

THE  
**Canadian Union Messenger**

"As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger."

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**SUNDAY LAW IN CANADA**

WILLIAM CLEMIE, B. A., editor of the *Listowel (Ont.) Banner*, holds well developed views on the subject of religious liberty, as the following editorial from his paper will show :

"Some men you can coax to be religious, some persuade, others frighten ; but true religion comes to no man by coercion. Some men prefer religion because of their training, some because of intelligent choice and conviction, none by compulsion. To be worth anything it must come by intelligent choice, not by force. That is why there should be no connection between Church and State, that is why the State has no right to attempt to force religion in any shape, manner, or guise on the people. The battle of absolute freedom of conscience is one that was won at a terrible cost, and the victory is one of too much value to the progress of mankind to be thoughtlessly put into jeopardy again.

"And yet all this continual attempt to force by law the observance of the Sabbath on the people of Canada is at bottom but a form of coercion on the part of the State in matters of religion. A Sabbath observed because people believe it is a holy day becomes sacred indeed to them ; attempt to force any one to keep it sacred and it becomes but a farce and a parody. It is claimed that the Lord's Day Act now before the Dominion Parliament has nothing to do with the sacred or religious character of the day, that it is intended only to safeguard its status as a day of rest to insure for the people one day's respite out of the seven. The

Sabbath day is selected, it is claimed, merely because it agrees with the habits of a large majority of the people. But if this be so why not give the people an option, and more especially as the selection of another day is a matter of conscience with so many people ?

"Some people there are who work too hard, and some who work too little. Is the government going to attempt to regulate this ? That surely would be paternalism run mad. Yet if the Lord Day Act is to be defended solely on the ground of providing a day of rest it is nothing more or less than an attempt to regulate the amount of labor to be done by all, and there is just as good reason for prescribing the number of days of hourly labor and the number of secular holidays in the year, and to make it a crime, punishable by law, for exceeding in any way the prescribed limit. Everybody knows that as a matter of fact it is really the religious character of the day which it is hoped to preserve by law. It is an attempt which has often been made before, and failed, just as this attempt will fail. If there is no better reason for Sabbath observance than that, prescribed by in a secular law, the observance will be of a very perfunctory character."

The Rev. Robert Saint Clair who had previously addressed the *Banner* a letter on enforced Sunday observance, which was published by the *Banner* and afterwards appeared in the *Sabbath Recorder*, sent Editor Clemie the following commendatory comment :—

RELIGIOUS LEGISLATION,

"Allow me to express my appreciation of

your editorial in issue of April 5<sup>th</sup>, regarding religious legislation.

"It appears to me that you have correctly summed up the present situation at Ottawa. I am opposed to the principle of religious legislation by civil authorities. I believe that it has always resulted in persecution. And as persecution does not form a part of my creed, I endeavor in various ways to advance the cause of religious liberty.

The answer of the Lord's Day Alliance representatives to the Premier of Canada that those who observed another day of the week as Sabbath were but a small minority, was unworthy of professing Christians.

Sir Wilfrid administered a stinging and a deserved rebuke to them when he replied that the fact of these Seventh-day Sabbatarians (Christians) and Jews being in the minority made it all the more incumbent upon him to be their champion.

"As Mr. H. Donly, editor of the *Simcoe Reformer*, recently remarked, 'The answer of Messrs. Shearer and Moore, of the Lord's Day Alliance, to the petitions presented to Parliament by the Seventh-day Adventists, does not raise Messrs. Shearer and Moore very much in our estimation.'

Rev. Dr. W. F. Crafts, of Washington, D. C., the head and front of the National Reformers (the L. D. A. of the U. S. A.) has remarked that it is only in the *backward States* where the persecution of Christian Seventh-day Sabbatarians occurs.

"It appears in my humble opinion that every demand of religion and the dominion also will be met by a law insuring permissive and protective rest, of which the following might serve as an outline:—

"Be it enacted that every employed person shall be entitled to one day of rest each week. The claiming of this right shall not prejudice, injure nor interfere with any engagement, position, employment or remuneration as between employed persons and

those by whom they are employed.'

"Again thanking you for the kind service you have rendered the community in your issue of the 5<sup>th</sup> inst., I remain,

"Sincerely yours,

"ROBERT SAINT CLAIR.

"Pastor Church of the United Brethren in Christ."

It will be noticed that Pastor Saint Clair has come out in favor of the draft-bill presented to the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of British North America, by the editor of the *Recorder* in his protest against legislation of a religious nature. —*The Sabbath Recorder*.

#### WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

WE HAVE received word that the Sunday Bill will probably be laid over, and that no more attention will be given it in the course of this legislature. This is as we expected. The Lord is holding the winds that the warning may go on to all the people of the Dominion.

We shall have another edition of our Religious Liberty tracts printed and continue their circulation. This will give the people an opportunity to read for themselves during the summer and become enlightened upon the question of religious liberty and Sunday laws. This is one more opportunity to warn the whole people and we are indebted to them for light on this very important question. Let us lose no time in getting ready, and then—to the work.

We ask our churches to consider this matter now, and send in orders for a good supply of tracts, and organize for an earnest, vigorous campaign this summer.

The churches will do well to order clubs of *Liberty* to sell and distribute.

Let all study upon this question and be able to wage an energetic warfare, under God, for the enlightenment and salvation of souls. W. H. THURSTON.

**AN IMPORTANT MEETING**

IN VIEW of the fact that the Lord's Day Bill before the Dominion Parliament may be laid over until the next session of Parliament, it has been thought best by the President of the Canadian Union Conference to call a meeting of the Conference Committee for the purpose of laying plans with reference to future work among our people and others, during the few months intervening between this time and the next session of Parliament. This meeting will be held at the Lornedale Academy on Tuesday May 22. This will be a very important meeting, and plans will be laid not only for the purpose of awakening our people to the necessity of engaging in this religious liberty campaign, which is the direct object of the meeting, but also some plans will be laid with reference to the general work in the entire field.

The members of the Ontario Conference Committee will also be present at this meeting, and the plans for the summer campaign in this conference will be laid. Brother T. H. Robinson, who has been absent in California for the past two years connected with the Sanitarium work in that state, has returned to the province and will no doubt be present at this meeting. We are very glad to welcome him back to his old field, and his counsel and advice will be appreciated not only by his friends and associates in Ontario, but by the members of the Canadian Union Conference as well.

We trust that our brethren in the field will heartily co-operate with the plans which shall be laid at this meeting, and that we shall be able to bring before the people of Canada and the members of Parliament the principles of religious liberty to that extent that if this Bill is enacted into law it will not be done ignorantly. Every one in Canada should have an opportunity to learn the nature and results of religious legislation.

**ATTENTION**

The presses at Mountain View, Cal., are running night and day to supply the demand for the special Earthquake number of the *Signs of the Times*. The people in general are anxious to get this special number, and it is having a ready sale.

Another severe earthquake was felt in San Francisco the 5th of May, and in this one our church building was damaged more than in the first one. This special *Signs* will be kept right up to date by inserting new and striking illustrations from time to time, and telling of the progress of reconstruction, etc.; so that the selling of this special *Signs* may go on and on all through the season. This is a wonderful opportunity for spreading the truth.

Over three hundred thousand people are now being fed by the relief corps. The city is still under martial law. Some in the city are committing suicide, others are going insane, while others' hearts are failing them for fear of what may come next.

We know what these things mean and what is soon coming on the whole world. God has set us watchmen on the walls, and we know the consequences if we fail to sound the alarm. What shall we do? Let us order more papers, and with these and our religious liberty literature let us warn the people of the things that are threatening this world.

W. H. THURSTON

**LORNEDALE ACADEMY NOTES**

Miss Florence Frank and Miss Cora Bennett of Toronto were guests at the Academy last Sunday.

We were glad to welcome Brother Fred Boettger back to the Academy. He has been engaged in canvassing for some weeks past, but his health would not permit him to continue in the work.

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EUGENE LELAND, Editor.

WE were much pleased to entertain at the Academy a few days since our old friends, Brother and Sister W. H. Spear. For some little time in the past Brother Spear has not been directly connected with the ministerial work; but we are glad to know that his interest and affection are in sympathy with the truth of the third angel's message, and that in the business in which he is now engaged he is doing what he can to extend the knowledge of that message to the people with whom he comes in contact. We earnestly hope that at no distant date Brother Spear and his wife may be again actively engaged in extending the truth which we all love so well. Their little girl, Thata, who has been staying at the Academy for some weeks past went away with them for a few days.

The experiment of a summer school which has now been tried for about three or four weeks is proving a decided success thus far. At present there are nine students who are paying their entire way at the school in work upon the place and in the house. We have received word that three whom we have been expecting for some time will arrive in a day or two. This will increase our family to twenty-seven, and unless we get something

more in the way of house room, it will become necessary to pitch a tent or otherwise provide for the newcomers.

NOTICE

ANY person desiring the report of the hearing before the special committee on Bill No. 12, respecting the Lord's day may receive the same by writing to Mr. Walter Todd, House of Commons, Ottawa. The report is published in pamphlet form, Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

W. H. THURSTON.

Notice

FOR some reason the blanks for pledges for the relief of our work in California did not reach us till Friday, the 18th. This was too late to send them out for use the 19th. They were sent to all church elders or leaders Sunday the 20th. It is not too late yet to use them. We would suggest that they be used Sabbath May 26.

Obituary

MILLER.—Died at her home in Halifax, N. S., Mar. 28, 1906, Sister Agnes Miller, aged 82 years. Sister Miller was one of the charter members of the Halifax church and a regular attendant at the services while her health permitted. She loved the present truth and delighted to converse on the second coming of Christ. She suffered much during the last few weeks of her life; but her last testimony revealed her faith and confidence in God. She died in the blessed hope.

Words of comfort were spoken to the surviving friends and relatives by the writer from 2 Samuel 14: 14.

J. GREER HANNA.

H. D. Carr, Lorne Park, Ont. would be glad to correspond with any one having to spare a prospectus for "Desire of Ages" which is not damaged.

Report of the Canvassing Work for Week Ending May 11, 1906

Name	Place	Book	Orders	Value	Value Miscellaneous	Orders	Delivered
H. D. Carr, Lorne Park, Ont.		P. P.	3	12.50		5.25	
John McEachern, Lorne Park, Ont.		C. K.	10	12.50			
Henry Pengelly, Primrose, Ont.		C. K.	19	20.25		18.50	
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>3 Agents,</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>\$45.25</b>		<b>\$23.75</b>	