

## Summer Schools in the London Conference

REV. A. E. M. THOMPSON, M.A.

I have been asked by different persons in our church and out of it, "What is the summer school anyway?" and it may be that there are many of our people who have not a full realization of what this meeting together for a week in the summer is, and what it holds of responsibility and opportunity.

If you will look up the literature advertising these schools you will find the idea phrased in many different ways. In one we find it called "A Missionary School of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues"; another will tell you that it is a "School for the study of the Bible and Missions."

But it is more than what is indicated above. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" is just as true in the summer school as it is any place else. So, though the practice varies, generally the whole afternoon of each day is given up to recreation of different kinds. Tennis, bowling, bathing, basketball, rowing, are part of the afternoon's entertainment. The evening sessions are largely given over to platform work and have been distinctively of an inspirational character. Bible study, Mission study, quiet talks, study of Sunday School problems, Epworth League work, class instruction, platform addresses, spirituality, inspiration, sociability, recreation, all have been characteristic of our summer schools.

I heard one of our senior men say a few years ago that summer schools were only a passing phase of Christian work and would soon be of the past. I thought then that there might be a possibility that he was right; but I have decided otherwise. I believe they have their place, and are doing their work admirably.

What has been our experience? Nine districts of our conference organized and held schools. Now there is only one district school held in the conference, and the conference school. What happened in the other eight districts? There were financial difficulties, and the difficulty of getting a satisfactory programme. The one school that has sustained the work unbrokenly for ten years—viz., the Kingsville school—asked the Leagues of the district for contributions to support it. The Leagues responded nobly, and the school bids fair to continue. There is no registration fee in this school.

The other districts have found a place for their energies and enthusiasm in the conference school, held at Alma College, St. Thomas. This school has held five sessions, each more successful than the preceding one. Their registration has been 64, 94, 133, 120, 170; total, 581 in five years.

What about results? They have been many and varied. The following abbreviated pledge card was used at Alma College and signed by the numbers indicated:

1. I will endeavor to keep the morning-watch; 88.
2. I will endeavor to lead someone to Christ; 72.
3. I will endeavor to form a mission study class; 58.
4. Are you giving serious thought to your life-work, with a view to home or the ministry? 37.

I have not the figures for the Kingsville school, but they, too, were very gratifying. About forty-five Christian young men and women volunteering for definite Christian work as per question No. 4, is a remarkable result from these two schools in one year, to say nothing of the inspiration received that does not show in statistics.

Whether a passing phase or a permanent factor of our church life, the summer schools are certainly doing splendid work and ought to be continued.

What about this year? Both schools are meeting, and both have strong committees at work on their programme. Alma College school meets July 14-21; Kingsville schools, July 4-20.

What is offered in either case?

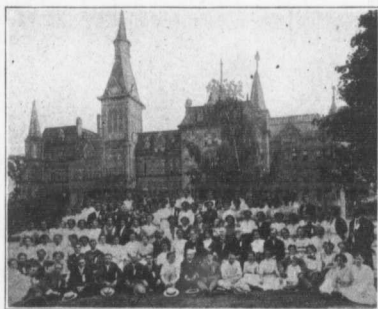
1. The place of meeting. The Conference school meets in Alma College. There could not be a better place. The best of accommodation is provided, with all the comforts of home. It is a beautiful building, with spacious corridors, halls and rooms. There is every provision made for recreation. Pinafore Park is near, and Pt. Stanley is not far away.

Windsor District school meets at Kingsville, on Lake Erie, one of the prettiest, coolest towns in Canada, with a most hospitable people providing their church as a place of meeting. Here also provision is made for recreation.

2. Cost. At Alma College \$5.00 per week for board and room, with \$2.00 for registration fee.

At Kingsdale accommodation is provided at a low cost, which varies slightly but is in control of the individual. Here there is no registration fee.

3. Programme. Alma College school



SUMMER SCHOOL AT ALMA COLLEGE.

has secured Rev. J. R. Patterson, Hamilton, for life-talks; Rev. A. E. Lavelle, Brantford, for Bible studies; Rev. B. Snell, Wardsville, for Sunday School work; Rev. F. E. Malott, St. Marys, for church history; Rev. W. L. Hiles, Delaware, for lawn talks; F. E. Lumley, Indianapolis, for evening addresses. Also General Conference officers and returned missionaries are expected.

Kingsville school has secured and has in prospect Rev. Dr. Hazelwood, Toronto; Rev. Dr. Wallace Crawford, Chengu, China; Rev. John McNeill, Cooke's Church, Toronto, recently from Scotland; also General Conference officers and returned missionaries.

4. Officers. Alma College: President, Rev. J. W. Baird, Mitchell; Secretary, Rev. A. E. Jones, Belmont, Kingsville: President, Rev. J. F. Beycraft, Gesto; Secretary, Rev. C. F. Clark, Harrow. From these any information may be secured.

5. Prospects. Both are expecting increased attendance, greater interest and greater results. You had better send in your application.

The League at Haliburton St. Church, Nanaimo, is forging ahead and doing excellent work, notwithstanding the fact that the church suffered greatly from an explosion there.

## Southern Alberta

REV. DAVID SIMPSON.

The Annual Convention of the Southern Alberta Epworth Leagues and Sunday Schools was held at Macleod, March 12th and 13th, 1913.

When the Convention opened a blizzard was blowing, which hindered many visitors from the country from attending, but in spite of bad weather there was a good attendance. Owing to the Centenary of Livingstone being celebrated this year the programme for the first day was devoted to addresses and papers relating to the great missionary's life.

The first paper was on "Life of Livingstone," by Mr. R. Hood, of Macleod, a Scotchman, and acquainted with Blantyre.

Rev. R. W. Dalgleish followed with an address, "Livingstone's Inspiration to Sunday School Workers."

Then we heard an address from Rev. A. S. Tuttle, of Calgary, on "Livingstone's Message for Young People." Mr. Tuttle is not a real Scotchman, but hails from Nova Scotia, and is evidently very proud of the accomplishments of the people from the land of his birth. But he gave us a very fine address.

On Thursday the Convention settled down to hear papers and discussions.

Miss Hume read a splendid paper on "Possibilities of the Home Department."

Rev. J. P. Westman spoke on the "Teen Age Problem," and an able discussion was led by Mrs. (Rev.) A. A. Lytle.

Mrs. Curtis, of Nanton, by her able paper on "Ideas on Elementary Work," showed that she knew her subject from a practical standpoint as well as from the theoretical.

In the afternoon, Rev. Chas. Bishop, of Coal-dale, read a paper on "League as a Social Centre." It was a thought-provoking paper, and a lively discussion followed. Some speakers asserted that some Leagues did not welcome strangers and outsiders. That they were comprised of "our set," and that it was as difficult to squeeze into some Leagues as it was to enter "society." This was sorrowfully admitted, but it was shown to be the case in rare instances only.

The Convention made a resolution, asking that Dr. Bishop's paper be printed in the Epworth Era. (It will appear in our next number.—Ed.)

Rev. A. A. Lytle followed with a paper on "Our Missionary and His Work."

The Convention closed, after reports, business, election of officers, etc., by addresses from Rev. J. P. Westman and Rev. E. S. Bishop.

It was time profitably spent to all who attended.

Sackville, N.B., Epworth League members use the telephone the day before the meeting to remind young people they will be missed if not present. They take fifteen copies of Era, and are seeking to increase the number of subscribers. They have a debating team, appointed by the Executive once in three months. They report a membership of fifty.

Elmvale, Ont., reports a splendid working Epworth League, with a good attendance, and meetings entirely in charge of the young people.