

# The "Y's" Meet in Muskoka

Playing in Their Wisdom as Well as Working According to This Account

By ISOBEL BROWN



MISS CATHERINE PROCTOR

Canadian actress and leading lady with the Bonstelle Players, who are holding the theatrical fort in Toronto this summer at the Royal Alexandra.

THE Young Women's Christian Association, in line with all great organizations of this age, from the Church to the "Ad" men, is wont to meet in convention or conference, and to realize the strength drawn from unity of aim and spirit.

A remarkable testimony was borne to this sixth annual conference, which has just finished its session at Elgin House. "I dare say you will not be sorry when the conference is over," said a delegate to a girl in the hotel, who had been busy from early morn till dewy eve, attending to the comforts of the 207 delegates.

"Yes I will," the girl affirmed. "I'd much rather make fifty beds for these busy, happy people, who are always cheerful and friendly, than make ten for some of our summer visitors, who fuss and complain, and are never satisfied." Surely the conference has been worth while for this one thing only—if it has made two hundred women appear to be joyous and gracious, grateful and contented!

But the conference has been worth while in a hundred ways!

The daily Bible Study Sessions, conducted by Prof. Gilmour, of McMaster University; Prof. Hooke, of Victoria College; Dr. Macleod, of Ste. Anne de Bellevue, and Mr. Sykes, of Toronto, opened a wider vision of individual and corporate prayer, communion and work, and inspired the students with a longing to know, and guard the truth. The Mission Study Sessions, led by Miss Claribel Platt, of Turkey; Dr. Murdock MacKenzie, of China; Mr. Stillwell, of India, and Mr. Woodsworth, secretary of the Canadian Welfare League, set forth the world-wide fields of service, and their claims upon the Christians of this generation. Dr. Norman Macleod, in a short course on the Fundamentals of the Christian Life, cleared away many of the intellectual difficulties which confront the thoughtful, and laid stress on the prime value of Christian experience. Mrs. McClure, of the Student Volunteer Movement, testified by illustrations from her own life and work in India, that the proof of the power of God's spirit is found in experience.

THE technical sessions—held separately for student and city departments, gave to each section an opportunity to investigate its own peculiar problems, to profit by the advice and ideas of others, and to construct well-considered lines of progress.

In the city department, Miss Elizabeth Hughes, the representative of the National Board of the Y. W. C. A., New York, made a splendid contribution to each session. Her talks on extension and finance were essentially practical, yet so full of certainty and success that they filled everybody with the desire to be up and doing. Membership in the Association was represented by Miss Lane to be the bond of

common service, knitting together members, secretaries and committee members. Mr. Statten and Mr. Pearson, of the Y. M. C. A., set forth the claims that the immigrant and the victim of unhealthy conditions in our cities have upon the Y. W. C. A. Already the Y. M. C. A. are helping to "Canadianize" the strangers within our gates, and to establish community centres among city populations where social evils exist; in both these fields of national work the co-operation of the Y. W. C. A. is required.

THE evening meetings, too, laid a strong emphasis on the responsibility of Canadians for their own home mission field. The value of vocational service in China and India was placed side by side with the value of labour in the home vineyard.

Mrs. MacLaren, of Ottawa, and Mr. Woodsworth, awakened every delegate to a sense of her part in bettering the social conditions in her own city, and of helping to inculcate in the great immigrant throng—who are her neighbours—the virile, progressive ideals of the nation, by giving her best and demanding of them their best. May the day be near when Canadians will no longer allude to Dukhobors as "cattle," and the Dukhobor proudly proclaim, "Me no Dukhobor! Me drink—me swear! Me Canadian!"

Truly ours is the responsibility!

Soapy, the scrub woman, had dreamed for years of the joyful day when the Lord would call her out to preach to the heathen in foreign lands. One night, after she had interceded long for this privilege, God spoke to her in a vision—

"Soapy, who lives next door?"

"A Bulgarian family," answered the would-be missionary.

"Who lives above you?"

"Two Poles," was the reply.

"Who lives below?"



A DELECTABLE DELEGATION EN MASSE

Four-score of the joyous and earnest young women who attended the recent convention in Muskoka of the Young Women's Christian Association.



THE FOLLY OF THE "Y'S."

When it came to "stunts" at the Elgin House doings "nothing could have been more convincing than the Westerners' suffragette demonstration."

"Oh, just a family of Russian Jews."

"And does anyone live opposite?"

"Yes, an American bride and groom."

"Then, Soapy," suggested the Lord, "why not begin by being a missionary at home?"

Two tangible results were apparent at the close of the conference: (1) An increased interest in the foreign field; (2) a commission was appointed from the representatives of the different universities of Canada, with the aim of forming groups, in different centres, for the study of Canadian problems, and



MISS HAZEL AMELIA BIGGER, B.A.

Daughter of Mr. C. A. Bigger, C.E., of the Geodetic Survey at Ottawa, and Mrs. Bigger, whose engagement to Mr. John A. Dawson, of Toronto, is announced.

eventually of petitioning the faculties of the universities for the establishment of regular constructive courses in sociology.

The conference was not all study. The afternoons were devoted to all kinds of fun—bathing, boating, "hiking," launch trips, and impromptu concerts.

One afternoon was set apart for "Stunts," and a varied and ingenious programme was presented by the different delegations. Nothing could have been

more convincing than the Westerners' demonstration. Victoria College, under the able direction of Profs. Gilmour and Hooke, surpassed itself as a kitchen orchestra, while 'Varsity bore off the palm in a mock parliament, which misrepresented the conference officers. Queen's acted a charming Japanese charade, and the Easterners gave a life-like portrayal of the grief and anguish of the editorial calling.

THE city associations gave a splendid rendering of Hiawatha, of life in India, and of American sport. The strenuous efforts of the performers were rewarded with tumultuous applause, followed by the soothing balm of cakes and ices.

It rained on Sports day—so the potato, three-legged, sack, and suitcase races were run off indoors, and evoked great merriment among a crowd of delighted spectators. The

afternoon's programme was varied with recitations, and the court-martial of a conference officer who had been convicted of partaking freely of biscuits and conversation at 12.15 a.m.

"Oh, dear! I wish it wasn't over! I'd like it to last all summer."

"Now I'm going to begin and live for this time next year."

Such were the sentiments in the hearts and on the lips of two hundred people as they left the delightful shore of the silver birch and the singing birds.

June, 1915, is already in view, and concepts of evolution bring us to the conclusion that there is nothing so good that it can't be better.

## A Women's Ranch

FOR some time past Hon. Mrs. Norman Grosvenor, of London, England, has been busying herself on the Pacific Coast on behalf of the Colonial Intelligence League. Her work in Vancouver has consisted largely of relating

to cated Englishwomen who wish to come to this country with the openings and opportunities which mean success.

The Grosvenor ranch is a feature of endeavour by which the League's "associates" are assisted. It was opened last year and consists of twelve acres, near the Aberdeen and Earl Grey ranches, at Vernon. It is conducted by women entirely, directed by a superintendent, turn about being the rule of operation. Mr. W. E. Scott, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, recently expressed a favourable opinion of the ranch.