

# Eastern Canadian Messenger

General Conference Library

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## QUEBEC

### Quebec Young People's Work

To members of our churches who are not members of our Missionary Volunteer Societies:

Next in importance to the Sabbath school Department is the great work of the Missionary Volunteer Department. In this department the young people work for themselves and for other young people, and the older people work for the youth. If we can hold our youth who are growing to manhood and womanhood for Christ and the church we shall steadily be adding to our membership each year strong young people from our own Christian homes, who will give solidity and added life to our churches. Charity, or love, begins at home, and if the church with its glorious message is good for the adults, it is good for the children of our families. Too many of our children slip through our fingers into the world because of the lack of consecrated association.

I have watched the church of which I was once a member grow into a large congregation, not so much from additions from without, but from the additions of the one-time kindergarten members of our Sabbath school, now grown older in years. These were all kept for the church by the work of the Missionary Volunteer Society.

Some people think that only the young in years should be interested in this work. There is the fatal mistake. A society left without the guidance and judgment of the adults will surely go to pieces in time. It is just at the time when a boy is "all boy" and a girl is "all girl" that they need their parents' guidance. During that same period they need a godly parent who is interested in young people's work, or godly associations such as our societies to lead them to, and hold them for Christ. The vast majority of persons become Christians during that period of life.

Just a word concerning the work of our department. One of the principal reasons why the Missionary Volunteer work appeals to me is that it aims at self improvement and advancement. One goal is to read the Bible through during the year, another to read the good, uplifting books in the Reading Course, and the third to study for the Standard of Attainment. The outline for Bible reading is given in both the *Review and Herald* and the "Morning Watch Calendar." The senior Reading Course books are: "Things as They Are," "History of the Sabbath" and "History of William Miller." For the juniors: "Livingstone, the Pathfinder," "Friends and Foes" and "Sketches of Bible Child Life." The Standard of Attainment includes a study of Bible Doctrines and Denominational History with a number of test questions in each. A certificate is granted to all who answer these questions correctly. The only books required for this aim are those that are found in almost every Adventist home. For Bible Doctrines, "Bible Readings for the Home Circle," "Johnson's Bible Text Book" or "Scriptural Evidences" may be used. For Denominational History, "Great Second Advent Movement" and the *Review and Herald* should be studied. It is needless to say that these goals make for a closer walk with God no matter what our age may be, and we rejoice that those well on in years are joining heartily with us.

For the benefit of our members who are isolated or who live where there is no society organized, we have the Conference Society which always includes quite a number of our isolated members, among whom are both parents and children. If you are interested in any or all of the branches of this work, a card or letter stating so will bring you any additional information desired, and will enroll you as a member of our Conference Society.

I trust that I will hear from every young person and every older person who still feels young enough

to be interested in the youth in our conference. I also trust that in every home our boys and girls will be remembered at the family altar in our daily worship. "Whoso shall receive one such little child in My name, receiveth Me."

N. H. SAUNDERS *M. V. Sec.*

### At the French Ministerial Union

Once a month, the French pastors and religious workers in Montreal come together to hear and discuss a paper on religious themes. I have been attending these meetings for the last two years and recognized as a member of the Union. In the discussions which follow the reading of the paper of the day, I have had occasion to mention the Bible doctrine of creation versus evolution, inspiration versus higher criticism, the new earth and the Sabbath. This last subject was brought up in the presence of two ministers who have preached sermons against the Sabbath. When I was through speaking one minister got up and in concluding his remarks, said that as my challenge on the Sabbath question had not been taken up, he must conclude that perhaps my position is the correct one.

March 20, according to previous arrangements, I was to read a paper before the Union. I selected as my subject The Second Coming of our Lord. My paper was divided as follows:

1. The second coming, the hope of the church.
2. The second coming in the plan of redemption.
3. Will the second coming be personal, visible and glorious?
4. Will the second coming be pre-millennial?
5. The second coming and the world.
6. The second coming and the church.

The reading of this paper, which took three quarters of an hour, was listened to with marked interest. Seven ministers were present representing the Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican Churches. One of the members had written me a note regretting his absence from the city and wishing me good success.

It may be interesting to note a few of the remarks made in the course of the discussion:

Mr. A. (Anglican) chairman: "I regret that Mr. V. is not an Anglican, for what he said is exactly what we preach. We devote the month of December each year in our churches to the reading of those scriptures referring to the second advent."

Mr. B., D.D.: I agree in one sense with the paper, and yet in another I do not agree at all. This whole subject should be treated, I think, in a spiritual sense." He then asked questions about the millennium, the second resurrection, the new earth and the year-day principle of interpreting prophetic periods.

Mr. C. (Methodist): "I have come here as a learner, and will not make any further remarks than to thank those who have spoken."

Mr. D. (Presbyterian): I have especially appreciated sections 1, 2 and 5. This subject should be oftener treated in our sermons. For one reason or another, we fear to touch upon it, perhaps for fear of being misunderstood."

Mr. E. (Presbyterian) asked what the practical object of our work is. As to the second coming, he was uninformed on the subject.

Mr. F. (Presbyterian) said that this subject is interesting, edifying and even frightful. But it might be better to dwell especially on the first coming of our Lord.

Mr. G. (Presbyterian) said he was very much interested and edified by the paper and that the subject should be studied more than it is.

When all the remarks were over, I was given opportunity to answer the questions. A real spirit of inquiry was shown and not a desire to entangle or to oppose. One of the ministers gladly accepted my offer to furnish him with literature. May God bless the seed sown to his own glory.

JEAN VUILLEUMIER.

## ONTARIO

### Among the Churches

Sunday evening, March 12, the writer, accompanied by his family, reached Toronto from Montreal. At the Union station we were met by Sister Martin and her husband and taken to their hospitable home, where we were entertained until our furniture arrived. Now we are comfortably located in our new home at 486 Montrose Avenue. We like Toronto, and already feel very much at home here.

Since taking up my work in this conference I have visited six churches besides those located in this city. My first stop was at Ottawa where Elder Johnston and Brother Hurdon have been working for some time with excellent success. Thirty or more, I understand, are keeping the Sabbath, and a great number of others are deeply interested. A large class will be ready for baptism before campmeeting. We praise God for such encouraging advancement in the capital of our Dominion. A substantial church building ought to be erected there in the near future.

At Hamilton I had the privilege of speaking to a church full of Seventh-day Adventists. This church has the largest membership of any in the Eastern Canadian Union. Under the wise and efficient leadership of Brother and Sister Capman the members have been organized into a number of earnest, enthusiastic missionary bands. These bands are all doing commendable work and as a result several have already accepted the truth. A similar work ought to be carried on in all our churches. One of the brethren has recently rented a hall where he

is conducting Sunday night meetings for the public with an encouraging attendance.

About three days were spent at London, the birth place of my wife's mother. Here I found Brother Boyce hard at work. The Lord has blessed his labors here and also in Exeter and Dresden, where he has spent part of his time. A few have already been baptized and a number of others will soon receive this sacred rite. I appreciated very much the privilege of here meeting and counseling together with Brother T. H. Robinson and Elder Errington, two of the members of our Conference Committee.

At Lindsay the membership has been reduced by removals, but the few who remain love the truth and are determined, by the help of God, to go through to the B. t. er Laud. One evening meeting was held with this little church at the home of Sister Nisbett. Several of the neighbors came in and seemed deeply interested in the subject presented. The following morning Brother Noble went with me to Fenelon Falls to visit Sister Keast. Although she seldom sees anyone of like faith, we found her of good courage in the Lord. Mr. Keast spent the afternoon with us. He is not an Adventist, but very friendly toward our people, and we hope that he will soon say, as did Ruth of old: "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God." Our visit here seemed to be much appreciated.

A pleasant and profitable time was recently spent at Oshawa. Friday night and Sabbath morning I spoke to the Seminary Church which is composed of the teachers and students at that place. The Spirit of God was present in these services. Practically all present took part in the testimony meeting that followed the preaching. It was encouraging indeed to see as many as a dozen standing at a time. Confessions were made by some; others asked for prayers that they might have courage to make wrongs right, and many expressed a desire for a deeper work of grace in their hearts, and for victory over every sin. Sabbath afternoon I spoke to the Oshawa Church. They have no church building, but meet in a good hall in the center of the town. I was happily surprised to see such a large company assembled. Because of removals the Oshawa Church had been greatly reduced in membership, but as the result of the hall effort conducted by Elder Campbell this spring, nine adults have thus far decided to cast in their lot with those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus; and indications are that others will soon follow their example.

In Toronto the work is onward. A good spirit prevails in both churches, and new converts are being won. The laborers are all of good courage, and enjoying their work.

In all the places visited a cordial welcome has been extended to us, and it has been a great pleasure to meet our people both in public and in their hospitable homes. Before long we hope to be personally acquainted with the

majority of the members of the Ontario Conference.

A. V. OLSON.

## NEWFOUNDLAND

### St. John's Sabbath School Anniversary

On March 26 we held our anniversary, and were well repaid for the efforts put forth. Sister Hubley, our Sabbath school Secretary was with us and did her very best to make the program a success. It was rendered in a highly creditable manner and all were pleased with the exercises. A special collection was taken and our people rallied to the support of missions in a manner which, I am sure, was well pleasing to God. The offering was \$100.00. Our people here are self-sacrificing and will co-operate with determination in the finishing of the work.

We are of good courage and you can look for large reports from this section of God's vineyard. The Lord has a work to accomplish in this field, and we expect to carry it forward.

D. J. C. BARRETT.

### Does This Apply to You?

The Canadian Publishing Association finds itself five hundred dollars short of being able to meet its bills this month. This is because the money of the Association is in the pockets, or invested in the business affairs of people who should have turned it over long ago. A few churches are owing quite heavy amounts running from ten to forty dollars. Individual accounts amount to nearly three thousand dollars. We must call upon all who are owing the Association to send in money on their accounts to save the situation. Is it not time that these accounts were paid up in full? The seriousness of these days ought to quicken the consciences of some who have held back the money due the Association for years in the past. The work of the Lord in this field is seriously hampered by this neglect. May we not look for a generous response to this call?

M. N. CAMPBELL.

### Our Mission Offerings

We are glad to see real improvement in our mission offerings for the Union during the month of March. While there is still quite a deficit, yet the downward movement has been checked and the conferences are all on the upgrade. We hope that in the course of a month or two the deficit in each conference will be entirely wiped out. Newfoundland has already cleared the mark and shows up with a nice balance to her credit. What Newfoundland has done can be done in each of the other sections of the Eastern Canadian Union. Each church and each

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Sabbath school taking hold in earnest to increase its mission offerings will bring the result so much desired. Each member giving more this month than last month is the way it is accomplished. Are you using the cards that were sent out to enable each family and individual to keep a record of their mission offerings? Personally I find that since I have been using this card I have given very much more to missions than formerly. There is nothing like system to bring success in any line, and we surely cannot object consistently to introducing system into the plan for insuring a steady flow into the mission treasury. There is a careful system governing the outflow, and there should be an equally effective system to guide the inflow. The following portions of a letter which I wrote to a sister who was inquiring about the pledge card plan may prove helpful to others:—

"Dear Sister:

I received your letter this morning in which you make inquiry in regard to the matter of the mission offering cards. The reason this system is being advised by the brethren at headquarters, who are responsible for the funds reaching the missionaries, is because our present system brings the bulk of the mission offerings in at the last of the year. That leaves the early part of the year a financial drought, and it cramps the Mission Board badly to provide the requirements of our missionaries during the first nine months of the year when the outlay is as heavy as during the last three months. It has therefore been recommended that our people all through the field adopt the plan of systematically giving to missions

and subscribe an amount per week which they will put forth their best endeavors to give regularly either through the Sabbath school or the various other channels for mission offerings. Wherever this plan has been put into operation it has worked very successfully and has materially raised the amount that has been gathered for missions. I find this is so in my own case. I have subscribed a certain amount each week to missions which I pay in through the Sabbath school. It is an amount greater than I have ever given before, but the fact that I have subscribed and have that card on which to keep tab on my offerings, helps me to be more punctual and give more heavily than I have before. Our little Oshawa Sabbath school is making a remarkable record in the matter of giving this year, and the use of these cards is in a large degree responsible for the increase.

"The cards should be passed out and each individual put down an amount which he will put forth his best endeavors to contribute each week, with the understanding that if he falls behind he will try to make it up at the end of the quarter by the thirteenth Sabbath offering.

"Generally speaking our people are not taking the Harvest Ingathering into consideration in making their pledges. They are trying to keep up their full twenty cents a week or better on the card system, and then whatever they can raise on the Harvest Ingathering is that much more for missions. If some can give more than they have subscribed on their cards, well and good, but let all put forth their best endeavors to come up to the mark which they have set. If all our people will do this it will bring in a regular income from the beginning of the year to the end, and then when the heavier offerings come in at the end of the year there will be an overflow to missions, and there is no question but that the great cause of God needs all the overflow that can be provided for it these days.

"I am sure that when this system is once thoroughly in operation our people will appreciate its advantages and will be unwilling to cast it aside. I would not advise bringing any pressure to bear on persons who are a little slow in seeing the advantage of the plan. Let the cards be given to those who are willing to swing into line. The others will come along later. We must be sure to give all our brethren and sisters credit for honesty of purpose even though some may not move quite as rapidly as others."

M. N. CAMPBELL.

## Colporteurs' Institute

A Colporteurs' Institute will be held at Chatham, Ontario, April 25 to May 1. Elder A. V. Olson, President of the Ontario Conference, and Joseph Capman, Field Missionary Secretary, will conduct the meetings. The Chatham Church will entertain those who attend and who will go out into the field to work as colporteurs this year. Will all who desire to attend please write me at once. Preaching service will be conducted each evening. We look forward to a good meeting.

JOSEPH CAPMAN.

## Standing on Mission Offerings to March 31, 1916

	Mem.	Due	Recd.	Short	Ahead
Ontario	550	\$1430 00	\$916 87	\$513 13	
Maritime	266	691 60	411 52	280 08	
Quebec	150	390 00	238 37	151 63	
Nfld.	62	161 20	215 28		\$54 08
Union	1028	\$2672 80	\$1782 04	\$944 84	\$54 08