

## Report of Nova Scotia Conference Epworth League Convention

Held at Springhill, October 2nd and 3rd, 1912

The Bi-Annual Convention of the Nova Scotia Epworth Leagues was held in Springhill on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 2nd and 3rd. The convention was small in numbers, but made up in enthusiasm and earnestness what it lacked in size. Delegates came from as far east as Sydney Mines and as far west as Bridgetown, and the delegates from these points report successful and flourishing societies.

The number of Young People's Societies in this Conference has been declining during the past few years, and so has the membership. The seriousness of this condition of affairs was considered by the convention. It was felt that two or three things are responsible:

1st. In many places the young people are gone away and in some sections enough persons to make a League cannot be got together.

2nd. The growth of other societies of a social and friendly nature.

3rd. The indifference of many of our ministers to this important work and their unwillingness to boost this work. Too many leave the League to run itself and let it "run out."

4th. The Conference and General Conference have not given the League the attention it deserves, and have been pushing Sunday School work and neglecting to push as hard to make the League a success.

The following resolutions express the thought of the convention in regard to how to promote the interests of the Epworth League in this Province:

Resolved, that the committee having in charge the arranging of the Conference programme be requested to set aside one of the evening sessions as an anniversary of Sabbath School and Epworth League work. This motion aims to bring the question of young people's work home to the Conference.

Another resolution reads: Whereas it is found that there is no one in our districts who is officially responsible for the Epworth Leagues such as obtains for the Sunday Schools; and whereas it is thought by this convention that such official representation would very materially assist in the development and maintenance of the young people's organizations;

Resolved, that we memorialize the Annual Conference to petition General Conference for legislation authorizing the District Sunday School Secretary to take full charge of the work of the E. L. and Y. P. Societies, such as is now given by that official to District Sunday School work.

The point of this resolution is this: While provision is made for District Epworth Leagues and their secretaries, the secretary of the District League is not an official of the Annual District Meeting, and has no authority in the district to require proper attention to League matters on the part of members of the district. This year the secretary of Conference had no District Schedules to publish, a most unfortunate occurrence, and a matter which seems to have been overlooked by the Conference. This incident only shows that Y. P. S. work is not taken as seriously as it should be by the Conference in its annual sessions.

The above resolutions were the outcome of an animated discussion on the state of our Epworth League work, led by Rev. J. K. Curtis.

The programme was intended to cover the different phases of Epworth League activities. Rev. F. E. Barrett spoke of the League in its relation to the church. He spoke of the Sunday School as the training school and the Epworth League as the place for putting into operation the truths learned there. He showed further how that nothing can effectively fill the place this society is intended to take in our church life. A statement by the speaker that the development of the League would help solve the problem of men for the ministry was corroborated by the testimony and reports of several others.

Rev. J. K. Curtis spoke on "The Epworth League as a Spiritual Force," and pointed out that this was the greatest concern of the Young People's Societies to make themselves an influence for the spiritual development of their members and the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

Rev. Harry Watts read a paper on "The Necessity of Junior League Work," dealing particularly with the conversion and Christian culture of children. He emphasized the need of winning the children to Christ and holding them for Christ.

"The Epworth League in Relation to Athletics" was ably handled by Rev. Louis Buckley, who was captain of Mount Allison's football team last year and who is well known as a leader in this branch of young people's work. Mr. Buckley clearly showed how that athletics may be made a means of bringing young men to know and serve Jesus Christ; but he gave needed warning against allowing the physical to run ahead of the spiritual, in which case it were better to have left athletics alone.

Some other phases of Epworth League work provided for in the programme had to be omitted, as the speakers were not present. However, the missionary side of the work was represented by Rev. George Beck and his motion pictures of experiences in China. He also gave us pictures of "Old Mt. A." These pictures were splendid, and were shown to a packed congregation.

Misses Smith and Mattenson, of Springhill, spoke of the Summer School at Sackville. From the glowing reports given by them, and others who attended this school during its inaugural term, it seems evident that a much larger number will be on hand another year. Everyone who was there seems to be enthusiastic over its success, and are hoping to return and bring many others with them next season.

A paper on Christian Sociology was offered by Rev. Joel Maeder, and he was given a place on the programme. He considers this the great work of the church of to-day—as no doubt it is.

Rev. G. W. F. Glendenning handled the subject of "The Church and the Social Problem" most effectively in an address crammed full of facts and figures that must have impressed deeply everyone who realizes the meaning of the social problem. It was an address which should be heard by men everywhere. But with all its intricate difficulties the social problem can be solved, and, as Mr. Glendenning ably points out, it is the church that must bring about its solution. Christianity as taught by Christ is the remedy.

At the closing session Thursday evening the president conducted the devo-

tional exercises and turned the meeting into a consecration service. All delegates stood and repeated the pledge together. Mr. Curtis spoke briefly on the value and effectiveness of personal effort for winning others, and many pledged themselves to endeavor to do more to win their fellows to our Lord and Master.

Other incidents of the convention were the presentation of the work of the W. M. S. by the president of the Springhill Auxiliary, and the entertainment of the delegates at a supper served by the church by the Springhill Epworth League, to which the hosts and hostesses were also invited. This was a very pleasant affair and much appreciated. An invitation was also extended by the Bridgetown League for the convention to meet at that place next year. But as the convention is only bi-annual, the hope was expressed that the invitation will hold good for two years.

The officers for the next two years are as follows:

Hon. President—The President of the Nova Scotia Conference (Rev. J. Astbury.)

President—Rev. F. E. Barrett, New Glasgow.

1st Vice-Pres.—Rev. H. Clarke, Springhill.

2nd Vice-Pres.—Mr. Edwin Gilmore, Sydney Mines.

3rd Vice-Pres.—Miss F. G. Bishop, Bridgetown.

4th Vice-Pres.—Rev. W. I. Croft, Wallace.

5th Vice-Pres.—Miss Mabel Inglis, Lunenburg.

Secretary—Rev. G. W. F. Glendenning, Halifax.

Treasurer—Mr. Chas. P. Chittick, Dartmouth.

The new executive is composed of persons who have this work very much at heart and who are very desirous of seeing a genuine revival and a decided advance in this department of our church activities. We sincerely hope that the ebbs has reached its lowest level and that now the tide will begin to lift.

F. B.

### Five Days' E. L. Institute

The Toronto Epworth League Union held a very successful Institute for five evenings in the Metropolitan Church, September 30th to October 4th. Each evening tea was served from 5.30 to 6.30, after which informal conferences were held on the topic assigned. The Annual Rally of Leagues of city and vicinity took place on the opening night, when 2,500 young people assembled. Mr. E. E. Pugliese, President Toronto Conference Epworth League, being chairman. Dr. George Palmer and his large choir led the audience in gospel song. In his address, Rev. C. A. Sykes, B.D., gave many practical and helpful suggestions regarding personal evangelism, and individual work for individuals. Mr. H. D. Tresidder, at conference on C. E. Department, urged all Leagues to become better acquainted with the constitution and the working out of the four principal points therein emphasized re Christian Endeavor.

On Tuesday evening—it being the twentieth anniversary of the opening of our West China Mission—the platform was filled with missionaries home on furlough. Dr. Stephenson introduced the speaker, Rev. Dr. White, of British Columbia, who delivered an address on "The Call of the West." Addresses were also given by Revs. Hennigar, Japan, and Carscadden and Dr. Hartwell, China. Mrs. V. Hart, widow of the late Mr. Virgil Hart, who with him labored many years in China, gave a message in a few well-