



The sincere thanks of the Editor are hereby tendered to all who, by their strong and timely contributions, assisted Mr. Farewell, who had full charge of the paper, in providing such excellent material as the last issue of THE ERA. It was a great help to the Editor to know that during his absence "on the road," the interests of our readers were so well looked after, and he heartily joins in the general approval of Mr. Farewell's fine work as Editor of the July paper.

This issue contains a lot of excellent summer reading. It is not arranged after its usual form, but our young people will find much to interest and entertain them. The topics will be found in order towards the end of the paper. Special attention is called to the Round Table. There will be found a number of live questions propounded at the Wellington Summer School. Study them. The pictures running through these pages are for the most part from "shots" made by the Editor during the B. C. Conference and at the San Francisco Convention. His camera was busy at odd times during his Western trip, and many attractive and instructive pictures may be looked for in forthcoming issues.

Our next issue—the September number—will be particularly helpful in preparing for Rally Day in the Sunday School. Some exceedingly suggestive articles on Robert Raikes and his times will be given. Some of the choicest addresses of the San Francisco Convention have also been secured and will provide excellent material for study by our teachers. Enough additional copies of the September paper should be ordered by your league and school to put one in every family in the congregation. Any number of copies may be obtained at five cents each, postpaid, if ordered in time. Do not overlook this important item.

Already many orders are being received for Rally Day Programmes. Every Sunday School Superintendent and Minister has been written to on the



THE CANADIANS WHO CELEBRATED AT SAN FRANCISCO, CORONATION DAY.

matter. A splendid service commemorating of Robert Raikes, the immortal founder of the modern Sunday School, has been prepared. It is in a neat eight page folder, is clear and comprehensive, yet simple enough to be easily rendered by an ordinary Sunday School. See your Superintendent at once, please, and if he has not yet placed his order, remind him of it, and ask him to send in his card to the General Secretary at once. The printed services are supplied absolutely free of cost to the local schools. We want every one to enjoy them.

Several of the Annual Conferences have asked that October be especially devoted to a campaign for an increase of membership in our Leagues, and that the General Board make provision for the work involved by guiding the local societies in their general plans. This we believe to be quite feasible, and more will be heard of it by personal correspondence with the League Presidents, to whom the General Secretary will address a letter as soon as the Executive of the Board has consented to the campaign and expressed itself as to the best method of procedure. This preliminary note will prepare the Presidents for the enterprise, and, we trust, will set all of them thinking, praying, and planning for a year of unprecedented prosperity.

The Thirtieth International Sunday School Convention was held in San Francisco, Cal., from June 20 to 27. I need scarcely say that it was a great gathering. All such are. But few, if any, previous conventions have been as great in the character of the themes discussed, the prominence of the speakers, and the issues involved. In point of numbers, every International Sunday School Convention is large, and this was no exception.

The Coliseum, where the main meetings were held, is capable of accommodating several thousands of hearers, and after the opening session, this huge building was quite constantly occupied with audiences averaging perhaps three thousand people. Various churches

were used for Departmental Conferences. At no previous convention have these separate sessions contained so full or so strong a programme. No person could attend them all, and it was my privilege to be present at those devoted to Teacher Training and Graded Lessons. The conference on the latter was exceptionally large, the First Congregational Church being quite inadequate to accommodate those who wished to attend. The findings of the Convention will be reported later in both of these important interests that are commanding so much attention and study throughout the whole Sunday School world.

The Convention contained many other striking features, the principal one of which was, perhaps, the impressive parade of organized Men's Bible Classes. Probably the streets of San Francisco never witnessed such a procession before, and it will be a long time till anything in the line of public march commands more attention. There were approximately eight thousand men in line, systematically marshalled according to their respective States or Provinces, and every man provided with a Bible, which afterwards went to help supply every room in the hotels of the city. These books were the gift of the Gideons, an order of Commercial Travellers that is doing untold good throughout the States by supplying Bibles to public houses. The Canadian contingent of men marched in the very centre of the parade, and did its part to impress the thousands lining the sidewalks, boulevards and parks on the route of march with the importance of the occasion. The Union Jack was uniformly greeted with applause, and our poor, yet lusty, efforts to sound forth the harmonious strains of "The Maple Leaf" and other patriotic songs were well received on every hand. Altogether, this parade was not only impressive as a spectacular display; but it was very evident that on all sides it stood for great truths and vital principles. The class emblem was everywhere displayed, and numbers of both men and women not in the march wore it. Among others, I noticed a number of police with the emblem conspicuous, and it was worn not simply for adornment, but as an actual sign of membership. The most skeptical onlooker was simply forced to the conclusion that the Bible so conspicuously displayed, is far from being an obsolete book, and that its use is anything but unpopular.

To us Canadians, no incident during the Convention was more pleasing than the treatment accorded us on the occasion of our King's Coronation. A cablegram of congratulations was sent him on behalf of the great Sunday School hosts of the North American Continent. This was evidence of the utmost good fellowship prevailing between the nations. But an something even nearer home than that took place. Under the enthusiastic leadership of the General Secretary for the British Columbia S. S. Association, Rev. I. W. Williamson, as many of the Canadian delegation as could assembled in front of the McKinley monument in the park adjacent to the Coliseum, and, with H. J. Knott of Vancouver as standard-bearer, marched through the main entrance of the great hall, up the centre aisle and on to the platform, all the while singing, amidst the cheers of the large audience, "The Maple Leaf Forever." It stirred the crowd to great enthusiasm, and did not a little to add emphasis to the unmistakable fact of Canadian loyalty to the Crown and Throne of the British King. There was certainly unrestricted reciprocity in good feeling, in mutual respect, and in no way did our friends of the United States show any disposition to annex us. For the success of this