

# THE AYLESFORD UNION.

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BY THE

B. Y. P. U. of the Aylesford Baptist Church,  
AYLESFORD, N. S.

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## EDITORIALS.

One of the strongly besetting sins of Aylesford is a reckless disregard for the sanctity of the Lord's Day. This is not alone confined to persons who acknowledge no obligations to observe the laws of God except those which are imposed upon them by the civil law, but is evinced as well by a large number of those whose positions in the home and in the church of Christ place upon them responsibilities of an especial character. We have somewhere read a statement to the effect that the civilization of a people is measured by its Sabbath observance. If this be true, some of our Christian communities must be drifting with alarming rapidity toward barbarism. However this may be, it is certainly a fact that the use which a people make of the Lord's Day affords an unerring index to their true spiritual condition. Where there is a careful conformity to the Sabbath day, it is safe to affirm a strong and healthy spiritual life; while that person or people who have learned to waste its sacred hours in drowsy idleness or in the dissipating pleasures of popular amusement are on the high road to spiritual death as certain as it is terrible.

There is such a wide difference of opinion at the present time as to what things are allowable or desirable employment for the Lord's Day, and the conditions surrounding the life both of the individual and of the community are so varied, that it is not easy to lay down definite rules for the guidance of Sunday conduct. Indeed such an attempt is not our

purpose nor would it be in accordance with the Christ-method. Let us rather direct our attention to the purpose for which the day was instituted. Christ once said, "The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath," by which we must understand man in the highest sense, not in the lowest; man as a spiritual creation in the Creator's image, not as a mere animal. As such then the Sabbath is designed to minister to his highest good, which surely means something more than mere rest from physical labor and indulgence in such diversions as walking, driving, bicycling and visiting friends and neighbors. Especially are these things condemnable when their pursuit means turning the back upon the Lord's house. The test in this as in all matters for him who would be Christlike is, "What would the Master do if in my circumstances?" It was His custom to attend the synagogue worship on the Sabbath day, and when not there He was ministering to the need of others. When we can glorify God and help others by a Sunday visit, walk, ride, or spin on a bicycle, then and then only will such become a right use and not an abuse of God's holy day.

The formation of a Good Roads Association is reported from New Brunswick. This ought to be a timely suggestion for Nova Scotia which usually aims not to be behind its sister province in every enterprise which has for its object the general good. In these days when everybody has so much occasion to use the public highways, it is not easy to estimate in dollars and cents the value of good roads to each individual citizen. Many people would be surprised if they could know the actual loss which they sustain each year because of the unnecessary time spent upon the roads, to say nothing of the wear and tear of horses and running gear as well as inconvenience and annoyance to themselves. How long will it be before our people will realize that a government's disposition of public funds for roads and bridges is of vastly greater practical importance than its tariff policy, and its care for the common weal than its party name? The poorest and blindest investment that the average man makes is in his politics. The novice is fleeced, while the professional alone is feathered. In the matter of good roads Aylesford is certainly in the main below par, as our wheel-men can sorrowfully testify. To say that we have as good roads as are to be found elsewhere is but a poor indication

of the matter, even if it were true, which it is not. Even the Dutchmen of Lunenburg are ahead of us in the art of road-making, although instead of the up-to-date "get-on-and-ride" road machines they have only the primitive ox-cart, pick and shovel. With the reign of the bicycle, however, there is destined to come a growing demand for better roads. By the time a man has shoved his "bike" over ten miles of sand six inches deep, or risked his neck in a stuttering coast down one of our mountain ox-paths which does service for a highway, he is likely to indulge in some exclamations, if not execrations, expressive of sentiments to which the soul of the meek-eyed horse has longed for a century to give voice; and at the next election from among all the "ists" he selects the good-road-ist for a plumper. We therefore look to the provincial wheel-men to lead off in this matter and feel sure that when they do they will receive strong support.

The Postmaster-General has been severely censured for his policy of limitation of the fair and equitable distribution of the Jubilee stamps. Explanations so-called have appeared in the party journals, which are far from satisfactory. It is not easy for our dull understanding to comprehend why in justice to rich and poor, "ins" and "outs" and all classes of citizens the entire issue should not have been placed upon the market to be disposed of upon the simple commercial principle of "first come, first served." If as is claimed attempts would have been made by stamp-dealers to corner the smaller issues of halves and sixes, no greater injustice would have been done the average citizen than is now being done the thousand who cannot afford to invest \$10.22 in a complete set in order to obtain these denominations. We decline to believe the Department guilty, as the opposition press insinuate, of disposing of the coveted numbers in large lots to government heelers, but as only 9000 sets have been sold and the supply of threes is running low we are curious to know what has or is to become of the balance of halves and sixes. We should like at least to see what these stamps look like.

As noted elsewhere the monthly conference of the Aylesford church has been changed from Saturday afternoon to Friday evening. In making this change the example of many other churches is being followed and the hope is entertained that an increased attendance will result.

We shall be grateful for the contribution of any facts additional to what are contained in the meagre sketch of the Aylesford Church as given on page 3 of this number.

Have you read our special offer on page 10?