

THE Canadian Union Messenger

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

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SABBATH OBSERVANCE

THE Government's Sunday Observance Bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, June 20. The Minister of Justice explained that the measure was intended to secure the better observance of the Christian Sunday throughout Canada. Christianity was recognized as a constituent part of the law of Canada, as of other parts of the British Empire, and there were many precedents for laws to preserve the sanctity of Christian Sunday. There had been a very pronounced demand for legislation of some kind on the lines of this Bill. Undoubtedly the question was one of great difficulty on account of the business interests and the religious convictions of the people. Throughout the Dominion there has been a general demand for passage of Sunday legislation, and the present Bill has been thoroughly considered in committee. He would have certain amendments to offer on behalf of the Government, and the Government accepted full responsibility for the principle of the Bill which it considered as in the best interests of the country. He hoped that members of the House would help in making the measure as nearly perfect as possible.

Mr. Henri Bourassa, of Labelle, followed in an out-and-out denunciation of the principles in which the legislation was cast. There was no legal warrant for passage of such a Bill. It did away with the liberty of the citizen on the first day of each week, not only in matters of business but in point of his pleasures and enjoyments. Such a law was mediæval in principle and utterly

absurd. As the Bill was originally drawn it would not have permitted the generation of electric light. It would have made it an offence to hire a carriage to go to church or to feed live stock in transit. One of the most important industries in Canada would be killed outright by the Bill in its present form.

Lumbering could not be carried on without the driving of logs. Yet there was nothing in the Bill that would permit Sunday driving of logs.

Taking up the clauses of the Bill, Mr. Bourassa ridiculed the principle in which the Bill was drawn of forbidding all work on Sunday with certain exceptions. The law sanctioned any unavoidable work after eight o'clock Sunday evening in preparation of the regular Monday morning papers. But why should it be any more of a crime to work Sunday afternoon than Sunday evening?

Mr. Bourassa picked out what he regarded as absurd inconsistencies in the Bill. The Jewish exemption, he said, was given to catch the Jewish vote in Montreal and Toronto. The closing of Sunday amusement resorts would simply place a premium on immorality. He had himself seen more drunkenness in an hour in Toronto, where the agitation for this Sunday Bill began, than one would meet in Montreal in a whole evening.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier in speaking to the Bill said that the very nature of the amendments moved illustrated the difficulty there was in enacting legislation of this description. The measure before it was introduced was approved by all Christian denomi-

nations. It was impossible to have a measure of this kind become law under the conditions which existed in Canada unless the different elements were prepared to give and take, and to make mutual sacrifices. If every man, whether from Quebec, Ontario or elsewhere, insisted upon his pound of flesh, where would there be harmony? Unless the various provinces arrived at some common standard they would have nothing but anarchy. Everyone, he said, had prefaced his remarks by a declaration in favor of a Sunday observance law, not for himself, but for his neighbor. He reminded his follower, Mr. Rivet, that the Bill was for the protection of the workmen in his riding, and assuring them a day of rest. He appealed to the House to realize that it was worth making some effort to secure a uniform law which would assure as far as possible for the workers a day of rest on Sunday.

Mr. Bourassa criticised the Premier, whose name had always hitherto been associated with the advocacy of Liberal principles and the liberties of the people, and regretted that Sir Wilfrid's name was associated with the most illiberal and "Toriest" bill that had ever been proposed by any Government in any British Parliament.

OFFERINGS TO MISSIONS

JUNE 30 has been set apart for the mid-summer offering to missions, and it is hoped that all our people will realize the importance of this offering. The carrying on of our missionary work in the field depends upon the liberality of our people in making offerings of themselves and of their means.

We have various enterprises in Canada to carry on and maintain, but we will lose nothing in this line by making an offering to the general fund for missionary work. The Mission Board is appropriating money every year to the building up of the work

in Canada, and this is a time when we can show our appreciation of this by assisting with our means in the world-wide message.

Let all remember the date, June 30, and let each one contribute to this worthy fund as he or she is able. "For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee."

W. H. THURSTON.

TENT MEETINGS

THE time has come for us to pitch our tents for another summer's work, and perhaps a few suggestions will not be out of place. The object of our tent meetings is to arrest the attention of the people and to reach all classes with the message for this time.

Our tent meetings should be an object lesson to the people. The tent should be arranged in a tidy and attractive manner. Display is not necessary but everything should be arranged in a manner that will impress the people with the sacredness and importance of our work. We do not need to go to great expense, but it will pay to spend a few dollars in preparation, and have things orderly and attractive. Make the platform in proper proportion and have it carpeted. Have the pulpit of proper shape and cover it with bunting or something of that sort to give it a presentable appearance.

A few plants and flowers on the platform and the pulpit will add much to taste and appearance. In case there is not a good sod on the ground, put in a load or two of saw-dust, and this will keep the dust down. If you have no organ, rent one, and have good music. Let all be done decently and in order, and the people will be impressed with the importance of our work. All this will not cost much and will add greatly to the effort.

We have an important work to do and a message for the people at this time, and our

preparations for this should be such as will impress the public that this is so. Then preach the word.

W. H. THURSTON.

FROM THE FIELD

SELTON, ONT.

ON ACCOUNT of sickness Elder Thurston returned East from the St. Thomas meeting. Our labors together have been very pleasant, and we were sorry that he could not attend the dedication of the meeting-house at Chatham. Elder I. Sanborn, who has labored so long in connection with this cause, was with us at this place, and spoke twice to the church. I am sure that his sermons were appreciated.

The storm did much damage to the buildings in this locality, there being hardly a barn or out-building that was not blown down or otherwise damaged. The orchards are also greatly damaged. There is scarcely an orchard that had not almost all the trees blown over. The shade trees were either broken down or broken off twenty or thirty feet from the ground. Almost all the timber is down. One brother said to me that his bush was worth two thousand dollars before the storm, and that when it was over he would have been glad to sell it for half that sum.

The impression around the Selton church is that riches take to themselves wings and fly away. One man during the first part of the storm stood in the door of his wagon house, but when the chimney came tumbling to the ground, he ran to a nearby tree, and while lying close to it on the ground, he saw the roof of one of his barns come sailing over his head and house. He thought that the house would go too, although very solidly built, but it was spared. He said to me that before the storm he felt that he could be satisfied to live there during the

remainder of his life, but now he did not care to stay, as his home had lost its charms for him.

It seems to one who travels about Selton that the work of this storm is a sample of what will soon be seen in all portions of the world. "Behold the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it up side down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof." Isa. 24: 1. These scenes are to be more frequent as we draw near the end, and we hope to learn the lesson there is in them for us.

A. O. BURRILL.

FROM SISTER KNISTER

I WILL write just a few lines giving my experience in the treatment of the sick, trusting that it may be of value to your many readers.

The patient that I was caring for was suffering from fever, and pain in the left side. Not being able to determine the nature of the disease, a physician was called, and he pronounced it inflammation of the lungs. As I do not believe in giving medicine, applying mustard plasters, nor using any treatment of that character, I explained to the doctor how we treated inflammation of the lungs by the application of hot fomentations. He seemed to agree with me that it was a very good idea; and when he found that we do not use medicine, he said that if care was taken in the diet, and if the organs which carry off the impurities from the body were kept in activity, the use of medicine was not necessary; but he explained that in order to satisfy the wants of the people, he found it necessary to give them medicine.

I find as I am out among the people in sickness that it is possible, after finding out the nature of the disease, to study the treatment for it in our own medical books; and then upon consulting with their doctors, they will nearly always agree with the

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TO OUR READERS :—

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treatments given. Not only so, but they would be only too glad if they could secure the services of some one who was qualified to care for the patients and give them the proper treatments. We can do much good in this way among our friends and neighbors, as well as being in a better condition to care for the sick in our own families.

MRS. C. KNISTER.

OFFICE NOTES

A few weeks ago we dropped the Office Notes, expecting that it would be permanent, and we take them up again now, only at the request of some of our readers.

The Sabbath-school quarterlies are here.

Elder Miller expects to pitch his tent next week.

Do not forget the mid-summer offering for missions.

We hear good reports of the dedication at Chat-

ham from one not of our faith.

We have just received a large order for "Gospel Primer" from a firm in Windsor.

Sister R. Barnett has finished her work in Stratford and will take up the same work in Aurora. We wish her the best success.

Brethren Wm. and Thomas Brown, of Kilmaurs, have been devoting some time to the canvassing work of late. They send an order for twenty-five "Ministry of Healing."

Brother Carr has closed up his work in Toronto and vicinity and gone to the Soo. He expects to do a good work there with the books this summer.

The third and Souvenir number of the *Signs* Special will be in stock by the time you read this. Six cents per copy to agents.

We have just received a few of the new edition of "Early Writings." Some have been waiting patiently for this book for some time. We will ask all of these to please order again.

A gentleman from the city came here canvassing one day. I showed him our books, and he thought he could sell "Paradise Home." He purchased one, and has been taking orders at the rate of about twelve a day ever since.

"About two years ago I bought a book called 'Christ's Object Lessons' from an agent. I understand that you are the Canadian agents for this book. If so, please send me two. It is the best book I ever read. I have been trying to find where to get another for a long time." This from a gentleman in Port Dover.

We were much pleased to shake hands with Brother J. Pengelly when he called at the office on the 22nd inst. For twelve years he has been a faithful canvasser, and his faith and courage in the work grows with the years.

Mr. Fay Mathews has been spending a few days at the Lornedale Academy, visiting his sisters, Evadna and May.

Report of the Canvassing Work for Week Ending June 15, 1906

Name	Place	Book	Orders	Value	Value Miscellaneous	Orders Delivered
J. Pengelly,	Violet Hill, Ont.	C. K.	12	13.75	20.63	646.25
Henry Pengelly,	Violet Hill, Ont.	C. K.	9	11.	11.75	1.75
Florence White,	Lorne Park, Ont.	C. K.	6	7.		2.25
Evadna Mathews,	Lorne Park, Ont.	C. K.	3	3.75		
Totals,	4 Agents,		30	\$35.50	\$32.38	\$650.25