

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

SAMUEL T. BARTLETT,  
EDITOR

WESLEY BUILDINGS, 35 Richmond St. W., TORONTO, ONT.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,  
PUBLISHER

### Dependable Workers

We have received so many letters recently in which reference is made to the character of our Leaguers at work, that we are forced to the conclusion that many of them are not to be depended on at all times. This is a source of weakness to the League work involved. Many Presidents write that it is extremely hard to find young people to actually *do* what is needed for a successful meeting. Everywhere the need is for dependable workers. Whether in Sunday School, League, or any other department of church work, people are in demand who will assume duty cheerfully and perform it with unflinching promptness and hearty readiness. We want steady young people in all sections of the work, but not "steady" as the old Irishwoman defined the word. She was asked by a man for whom she did odd chores about a neighbor who had applied to him for work. "Is he steady?" was the question, and her reply was "Steady, is it? Sure, if he was any steadier, he'd be dead." Not such steadiness as that, but the kind that is not easily discomfited nor turned aside because of the labor involved. It were unwise not to recognize the difficulties incident to successful work, but more so to look upon them as insuperable. A superintendent of a piece of work told an applicant for a position all the discouraging facts he could concerning it. "Why did you do that?" asked a friend who heard him. "I thought you wanted to get that young fellow." "So I do," was the reply, "but I wanted to see if he had 'sand' enough. If he balks at a few difficulties he is not the man for the place." The same is true in all Christian work. Men and women with grit enough to see the work through no matter what the cost, are the kind we want, and such will never lack employment or deplore failure. Success is surely theirs.

### The True Spirit of Benevolence

A friend called on us lately and quietly placed \$25 on the office desk for our Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund, with the provision that his name was by no means to be mentioned in the matter. Hence, the gift has gone forward as from a "friend." We have no objection in the world to forming the acquaintance of any number of such friends, but while we honor and admire the motive in this case we are not quite so sure about the wisdom of the anonymity of the subscription. We would like to include the donor's name in our report to the General Treasurer, but that pleasure is denied us by the scruples of our brother.

We believe that no giving should be ostentatious, but we doubt if the Master's admonition, "Let not your left hand know what your right hand doeth," was ever intended to apply in such a case as the one under notice. Paul said that he gloried in the readiness of certain of the Corinthian Christians, that he made it known to others, and that the zeal of the givers had "stirred up very many." There is a great contagion in such good example, and the whole teaching of 2 Cor., 9th chapter, seems to emphasize it. The true spirit of giving is, of course, self-giving, and when the act of perfect self-dedication has been made, nothing can be legitimately held back. But it does not follow that all gifts for the glory of

God and the extension of His Kingdom should be made privately or anonymously. There is inspiration in all good deeds, and the giving of money is no exception. We would like to publish a long list of subscribers to our General Sunday School work, and perhaps we shall be able to make a start before long. Meanwhile we hope that the spirit of love will prompt to such acts of generosity on the part of many of our friends, and whether their names are published or not, their money will be gratefully received, wisely used, and their reward will be none the less sure in heaven because their names may not have been published on earth. Our own opinion is that they are entitled to recognition in both places.

### Convention Time

During the next three months many of our District Conventions will be held. They should be planned so as to minister to the interests of the largest possible number. Hence a careful examination of the work on the District should be made. For this a systematic report of the proceedings of the Executive during the year past should be given. Local conditions on the various circuits may have materially affected the Leagues thereon. Some Leagues may have gone out of existence; others may be languishing, and progress may have been marked in some. All these facts should be reported, and as exact knowledge as possible be obtained of the real condition of the District in all its sections and parts. There may be some places where Societies are not, yet ought to be, organized. Examine these, and plan for a League wherever there are young Methodists to be cultured in life and utilized in service for God and their fellows. Make your Convention intensive in its character. Too many are so diffuse in the nature of the programme that they clinch nothing. Do not have many speeches nor seek to cover the whole round of League possibilities. Emphasize essentials. Your young people must learn to plan their own work according to local needs and workers. The Convention cannot send them home with note-books stuffed with ready-to-use plans for a whole year, but it ought to return them to their Societies with a larger vision of League possibilities and filled with determination to realize a fair measure of these. The Convention that fails to deepen desire to achieve in the actual life of the League, may have interested the delegates for the time being; but the object of every Convention should be not simply to entertain or interest as much as to hearten, to instruct, to enthuse, and to send every delegate back home, saying, not, "We have had a good time; indeed, it was lovely," but "We must and we will, do more for God and humanity than we ever have done." This is business, the King's business, and to carry it on in the King's name must be our business continually. No Convention is ended when the benediction is pronounced and the delegates disperse. For better or worse work every member goes back to the home League, and the ultimate results are richer or poorer in proportion as the Convention has gripped the mind with holy desire and inspired the will to high endeavor. See to it, therefore, that your Convention carries with it a mighty message rather than discusses mere methods, that it generates purpose rather than presents plans. Plans and methods are necessary;

**"Better to work and fail, than to sleep one's life away."**