

The Canadian . . .

## Epworth Era

ORGAN OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUES AND  
OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES  
IN THE METHODIST CHURCH.

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REV. A. C. CREWS, \* - Editor.  
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eight months after a revival, when the names of those who have become weary in well-doing have to be removed from the Church's membership list. Probably some who are not in sympathy with the League will regard this decline as an indication of its speedy dissolution, and there will doubtless be many expressions of "I told you so." They will find, however, that it is but a temporary reaction, to be followed by a vigorous and permanent growth. Let us as League workers do all in our power to regain the lost ground. Let the call for an advance movement be sounded all along the line. Pastors, reorganize those societies which have been permitted to die! Lookout Committees, go after those members that were allowed to wander away! Presidents, officers, and members, bestir yourselves in the Master's work! We must not allow a decrease in our membership to occur again.

up politics. He must seek rather to purify them from all the iniquities which have gathered round them, and to do this he cannot stand aside and remain a mere looker on, but must be an active participant in all that concerns the public welfare. In no other way can he be the light of the world, and the salt of the earth.

### Well Done!

The Executive Committee of the Indianapolis International Convention handled the finances so well, that after paying all liabilities, there is a surplus of \$3,700. It has been decided to make this handsome amount the nucleus of a fund for establishing a Methodist Episcopal Hospital and Deaconess Home in Indianapolis. This seems a very appropriate way in which to use the money, which will doubtless be approved by the thousands who contributed to the fund. The proposed institution will be a fine memorial of the great gathering. We congratulate our Indianapolis friends upon this gratifying conclusion of the enterprise which they so efficiently managed from the first.

### "Forward."

The Epworth League believes in Forward Movements. It is not content to simply work the old methods and be satisfied with ordinary success, but is anxious to attempt something that will inspire enthusiasm. We all know what a blessing the Forward Missionary Campaign has been to our young people. Now we have before us "The Forward Movement in Bible Study and Evangelistic work," which in its plans and methods is so full of inspiration. Resolve to work it to the fullest extent, take it up energetically and prayerfully, and it can scarcely fail to bring great blessings upon the Church and the League.

### The Christian Citizen.

At many Epworth League and Christian Endeavor Conventions, held recently, the subject of Christian Citizenship has had a very prominent place on the programmes, and the sin of bribery, and other political evils, have been fully discussed. In view of the lamentable corruption revealed by recent election trials this would appear to be a most timely subject. It is of course, objected that these are questions with which the young people need not trouble themselves inasmuch as they are not voters, and are not actively engaged in public affairs. It should be remembered that they are the voters of the future, and in a few years will be called upon to bear burdens of civic responsibility. Much, therefore, depends upon the education that they receive in early life. They should be taught that fraud of all kinds in political life is as serious as dishonesty in business. They should be impressed with the fact that it is a positive duty for the Christian to interest himself in all matters relating to citizenship, throwing the weight of his influence in the direction of purity and righteousness. It is related that a young man who thought he had been converted, in giving his experience, said: "Friends before I was converted I had two terrible besetments, drunkenness and politics, but thank the Lord, I've given them both up." It will not do for the Christian to give

Charles Dudley Warner makes this statement in the "Sunday School Times": "The youth who cultivates a taste for weak and ignoble fiction will find it as difficult to get rid of his habit as the youth who is brought up on a dyspepsia-producing food. But the really hopeless case is the man who does not feed his mind on anything. If the gods love him, they will take him away young, for he is preparing or himself a vapid old age."

### "Let us Go and Fight Philip."

When the great orator Demosthenes addressed the Athenians, the people were so stirred by his vehement eloquence that they rushed from the auditorium crying, "Let us go and fight Philip." Other orators excited their admiration, and called forth expressions of praise, but the words of Demosthenes led them to grip their swords and prepare for war. Would that the same result might follow all sermons and other religious services! We want the truth so presented that instead of going away saying, "that was a good meeting," we shall be fired to go out and make a determined attack upon the enemy's citadels. We are soon to enter upon the "Forward Evangelistic Movement," and all the exercises of the League during the next few weeks should bear upon aggressive work. The church should not rest satisfied unless it is making some inroads upon the kingdom of Satan.

We have given considerable attention in this issue to books and reading, with the hope that many of our readers will be stimulated to take up the League Reading Course. Many new circles are being organized. Will your League have one?

## Editorial.

### Gain and Loss.

The Annual report of our Young People's Societies is in many respects the most encouraging that has ever been presented to the General Board. It shows that, during the past year, there has been great activity in carrying on aggressive Christian work. The prayer meetings, consecration services, and evangelistic meetings have been very prominent features of league work, and have not been overshadowed by the literary and social departments, although these have received due attention. In the temperance reform our young people have been unusually energetic, particularly in taking part in the plebiscite campaign.

The Missionary department has been worked so efficiently that the givings show an increase from \$12,760 to \$16,955, and this by no means fully indicates the good results that have come to the Church from the missionary zeal that has been developed among the young people. The educational effect of the "Forward Movement" has been particularly valuable.

Our Reading Course has this year reached high water mark in a circulation of 2,500 sets, a record that has never been equalled by any other reading course in its fourth year.

In regard to our membership, however, we are forced to face one discouraging feature of the report. Year after year we have reported very rapid increases, and to be called upon to admit an actual decrease in numbers is a surprise and disappointment. We are inclined to think, however, that the phenomenal growth of the movement furnishes, to some extent, the cause of the falling off. The development for the past four years has been so great as to become almost a "boom," and it is scarcely to be wondered at that a wave of reaction has come. We are now passing through a season somewhat similar to that which usually arrives six or