

## EPWORTH LEAGUE SECTION.

## 1. MEMBERSHIP

The growth of the Epworth League during the past year has been very satisfactory indeed. The returns show that we have 1,776 Young People's Societies, an increase of 33. The membership is 70,338, an increase of 2,434.

The Junior Societies number 308, an increase of 16, with a membership of 13,283, an increase of 617.

## 2. READING COURSE.

The Reading Course had a very prosperous year. The usual number of books were published, and by the first of April every set had been sold. The Course never was disposed of so quickly before. The returns show that 159 Leagues have Reading Circles, an increase of 11.

For this year we have two books by Canadian authors, one on our own country by Rev. F. A. Wightman, Alberton, P.E.I.

The Board earnestly recommends all our Leagues to avail themselves of this splendid Course, either by organizing Reading Circles, or by utilizing the books for the literary programmes of the League, and encouraging their general sale.

During the past ten years over 60,000 good books have been circulated under the direction of the Board, among the young people of Canadian Methodism.

## 3. GENERAL EPWORTH LEAGUE FUND.

This fund is used in supporting the Central Office of the Epworth League, which is intended to be a bureau of information and extension concerning Epworth League work.

The sum contributed by the societies through collections amounts to \$1,690, an increase of \$83. This indicates that the young people are determined to make this department self-sustaining.

## 4. MISSIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

Our Young People's Societies during the past year have contributed some \$37,492 for missions, which is an increase of \$5,147.

The Forward Movement has been a great inspiration to the Leagues, and not only are the givings increasing, but the spirit of interest in world-wide evangelism is growing everywhere, and having

its effect upon the general work of the church.

## 5. CONVENTIONS.

The International Epworth League Convention in July last was generally regarded as one of the best that has ever been held. Our district conventions continue to be well attended and full of interest. They form one of the most helpful features of our organization.

## 6. SUMMER SCHOOLS.

Dr. F. C. Stephenson, Secretary of the Forward Movement, reported that eighteen schools had been held in various parts of the Connexion, from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, attended by about 10,000 people, and it is safe to say that fully one-half of these received inspiration for aggressive work. Special attention was paid to the study of the Bible and missions.

## 7. BIBLE INSTITUTES.

Institutes for the historical and literary study of the Bible and Church History under the auspices of the Board were held in the four districts—Ottawa, Kingston, Woodstock and London—with very good success. The attendance was good and the interest well maintained.

The membership was not confined to the Young People's Societies, but came largely from the Sunday School teachers and older members of the church.

The Secretary of the Institutes, Rev. A. E. Lavell, M.A., addressed the Board in reference to this work, giving interesting facts concerning the success of the past, and speaking hopefully in regard to the future. He hoped to see the movement grow into a great university extension enterprise.

The Board expressed its satisfaction with what is being done.

## 8. EPWORTH LEAGUE TOPICS.

By action of the Board at its last meeting we shall use the Uniform Topics for 1906.

## 9. THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA.

The Board strongly commended the League paper, and urged the Leagues to sustain it loyally. Special mention was made of the splendid Sunday School and Epworth League Convention numbers, which have been recently published.●

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