

THE

# Canadian Epworth Era

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF  
WORK IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

At Home with the Editor

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## What the General Conference Did for Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies

Our readers will be anxious to know just what action the General Conference took in relation to the work of our Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies. On these pages we give as concisely as possible a statement of the legislation enacted. Its bearing on our Department will be evident throughout.

### THE GENERAL BOARD.

The name now is "General Conference Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies." It will be seen that the words "Epworth League" have been removed and the larger term substituted so as to include under the jurisdiction of the Board all the Young People's Societies of the Church.

The composition of the Board has been altered. From a total membership of over fifty in the past, the number comprising the Board has been reduced to one member from each Annual Conference in addition to the ex-officio members. The Board, therefore, is now constituted as follows: The President, who shall be one of the General Superintendents; the General Secretary, the Field Secretaries, the Treasurer, the Editor of the Sunday School periodicals, the Secretary of the Forward Movement for Missions, and one representative from each Annual Conference, elected by the General Conference. The personnel of the Board at present is: Dr. Carman, Dr. Chown, S. T. Bartlett, J. A. Doyle, F. L. Farewell, Dr. W. E. Willmott, Dr. Crews, Dr. Stephenson, ex-officio members, and the following Annual Conference representatives: Newfoundland, T. B. Darby; Nova Scotia, W. I. Croft; New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, J. B. Gough; Montreal, G. S. Clendinnen; Bay of Quinte, D. S. Houck; Toronto, A. W. Briggs; Hamilton, W. H. Harvey; London, R. D. Hamilton; Manitoba, Dr. Cook; Saskatchewan, H. Dobson; Alberta, T. P. Perry; British Columbia, E. W. Keenleyside.

This Board will meet at least annually, and all its members are expected to attend every meeting.

The Executive Committee, to whom are committed the various interests of the Department as they may arise from time to time through the year, consists of a General Superintendent, the General Secretary, the Field Secretaries, the Treasurer, the Editor of the Sunday School periodicals, and the representatives of the Hamilton and Bay of Quinte Conferences, a total of eight members.

That our readers may know just what the General Board stands for, we give the new paragraphs detailing the work allotted to it.

### DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD.

The Board shall have the general oversight of all Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies throughout the Methodist Church, as follows:—

#### 1. Sunday Schools.

It shall have the general oversight of all Sunday School work throughout the Church. It shall secure the establishment of a Sunday School in every place possible. It shall equip newly organized Sunday Schools making application therefor, in harmony with the regulations of the Board governing the matter, with their initial supplies of Sunday School literature for six months free. It shall assist needy and dependent Sunday Schools that,

because of local conditions, require aid from the General Fund. It shall educate the Church in all phases of Sunday School work. It shall raise the standard of Sunday School equipment and methods to the highest possible degree. It shall provide for and conduct a Teacher Training Department in order to give pastors, officers, teachers, and intending teachers every possible facility for training in efficient Sunday School leadership. It shall give inspiration and direction to the study of the Word of God and do everything possible to unite all the members of the Church and community in the fellowship and service of the Sunday School, in order to hasten the universal reign of Jesus Christ.

#### 2. Young People's Societies.

It shall have general oversight of all the Young People's Societies of the Church whose aims and purposes are similar to those set forth in the Constitutions of the Epworth League and Young Men's Societies. It shall aim to have established some form of organized Young People's work wherever possible throughout the Church, and shall make all necessary provision for the general efficiency thereof. It shall arrange courses of reading and study for the Young People's Societies, topic studies for the weekly meetings, and shall provide through the Book Room for the publication of such literature as is deemed necessary for the extension and development of the work. It shall arrange through its officers to promote the interests of the Young People's Societies along lines of Conference and District organizations, and to this end shall counsel and guide all officers in charge thereof in the arrangement for and management of all Conventions, Institutes, Schools, Circuit rallies, and local meetings that may be held for the general advancement of the work.

A careful study of the foregoing should convince our friends that there is a great deal expected from the General Board, and that its interests are of the utmost importance to the prosperity and strength of the Church as a whole. It merits the hearty sympathy and liberal support of all who have the welfare of the youth at heart, for in proportion as its work is well done are the foundations of abiding personal, domestic, civic, and national well-being assured.

In this connection it may be well to give our readers the paragraph adopted by the General Conference to define the duties of the General Secretary. Let those who think the work of that officer merely routine and of simple character study the following, and they may change their minds:

### THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

There shall be a General Secretary, who shall be known as the General Secretary of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies. He shall be elected by the General Conference. He shall perform the usual duties of Secretary, and shall be responsible for the preservation of all records of proceedings of the meetings of the General Board and its Executive. He shall be the medium of communication between the General Board and all parts of the field, and shall endeavor in every possible way to secure the adoption and practice of the general policy of the Board by all our Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies. He shall seek to guide the work of all Conference, District, and local officers in order to ensure the greatest possible efficiency in their respective spheres. This shall be undertaken by correspondence, personal visitation, and periodical reports. He shall so arrange a

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