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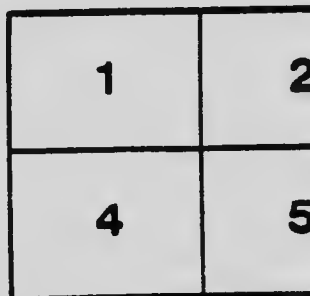
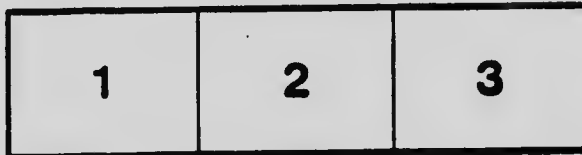
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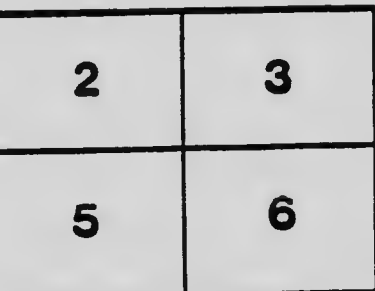
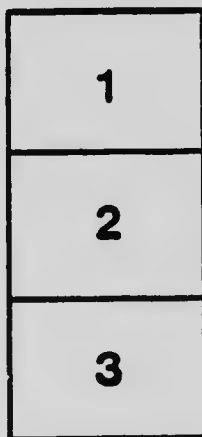
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FOLDER NO. 1

**Baptist
Forward
Movement**

General Scheme

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1927

..The Baptist Forward Movement..

It has been said that "a man's face is like to a title-leaf telling the nature of his errand." It is often most desirable, but not always possible, to speak to one's fellows face to face when an important message is to be given. When this is impossible, a pamphlet, even though it be little more than a title-leaf, may be of service.

We must at this point be content to say in a very few words what our errand is to be during these next few months.

"The work is great, and large"; and yet we may speak of it under the two heads, the Spiritual and the Financial.

We are aiming as a denomination at the stimulating of spiritual activity in all of our church, family, and social life. We must see to it that the neglected altars are again surrounded by a penitent and prayerful people. We also shall be engaged as never before in seeking to bring the careless under the influence of the gospel of Christ and in looking to the Saviour of the world to heal the deep wounds made in recent years.

Our work will be financial also. This too is spiritual. The war years have had disastrous effects upon the enterprises which would have been more before; but for that terrible conflict. The people of God, thankful for the return of peace, will count it a joy to seek by their gifts now to repair as far as they may the damage wrought by delay. The most conservative estimate of careful men places the amount which should be pledged at once and paid within two years at Three Hundred Thousand Dollars. This is a small sum when we consider our answered prayers and our great responsibility, but it is a large sum when we remember that our regular work must be carried on unhindered at the same time.

How are these great tasks to be performed? By the few? That would be impossible. They can be performed only by the many. It does matter mightily that we have the utmost co-operation of every Baptist man, woman, and child in Ontario and Quebec. It is expected that every department of every church will be engaged in this enterprise. Before many days are past we are hopeful that the president, Dr. MacNeill, and Dr. Shields will visit a group that will be gathered for con-

The Baptist Forward Movement

ference in each Association. We cannot wait, however, for their coming to get to work. The Sunday Schools have been charged with the responsibility of largely increasing the circle reached by the Executive Committee's Editor, by their activity in increasing the circulation of "The Canadian Baptist."

The Young People's Societies will be given specific work within the next week with the hearty endorsement of their Convention officers.

The women of our churches, a mighty host, are already at prayer, and will continue to enlarge their Prayer Circles and Prayer Leagues, as they look for the guidance of God and undertake different lines of work as He shall give them leading. The families of our churches will feel special responsibility to furnish leaders in our different church organizations, each provoking other to good works and engaging in a consecrated competition as to who shall render greatest service for the common good.

It has been said repeatedly, but cannot be said too often, that the first and chief objective in our Forward Movement is not the raising of a great sum of money, though that is a part of the movement, and a part for which no one need make any apology. We recognize our debt to God and men, and we earnestly purpose to pay it. The canvass for subscriptions will be engaged in simultaneously with that of the other denominations, during the week beginning February 9th, and closing February 16th. Each church, when the time comes, will have prepared already a strong organization for securing these pledges. Two years will be given in which to pay the amounts subscribed. Those who have been intrusted with large sums of the Lord's money will be led by Him to do their full share. Those of more moderate means, though unable to contribute very large sums, will be able to give such sums as will average generously. Some of these will doubtless wish to make extra contributions to cover what the very poor would be willing but not able to give.

Some of our brethren are so situated that calls upon their benevolence are of daily occurrence. Many others who have been greatly prospered have not so many demands made upon

The Baptist Forward Movement

them. The wage earners will be prepared to do what they have never been able to do before, and will unquestionably make a notable contribution, sufficient to challenge attention and awaken thanksgiving.

The offerings are not to come from churches or societies, but as from individual contributors. In signing these. The ideal is that there be signed up in that circulating week exactly as many cards as we have members in the churches of our Convention, and it is intended that these cards when signed shall be sent at once to Rev. B. W. Merrill, Secretary of the Forward Movement Executive, 223 Church Street, Toronto. We are not looking for either cash or pledges at the present time, but for the preparing of the ground that at the proper season we may have the full fruitage which God designs shall come from this reverent and prayerful effort.

Your servants who have been pressed into responsible positions as leaders on this Executive have confidence that no member anywhere will desire to be relieved while others are burdened. We also believe that the work of prayer and intercession will be as general as we expect the giving to be.

It is imperative that the pastors be seized immediately with the great responsibility which is theirs. After all is said, the fact remains that the ministers are where they are because it is assumed that they are leaders. They will not wait to be led by their congregations, and they must not be held back by any discouragements that may come. The contagion of the spirit to do one's full duty is great, and when a few begin this work the great mass of our membership in small as well as larger churches will follow.

From time to time circulars and pamphlets will be sent out. Let all read these carefully, and use the information at once. In some cases the pastors will doubtless be led to read them, or parts of them, to their people. The Committee is depending on the leaders for the fullest co-operation and for prompt action in connection with the plans of the Executive. In anticipation of this we thank you in advance.

ALBERT MATTHEWS,
Chairman of Executive.

JOHN MACNEILL,
President.

B. W. MERRILL, Secretary of Executive.

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