

Victoria's First Y.M.C.A.

The Colonist has been handed the following self-explanatory matter, bearing upon the founding in this city of a branch of the Y. M. C. A., which is of especial interest:

"Dingley Dell," September 29, 1911.
R. B. McMicking, Esq., President Y. M. C. A.

Dear Sir—In searching through the files of the Colonist of 1859 for items of forgotten lore that might be of interest to our early pioneers, I came across the enclosed interesting account of the forming of a branch of the Young Men's Christian Association in Victoria fifty-two years ago (Sept. 5, 1859) and am sorry I did not remember it sooner, so that it could have been read at the opening exercises, but "better late than never." I shall accompany it with some comment.

In the first place it is likely that all those present on that auspicious occasion are gone to their everlasting rest, with the notable exception of our dear friend, the Venerable Bishop Cridge, who is within a few weeks of entering on his ninety-fifth year. His has been indeed a life of doing good, for he in early days was at the head of all good work for the betterment of mankind. The chairman on that occasion was Colonel Moody, R. E., who had lately arrived in the colony with the sappers and miners.

The three Protestant denominations then established in Victoria were represented by the Rev. Edward Cridge, as already stated, Rev. Dr. Evans, of the Wesleyan Methodists, and the Rev. W. F. Clarke, of the Congregational Church. Of the laymen mentioned, there was Judge Pemberton, father of Mr. Charles Pemberton, J. T. Pidwell, father of the late Mrs. D. W. Higgins, Judge Cameron C. J., Captain Prevost, father of Chas. J. Prevost of Dunsmuir, who was a very prominent naval officer, and later an admiral, who was an indefatigable Christian worker. Mr. Sparrow, of the post office, whose son is a respected resident today, and also Wm. H. Burr, master of the Colonial School, of which I was then a pupil. Mr. Jno. F. Damon, on second thoughts, may be in the land of the living, and a resident of Washington. The Society must have fallen into disuse in later years for I understand the present institution is about 26 years old. I do not know that I can say anything more on this interesting subject but to wish it every prosperity.

And believe me ever, yours truly,

EDGAR FAWCETT.

From Victoria Colonist of September 5, 1859:
"Pursuant to public notice the Supreme Court Room was filled on Saturday evening by a large and respectable audience for the purpose of organizing a Young Men's Christian Association."

Colonel Moody, R.E., on taking the chair, requested the Rev. E. Evans, D.D., Superintendent of the Wesleyan Mission, to open the meeting by prayer; after which the Chairman explained the object of the Association, and urged with great cogency the importance of scientific, and historical knowledge to young men, and the immense advantages which they would derive from Divine assistance in pursuing those various branches of study which were essential to the good citizen and Christian.

The Rev. E. Cridge, pastor of the Victoria Established Church, then moved the following resolution:

That this meeting, recognizing the usefulness and importance of Young Men's Christian Associations, is gratified to find that steps have been taken to establish one in this town.

He supported it at some length with many pertinent illustrations, and expressed himself warmly in favor of the institution.

T. J. Pidwell, Esq., seconded the motion. He adverted to the good results from similar institutions elsewhere; passed some strictures upon the alarming increase of saloons and concluded that the organization of a Christian Association with its library, and the opportunity which it would afford for the discussion of general theological and political questions would have a powerful tendency to guard the young men of this colony from falling into habits destructive of good morals.

The Rev. Dr. Evans, with an eloquent and forcible speech then moved:

That this meeting pledge itself to encourage and support by every means in its power this the first Young Men's Christian Association established in Vancouver's Island.

His remarks exhibited the greatest degree of tolerance. All narrow views in the organization and working of the Association were undesirable. To cherish the great essentials of religion as laid down by the founder of Christianity was the principal object of the institution. The moral and spiritual advantages to the young men of the colony arising from the Association he was satisfied would be very great. It deserved every encouragement, and he heartily concurred in promoting the object of its founders, and hoped it would not only secure moral but financial support.

The Rev. W. F. Clarke, Congregational Missionary, with great pleasure seconded the motion, and supported it with a speech of considerable length, replete with argument and illustration, portraying the advantages of the Association in a community like this, where there was so little public opinion to influence and direct young men; whilst there were so many things incident to the love of money in a gold country to induce youth to contract habits adverse to the progress of moral and religious.

A. F. Pemberton, Esq., then moved:

"That the following gentlemen be requested

to act as office-bearers, for the ensuing year: Patron, His Excellency, the Governor; President, Col. Moody, R.E.; Vice-Presidents, Judge Cameron and Captain Prevost, R.N.; Committee, Messrs. A. F. Pemberton, Pidwell, Sparrow, Burr, Holt, Damon, Evans and Cunningham, with power to add to their numbers; Secretary Mr. Cooper."

He concurred in the object of the Association; and briefly adverted to the fact that the Rev. Mr. Cridge and himself had, a year ago, contemplated a similar institution.

John Wright, Esq., seconded the motion. Col. Moody having retired from the chair, it was filled by J. T. Pidwell, Esq., when the Rev. Dr. Evans moved: "That the thanks of the meeting be presented to Col. Moody for the very able manner in which he had occupied the Chair."

Seconded by the Rev. Mr. Clarke, and passed with applause.

Col. Moody then briefly replied that he came here from England with the sole object of promoting the best interests of the country, and in aiding in the promotion of the objects of this Association he was but performing his duty.

All the speakers were repeatedly applauded; and all the resolutions passed by acclamation.

The Doxology having been sung, the Rev. E. Cridge, pronounced a benediction, when the meeting dispersed, highly gratified with the organization of the First Young Men's Christian Association of Victoria, Vancouver Island."

RETROSPECT

Over the distance that lies between,
Over the trackless sea;

Piercing beyond the things unseen,
Lifting aside the misty screen,
My heart goes out to thee.

Say! may we not hold sweet commune,
Tho' numberless miles us part?
Are not our sympathies in tune,
Beats not each heart to heart?

Ever before at this festive time
Have we unparted been,
And heard together the Christmas chime
And the music of years between?

Little we thought, in those bygone days,
That we should parted be;
Little reck'd you of the pathless wild,
Or I of the stormy sea.

And now in retrospective view
A vision of days gone by,
The happy days I have spent with you,
Rises before mine eye.

And as I sit in musing mood,
A theory of memories dear,
Unheeded or misunderstood,
Stand out defined and clear.

Alas! how oft the silent good
Is trampled under our feet,
Till absence recalls the mingled flood
Of recollection sweet.

The pleasant word, the cheerful look,
The optimistic view,
The soothing out in life's rough book
Of the wrinkled page by you.

And now, dear heart, e'er the old year's
days
Are swallowed up in the new,
Remembrance would this tribute raise
To thy changeless love and true.

They are slipping away, these vanishing
years,
Like leaves on the tideway cast,
With their burden of grief, and pain, and
tears,
Into the silent past.

Then let our contract with fleeting time
Be a melody pleasingly heard;
Let us weave life's fabric, a true design,
And fill up the chalice with love's sweet
wine.

But never an angry word.
—QUINTIN GALBRAITH.
213 Belleville Street, City, Dec. 18, 1911.

THE SELF-ACTING TELEPHONE

The telephone girl, the crescendo "Hello! Hello! Exchange," and the exasperating delays will shortly be things of the past, says a London exchange. The first public demonstration of the working of the automatic telephone system which the General Post Office has ordered for some provincial towns was given at Donnington House, Strand, yesterday, and it was shown that by this system one subscriber could ring up another without the aid of any exchange operator and with no loss of time.

The Strowger system, a combination of American inventions, has already been working for years in over fifty towns in the United States and in many other parts of the world. At the beginning of this year four experts from the English Post Office went across the sea to see it in use, and as a result of their report one installation has been ordered for the Central London Post Office, another for Epsom, and a third for Portsmouth, while negotiations are in progress for Leeds and other towns. The London automatic service is not

for the use of the public. It is being put up so that the General Post Office officials may thoroughly test it. But 600 subscribers in Epsom will be connected with it and a larger number in Portsmouth early in the New Year. If arrangements are completed the system at Leeds will include over 5,000 subscribers. London will have to wait, as the authorities are anxious thoroughly to test the working of the system before introducing it into the most complicated telephone service in the world.

Practical Experiments

The recent demonstration was given by the British Insulated Helsby Cables, Ltd., the company that is introducing the system into this country. Mr. Taylor, vice-chairman of the company, introduced Mr. D. Sinclair, formerly engineer-in-chief to the National Telephone Company, and Mr. Sinclair explained the working of the system. He said that automatic telephone exchanges are not new. He himself had invented and installed one in this country twenty-seven years ago. But the difficulty had always been to make them deal efficiently with a large number of lines. One of the advantages of the Strowger system was that it works equally well for 100 or 100,000, or any number of lines. In Chicago he saw a system with over 30,000 subscribers working perfectly smoothly.

Mr. Sinclair said that the many faults of our present system were not all due to the much-blamed operators. But in America the automatic system worked far more satisfactorily than the present English method, because wherever it was in use each subscriber became his own operator. Another great advantage of the automatic system was its secrecy, as no one could possibly overhear any conversation.

A demonstration of the working followed. From one machine in the centre of the room it was possible to ring up other telephones. So far as the subscriber was concerned the system is perfectly simple. The instrument is like that now in use with the addition of a figured dial. Above this dial is a perforated disc, the figures on the dial showing through the perforations.

To ring up a number the subscriber puts his finger in the hole above each figure of that number in turn, and turns the disc round to a "stop." Thus, if he wants 123 on the A exchange, he first turns the hole in the disc through which A is showing round to the stop and then does the same with the numbers 1, 2, and 3. To obviate any possible mistake through his making a pause between the figures, that is to avoid his getting put on to number 12 while ringing up 123, there are the same number of digits in every number on an exchange. So number one on an exchange with less than a thousand subscribers would be 001. If the numbers ran into tens of thousands it would be 00001.

The working of the automatic exchange was very interesting. As the subscriber gave the number of his exchange the machine put him through to that exchange. Then as he gave the first one he was switched on to the first hundred; when he gave the two he was switched to the twenties of that hundred, and the final three gave him the line he wanted. If that line was engaged he heard the "buzz" with which we are all too familiar. If there was anything wrong with the machine it automatically signalled to the one superintendent who, in place of the hundreds of operators now employed, will look after the exchange.

Mr. Keith, who is responsible for this combination of inventions, said that the perfected machine had cost him over twenty years of toil, beside employing many other inventors. As an instance of its value, he mentioned that in Cuba, where, owing to the different languages in use, they had formerly to employ operators speaking seven languages, the automatic machine did all the necessary work.

DOES GOD LOOK DOWN UPON THE TOWN?

I wonder now does God look down
Upon the town,
And what He's thinking when He sees
The people swarming there like bees;
The alleys and the dirty lanes,
The moulder of the trams and trains;
The stately carriages galore,
And then the poor,
Who traips in the bitter sleet
With broken boots upon their feet.
I wonder what He thinks at night
When angels set the stars alight,
And in the town the lamps are bright,
Does He watch gaming rascals cheat,
Old drunken villians curse and fight,
While girls, grown shameless, walk the
street?

Always God hears the Cherubim
Sing praise to Him,
But where He's sitting on His throne
Can He hear starving women moan?
Above the harping of each saint
Are little children's voices faint?
Can He in all the music hear
Them sob for fear?

On dirty pavements babies sprawl
With them to mind them scarce less small.
It's sure God hears the cries of these,
And all the oaths and blasphemies
Of them that's never on their knees.
He hears the drunkards shout and bawl
Above the angels' melodies—
I wonder what God thinks at all.
—W. M. Lettis in Westminster Gazette.

Selpio had carried the war into Africa.
"This," he said, "is where I qualify as the
White Man's Hope."
Let it not be rashly inferred from this, however, that Hannibal was a Big Smoke.—Chicago Tribune.

Anglo-French Entente

A good many people who talk of the Anglo-French entente have probably a somewhat uncertain idea as to what that expression really signifies, writes Sidney Law in the London Standard. The vagueness is excusable enough, for the world at large has never been made acquainted with the understandings and arrangements which supplement the published agreement of April 8, 1904. Two clauses, hitherto undisclosed but not regarded by Sir Edward Grey as of primary importance are to be produced next week. These presumably are all the secret articles appended to the treaty itself; but the entente, in its broader significance, covers the whole course of Anglo-French diplomacy during the past seven years, and it may include various engagements and undertakings which are known and perhaps for the present can only be known to the two governments concerned.

Its Limitations.

But the Anglo-French Treaty of April 8, 1904, has no reference to such matters. On the surface it has nothing to do with general international politics, nor does it in any sense create a partnership between the two Western Powers for the pursuit of any common objects beyond those mentioned in the instrument. England and France, it must be remembered, had been engaged in disputes for many years in various regions where their possessions, or their interests were in contact. There had been embittered controversies over the Newfoundland fisheries, over the New Hebrides, over the Siamese boundary, and over the delimitation of the French and English spheres in Africa. In 1898 the two countries were nearly at war over another question—that of the attempt of the French explorer Marchand to establish French influence at Fashoda on the Upper Nile. The difficulty was peaceably settled; but the other outstanding controversies remained, and continued to cause friction in spite of the growing sentiment of good will which prevailed at the beginning of King Edward VII's reign. In July, 1903, President Loubet paid a visit to London, accompanied by M. Delcasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs. As the result of this statesman's conferences with Lord Lansdowne it was decided to draw up an agreement in which several of the matters in dispute between England and France were dealt with and disposed of.

The Convention of 1904

The agreement consists of a Convention concerning Newfoundland and Senegambia, and two Declarations. In the Convention France renounces the privileges conferred upon her fishermen on the "French shore" of Newfoundland by the Treaty of Utrecht, which had been a source of trouble and discussion for nearly two centuries. In return, the British Government engaged to pay an indemnity to the French citizens who would be compelled to abandon their stations on the shore. France received the right to fish in territorial waters between Cape St. John and Cape Ray, and her fishermen were permitted to resort to Newfoundland ports and harbors for bait.

As a further compensation to France for the abandonment of her treaty privileges, England consented to a rectification of frontiers between French Senegambia and British Gambia. There was also, in article 8 of the Convention, an elaborate and detailed geographical delimitation of frontiers in the Niger territory, which considerably modified the boundaries of British Nigeria and the French colony as laid down by the agreement of 1898. These two questions—that of Newfoundland and of West Africa—occupy the body of the "Accord" Convention. There is nothing in this about mutual support, diplomatic or military, against other powers. The entente, to this extent, is only an understanding between the principals, a rounding-up of past disputes.

The Declarations

Appended are the two "Declarations," one dealing with Siam, Madagascar, and the New Hebrides, the other with Morocco and Egypt. The Siamese article completes and extends the frontier agreement arranged, after a long and critical negotiation, during Lord Salisbury's Ministry in 1896. In Madagascar the British Government abandons its protest against the imposition of the French customs tariff in that island, and, as regards the New Hebrides, the two Governments undertake to appoint a joint commission to settle the difficulties with regard to the treatment of natives, labor traffic, and other matters in the group.

The "Declaration concernant l'Egypte et le Maroc" is a self-denying ordinance on both sides. The English Government declares that it has no intention of changing the political position of Europe; the French Government declares that it has no intention of changing the political position of Morocco.

France agrees that it will not demand a fixed period for the termination of the British occupation or interfere in any other way with English action in Egypt or its financial administration. England recognizes that it appertains to France, in virtue of the contact of its African territories with those of Morocco, to safeguard the maintenance of order in the country, and to provide it with assistance for the purpose of administrative, financial, economic, and military reforms. French action with reference to these matters will not be interfered with subject to the rights which Great Britain enjoys in Morocco by treaty, convention and prescription.

The two Governments, "equally attached

to the principle of freedom of commerce in Egypt and Morocco," agree to maintain economic equality in both countries, and not to seek or establish preferential conditions of trade, transport or customs for their own nationals. Both Governments are entitled to require that concessions for railways, roads, harbors, etc., shall be granted only on conditions that do not infringe the proper control of the state.

The free passage of the Suez Canal is to be maintained.

In order to assure the free passage of the Strait of Gibraltar, the two Governments agree not to permit the fortification of the coast of the strait or its approaches west of Melilla.

The two Governments take note of Spanish interests and territorial possessions in Morocco, and France agrees to make a special agreement with Spain (concluded October 6, 1904) and to communicate its terms to England.

Finally the two Governments "agree to lend each other diplomatic support for the execution of the clauses of the present Declaration relating to Egypt and Morocco."

This is the only clause of the entire agreement in which joint support or assistance against third parties is mentioned; and it will be seen that its scope is limited to diplomatic action for the purpose of carrying out the specific provisions relating to the two North African territories. The "Accord" is not in its terms a general alliance, nor does it deal in any way with general policy.

CONTINUOUS TRANSIT

A new form of excitement is promised for the patrons of rapid transit, if the idea of continuous transport is fully developed. That this idea may gain favor is indicated by the success of the escalator and the interest aroused in the principle of the Adkins-Lewis railway system, says the London Standard.

Great reticence has been observed for some years in the adoption for general public use of any transport scheme requiring passage from a stationary platform to a track in motion. The risks appear to have been greatly exaggerated, for the escalators at Earl's Court, which have been in continuous use for five or six weeks, have carried an average of 20,000 persons per day without a single accident. The escalator has solved the problem of overcrowding by the production of a steady stream of traffic. This has been accomplished with a gain rather than a loss of time to the individual.

Attention is now being directed to systems for long-distance and high-speed continuous transport. One of these the Adkins-Lewis system, was explained at the British Association meeting this week by Mr. Will Thorne, the member for West Ham, who is interested in the traffic problems of the East-end of London. There is no complete railway constructed on this principle at present at work in England, though an experimental plant at Ipswich is said to be developing a remarkable degree of efficiency.

In the Adkins-Lewis system the train never stops. Between stations they automatically attain a high rate of speed, and this is reduced to three miles an hour within stations. It is estimated that persons can get on or alight from a train moving at this speed without any risk of injury. The principle of propulsion is very ingenious, and totally unlike anything previously devised for the purpose. It depends upon the tractive force imparted in a fixed direction by rollers traversing a rotating spiral. This spiral is built around a shaft placed beneath the track, and the "pitch" varies considerably. Within stations the pitch is close, midway between stations it is quite open. If the shafts rotated at a constant speed various speeds are given to the car above. In the commercial application of such a principle the cars would be placed along the spiral at frequent intervals, thereby eliminating all risks of congestion in the traffic.

Whilst the experimental tracks have revealed high efficiency from the mechanical and economic points of view there are at present obvious difficulties in the way of the adaptation of the system to public service. These are mainly in connection with curved tracks and gradients. The inventors, however, are confident of their ability to overcome these difficulties.

A prominent railway official who has had wide experience of public transit in the metropolis expressed to one of our representatives considerable fear as to the risk attending the three-mile per hour minimum.

"It is only by the strictest observance of our rules," he said, "that we have been able to avoid serious accidents with our own trains, and we always stop for a fair fraction of a minute. In catering for the public you have to allow for the infirm. While the escalator is an undoubted success, I have strong misgivings about the safety of a continuously moving car."

Hospitable Carter (after borrowing a match from a stranger to whom he has offered a lift)
—Y'see, I b'aint allowed t'ave no matches when I be cartin' blarstin' powder fur them old quarries up along—Punch.

Mrs. A.—They say your Ned's wanted by the police.

Mrs. B.—Well, there's no accounting for tastes.—Punch.