lord. Let us all, from this Central office to the remotest League within our extended territory, unite in prayer and work for conquest over every foe to righteousness, in the Name of our Great Commander—Christ Jesus the Eternal King.

S. T. BARTLETT.

Toronto.