

fluence of these various agencies will depend on their special form, function and inward ideals. There is the State, with legislative and judicial functions; but education of the public mind is necessary to effectively produce and maintain good laws. Our educational institutions, while designed to meet this need, require the vitalizing stimulus of agencies devoted to the ideals of religion. Our family life is a potent moral force in the community, but it needs regeneration and the co-operation of a more comprehensive social organization to minister to our social instincts. The church is the organization best suited to supply these deficiencies. It is a spiritual power-house, generating and distributing currents of moral and re-

ligious energy throughout the neighborhood and nation.

What is the share and sphere of the Epworth League in this co-operative work? It is a "Young People's Society," under the auspices of the church, and this indicates in a general way the scope of its operations. But while it is a Young People's Society, it is not intended that its influence should be limited to those of any age. Its parish is the whole neighborhood. Neither must its work be limited to any class. It must not be a social clique. Neither should its members be limited to those distinctly young. An automatic division by which the young people attend the service of the League and the old people the prayer-meeting as two mutually exclusive classes is not good.

Such is the sphere of the Epworth League. We may briefly indicate its function. Its most essential work is the *creation of Christian ideals* as the driving force in the League's life and ultimately in the community. Unchristian statements and passions such as the love of money dominate in our personal relations and stamp our social life with its demoralizing impress. It is the design of the Epworth League to saturate its members with the Christian spirit by spiritual fellowship, and through their influence to impress the whole community.

Another function is to afford definite training in Christian work. Youth is the time when we learn to work. It is the time when the important choice of a life occupation is made—a choice which

should be made in the light of the ideals just mentioned. Whatever that life-work may be, it should afford an opportunity to exemplify the principles of those ideals, especially the law of sacrificial service. Professional, commercial and industrial life pursued under the sway of those ideals will be Christian work. The Epworth League should also afford definite training in personal evangelism, and every meeting should contribute to the value of the League as a training agency in Christian work.

We must also take into our account the modes of operation which the League employs. These are outlined for us in our five departments. They are excellently adapted to the purpose of bringing the

that restoration. By command he prophesied, and the bones came together, and were clothed with flesh and sinews. Then he prophesied again, obedient to command, and breath came into the bones, "and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army." Some Epworth Leagues are nearly dead. They have the various departments, but they lack spirit and ideals. They need the vitalizing breath of God to make them live, and be a regenerating power in the community.

This is our responsibility. Well may we observe our motto. In briefest compass it suggests the solution of our problem: "Look up! Life up!" We must look up to God for inspiration, for guidance, and for grace. Then must we apply our hands and hearts and all our consecrated talents to the task that is set before us—the uplift of humanity, specifically the uplift of the community in which we live. Under the inspiration of our motto, under the guidance and support of the Holy Spirit, let us apply ourselves to this, our appointed work. "Look up! Life up! for Christ and the Church!"



3. The Glenfoyle, the first ocean steamer to unload on the Welland Canal. She brought a whole cargo of sulphite for the Ontario Paper Mills, from Sweden, thus actually making Thorold an ocean port.

Christian Ideal into direct relation to our personal and social life.

The Christian Endeavor Department is rightly placed first. It seeks to develop heart life and heart power. It is personal and intensive dynamic and evangelistic. The Missionary Department seeks to promote the same ideal with reference to its widest possible expansion. The Literary and Social Department recognize our social interests and endeavors to relate our Christian life to the larger currents of human thought. The Citizenship Department relates the League to the community most directly by undertaking to make citizens after the Christian Ideal of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Junior Department is a recognition of the fact that to give true direction to the tree you must make the sapling straight for to bear the full grown tree is a herculean task.

THE PRACTICAL PROBLEM.

The problem before us is to vitalize these various Departments. The form is of little value without the spirit. Bones and flesh need breath to make them live. The Prophet Ezekiel tells how he was conducted by the Spirit in an open valley where he saw a vast number of very dry, disjointed bones, a most gruesome, hopeless spectacle. The Spirit asked him, "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" and all that he could answer was, "O Lord Jehovah, thou knowest." By the Spirit's power, however, they were made to live, and the prophet had a share in

Toronto Conference Epworth League Convention

The Biennial Convention of Toronto Conference Epworth League will be held in TORONTO on

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 19, 20.

An unusually practical programme has been outlined.

Please notice these features. See if they do not appeal to you.

I. A Full Session for District Officers

1. Only, discussing—
1. Methods of District Work.
2. The State of the Work.
3. A Plan of Campaign.

II. Special Discussion of the Work of a Local Executive.

III. Full Conference on the Work of each of the Five Departments.

IV. Special Emphasis on Missions and Citizenship.

V. Three Hour Excursions (on Thursday and Friday Afternoons), to gain a first hand knowledge of the Administrative Offices and Educational Building of our Church, and the work of Fred Victor and Italian Missions.

Other attractive and vitally useful features have been designed, but we shall not announce them now. We want to give you some surprises when you come.

The Inspirational and Devotional side of our work will be fully emphasized.

Begin at once to meditate deeply upon—

1. The advisability of your personal presence at this Convention.
2. The necessity of a full representation from your Epworth League.
3. The power of prayer in fitting the Executive Committee, the Leaders and Members of this Convention for the obtaining and conserving of the best results.
4. The necessity of a Wider Vision and Greater Efficiency.

Yours faithfully,
 ERNEST E. PUGSLEY,
 President.

E. F. BENSON,
 Secy. Toronto Conf.
 Epworth League.

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