

Eastern Canadian Messenger

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The Halifax Disaster

When the explosion occurred which wrought such fearful havoc in the city of Halifax on the morning of December six, we were on board the Maritime Express en route to Halifax to buy a boat for our colporteur work in Newfoundland. We were only a few hours' ride from the city at the time of the accident. The first meager report of the calamity reached us at Amherst, N. S., where our train was delayed for an hour waiting for a company of doctors and nurses and quantities of blankets, bandages and medical supplies that were being sent for the relief of the suffering. All along the line doctors, nurses and weeping men and women who had friends and relatives in the stricken city crowded into our train which made such slow progress that it was night before we arrived at our destination. Long before reaching the city we could see the lurid glare of the burning ruins against the inky heavens, and when ten miles out we began to notice the broken windows. At the outskirts of the city our train was brought to a standstill by piles of debris thrown across the tracks. Carrying our heavy luggage we groped our way in the darkness amidst the wreck and ruin. The air was filled with a sickening odor of burning flesh. Autos and wagons were hurrying to and fro as best they could with their loads of dead and wounded.

Arriving at Elder Chapman's home I was thankful to find him and his family alive and uninjured though every window in their house had been shattered and doors splintered. They were all seated in the dining room having family worship when the crash came. Flying glass and other wreckage fell in heaps around them and yet they all escaped without as much as a scratch or a bruise. Surely the protecting hand of God was over them.

Shortly after my arrival Elder Chapman and I went down to a large nearby hospital to visit a wounded sister. The awful scenes we there saw I would gladly erase from memory if it could only be

done. Every available space in the institution was filled with the wounded, the dead, and the dying. The beds were full, the floors in the hallways, rooms and everywhere were covered with the sufferers lying on mattresses or heaps of rags. Everything was soaked with blood. All had been cut and gashed by flying glass and bruised or crushed by falling timbers. Many were mangled and mutilated beyond recognition; their faces like pieces of raw meat with eyes gone, noses cut off, and ears missing. Many too, had been fearfully burned by fires that broke out in their wrecked homes. Doctors and nurses were working to the point of exhaustion setting broken limbs, extracting glass, splinters and plaster from wounds, cutting, sewing, cleaning and bandaging, while men, women and children came and went in search of missing loved ones. The moans and shrieks of the suffering were heartrending. The hospital itself presented a sad picture with every window broken and bed blankets, window shades, tar paper and old boards tacked up to keep out the cold wind and driving snow.

Early the next morning, in the face of a raging blizzard that added to the misery and wretchedness of the people and rendered rescue work well-nigh impossible, we set out in search of our people, the majority of whom had resided in the completely devastated section. The scenes that greeted our eyes at every turn baffled description. In one brief moment the once fair Halifax had been laid in ruins. Humming factories, bulging warehouses, busy shops and comfortable homes had been razed to the ground and every building in the city damaged. In an instant from one to two thousand lives had been snuffed out and thousands more wounded, many of them blinded, crippled and maimed for life. Shortly after the explosion fires broke out among the ruins and soon a large area of the city was a veritable lake of fire. Scores, if not hundreds, of bodies of men, women and children pinned under the wreckage, many of them alive, were destroyed by the flames. We saw men

who had escaped digging in the ashes of their homes for some trace of their families, some found their charred remains, others found only the ashes while still others found not a thing. At the morgues we saw the dead by the hundreds. In one corner was an unidentified woman and her four children. The husband and father had undoubtedly been killed at his work and was perhaps in the same morgue but there was no one left who could tell.

While reports of Nova Scotia's proud metropolis is a scene of desolation. Practically every window in the city is broken, churches and schools are unroofed and here and there throughout the city are buildings with walls knocked in or out. Caricalls of tin and roofing paper have been nailed up over the demolished windows and doors.

As soon as news of the catastrophe spread over the country, train loads of supplies were dispatched to the stricken city for the relief of the suffering.

After a search of two or three days we were able to locate all of our people and weary what to say but with the exception of one little baby girl who was still missing when we left all are alive and most of them unharmed. This is marvelous, especially in view of the fact that the majority of those lived in the wooden frame every house was destroyed. Thus all feel that the Lord miraculously delivered them and they are praising Him for His protection and care.

When viewing such scenes of disaster we are forcefully impressed with the fact that the judgments of God are abroad in the land and we are also reminded of the words of the Saviour when he said: "Of those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem? I tell you Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
A. V. OLSON.

School and M. V. Societies in Maritime

It affords considerable pleasure to be able to report progress along the M. V. and Educational lines of work throughout the Union. Although this has been a hard year and it seemed at times as though some of the church schools would not pull through, all of them are doing nicely and prospering.

On a recent trip to Maritime I visited Williamsdale, Oxford, Halifax, Moncton and St. John, and on the way back, I stopped at Montreal. It seemed good to return to Williamsdale. It was the first time I had been back since serving on the faculty during the year 1914-15. I was pleased to note the several improvements that have been made recently. The two new buildings make a fine addition to the school property. All the buildings are now supplied with running water of exceptionally good quality. I noticed

that the library is gradually assuming proportions. A little more work and expense will put an excellent working library at the disposal of the students, thereby enabling them to do even better class work. The new library equipment had just arrived and, judging from the intense interest shown, this class will probably become one of the most popular classes in the school. These are fine young people at this school with their eyes turned toward the ministry. Bible work, teaching and nursing, and we look for great things from them. Brother and Sister Martin, the new members of the faculty, are doing good work and soon to have the confidence of the good people of Maritime. I was glad of the opportunity I had of visiting in the homes of a number of the students, and was much impressed by the willingness with which the parents sacrificed to keep their boys and girls in school.

From Williamsdale I went to Halifax. There I met an earnest working church. We had good young people's meetings and an excellent interest was shown in the church school work. The church decided that they would establish a church school there next September, so that their children might be taught in a Christian school by a Christian teacher, who, Sister White says, "As a Christian missionary shall teach the children to be Christians."

At St. John they have a fine company of young people and children. They are going to receive their M. V. work and are also making plans for the establishing of a church there next fall. This church has sent out a number of young men and women into the land's vineyard and I trust that many of the boys and girls now in the work of God.

We had a good meeting at Moncton. There is a strong desire for a church school there. If the church can see no way forwardly, they will start one. I am sure that, as the God in whom we trust has all the wealth of the world at his command, there will be no lack of funds for this worthy object. The members of each of these churches are anxious to have no one but a thoroughly converted teacher sent to them. I trust that we shall not disappoint them. At Moncton we have a lively M. V. Society. Many are entering heartily into all the phases of M. V. work. Just as soon as conditions are favorable, they hope to have a church school.

There is "the sound of a going" in our church, but the world pulls hard and insistently on our youth. Let us ask ourselves if we are doing all that we can and ought to do for the boys and girls. Let us pray God to give us willing and earnest hearts and a deep devotion to the salvation of our young people, that it may be our happy privilege to meet them all before the throne of God in his soon-coming kingdom.

N. H. SAUNDERS.

MARITIME

The "Testimonies"

That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 1: 5-7. "The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." "I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not; I am thy fellow servant of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus; worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10. "Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Prov. 29:18.

These few scriptures show us somewhat of the importance of having the testimony of Jesus, or spirit of prophecy, not only as a people but as individuals, that each individual may have in his own possession what God has said to his people through this gift, by having in his library the "Testimonies for the Church." Many have felt that they would like to have them but where would the means come from to purchase them. I cannot express how thankful I am that our brethren in the Eastern Canadian Union have devised a simple means of helping the brethren and sisters to obtain the "Testimonies." The offer made through the MESSENGER dated November 13 is a liberal one and the means of raising the amount required is within the reach of all. Even the children can sell such books as the "World War" and thus help to get the "Testimonies" in their home.

The "Testimonies" will be a great help to God's children under these trying circumstances under which they are now placed. How much better we would now be prepared if all had been reading them and heeding what they say! But it is not too late. Thank God he will still hear the cry of his children. "Prayer moves the arm of omnipotence. He who marshalled the stars in order in the heavens, whose word controls the waves of the great deep . . . the same infinite Creator will work in behalf of his people if they call upon him in faith. He will restrain the forces of darkness until the warning is given to the world and all who will heed it are prepared for the conflict." Vol. V. Test. 82, p. 453. Never was there a time when God's children were in greater need of help and divine wisdom.

"War lifts his helmet to his brow;

O God, protect thy people now."

I know of no book or books outside of the Bible that will furnish the help we need as will the "Testimonies."

Brethren, you who have the "Testimonies," take them from your shelves and read them. You who have not the "Testimonies," take advantage of this liberal offer. I hope every Sabbath keeper in this Union will avail himself of this opportunity.

The Maritime Tract Society has on hand quite a number of "World War," "Armageddon," "Shadow of the Bottle," and when these are sold we will get more. The same offer as made by the Canadian Publishing Assn., is made by the Maritime Tract Society and we will expect those living in Maritime to order through their local society. Get the "Testimonies" and read them?
J. L. WILSON.

Present Truth

Beginning January 1918, *Present Truth* will be changed to a monthly, and the price of Canadian subscriptions will be twenty-five cents a year. This will be in addition to the series now published known as the *Present Truth Series*.

The prospect for 1918 shows a list of strong, timely topics that will be a help to our people and will raise questions in the minds of non-believers that will help to interest them in this great truth. We give below a list of suggested topics of the various issues month by month:

January—The World in Ferment.

February—After the War—What?

March—Armageddon—The Last Great Battle.

April—Prophecy Fulfilled and Fulfilled.

May—Signs of the Times.

June—Christ's Second Coming.

July—The Sabbath.

August—The Change of the Sabbath.

September—The Last Gospel Message.

October—The Sanctuary.

November—The Judgment.

December—The Reward of the Saints.

We do not wish our readers to confuse the new publication of *Present Truth* with the *Present Truth Series*. The *Present Truth Series* consists of 24 numbers that will take its place with the others of our tracts such as *Words of Truth Series*, etc. The present series of 24 numbers will be kept on hand for missionary work and the old prices will prevail. The numbers and titles will be unchanged. The new paper will be called *Present Truth*, the same name that was given it when it first appeared in 1849.

We feel that our people should respond nobly to this offer for we do not know of any monthly publication so filled with this message that can be procured for twenty-five cents a year. Send it to a number of your friends and start it with the first issue in January. It will be necessary for you to order at once so that this can be gotten to the publishers in time to send out the first issue. Send all orders accompanied by cash to the Canadian Publishing Association.

Eastern Canadian Messenger

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
EASTERN CANADIAN UNION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTISTS

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P. A. Spangler Editor

Entered as second-class matter. Price, 50 cents a year
in advance.

Our New Policy

The past year has revealed many things of interest in this Union and we feel that the gain in the publishing and periodical work has been marvelous. We cannot give definite figures at this early date but from present indications it seems that the retail value of books and periodicals etc., sold in this Union the past twelve months will reach the fifty thousand dollar mark. This will more than double the volume of business done in 1916. Never before have we done such business as we did during the summer months of this year and we are looking forward to even greater things the coming season, and are planning accordingly.

To handle all this business has required a great deal of labor and we find it necessary to change the policy of the publishing house to conform to the standard followed by our denominational tract societies. We have carried on our books several hundred accounts with individuals and societies and find that the task is too much for us. Therefore we have been obliged to discontinue opening up personal accounts and deal only with our workers, church librarians, and colporteurs, both book and periodical. This does not mean, however, that we will not sell to whoever wishes to purchase. It simply means that all individuals desiring to purchase any goods must accompany their order with cash. Church members of course, can order through the church librarian and settle with that individual. The librarian in turn will order from us and it will be charged to the church account.

We are forced to request that our churches, colporteurs, and workers settle their bills in full at the end of each month. The publishing houses are demanding this and in order to pay up our bills it is necessary for us to follow the same rule.

We desire to take this opportunity to thank our many patrons for their business with us in the past, and we hope that in the future we may do greater business with you. We wish to make you feel that we are trying to build up this work for your benefit so that you can carry on your missionary work more aggressively, and with the least amount of annoyance and delay. We are striving to stock up with all standard goods so that we can take care of orders as they come in and not make you wait until they can

be shipped from one of the other publishing houses to us. We are putting in a supply of tracts and feel that this will be welcome news to many as heretofore these orders have been filled elsewhere. After putting our new policy into operation, by spending less time upon our bookkeeping, we will have more time to give to the building up of the work, which will be to our mutual benefit.

We wish our many patrons the season's greetings, and trust that they will find 1918 a happy and prosperous year.

CANADIAN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

Change of Address

Kindly note the change of address of N. H. Saunders to 184 Fulton Ave., Toronto, Ontario. All Young Peoples' Missionary Volunteer and Educational reports for Ontario, Quebec and the Union should be sent to him at that address.

Notice

This issue of the paper is No. 50 for 1917, and will be the last one printed this year. There will not be any issue dated December 25.

We wish to thank the many contributors who have sent in articles throughout the year and have thus shown their interest in the paper; and together with the many readers, we wish to extend to them the holiday greetings, with the sincere wish that many blessings will be theirs during 1918.

THE MESSENGER.

Quebec Conference Report for November 1917

Churches	Tithes	Miss.	Sub. S.	Misc.	Total
Fitch Bay	\$ 18 40	\$ 3 00	\$ 2 20	\$23 00	\$ 46 60
Individuals	15 45		2 00		40 45
Mont'l Eng	240 03	51 15	9 23		300 41
Mont'l French	81 23	28 00	12 24		121 47
Namur	8 00				8 00
North Hatley	18 45	29 78	6 24		54 47
Quebec	4 40	24 10	34 70	13 50	76 85
Sherbrooke	3 05	5 70			8 75
South Bolton				5 00	5 00
South Sledzoy	81 10	10 07	5 00		102 17
Sutton	13 06	15 78	7 14	1 40	37 38
Total	\$407 06	\$171 58	\$78 94	\$42 90	\$700 51

F. E. DUPTON, Secy.

Colporteurs' Report, Week Ending Dec. 8, 1917

Name	Book	Trs.	Value	Helps	Total	Def.
A Green	BR	22				\$143 50
J. Chamberlain	BR	54				121 00
G H Cooke	BR	47				122 00
W Duclos	BR	24	\$24 00	\$2 50	\$26 50	2 50
Minnie Levy	Mag	10	12 45		12 45	12 45
A Dagg	BR	15				8 00
*F Thumwood	BR	69	62 00	4 00	66 00	108 05
*C Wallis	WW	29	61 00		61 00	61 00
Totals		279	\$159 45	\$ 6 50	\$166 95	\$678 50

*Two weeks.