

THE Canadian Union Messenger

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

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AN APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT

RIGHT HONORABLE SIR WILFRID LAURIER, PREMIER OF CANADA, AND THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

Honorable Gentlemen:—

It affords me great pleasure in meeting you to-day, and having the privilege of speaking in behalf of my people, and against the encroachments upon their rights by those who are appealing to Parliament for a law to compel everybody in Canada to keep Sunday, regardless of what their own individual convictions of Sabbath observance may be. We as a people keep holy the seventh day, the day our Creator rested upon and blessed and sanctified at the close of the creative week, the same day that it was the custom of our Saviour and the apostles to observe.

Our people are a temperate, industrious, God-loving people, and there is no law in the province of Quebec after they have conscientiously observed the Sabbath (the seventh day) to hinder their quietly attending to their agricultural employments on the first day of the week. But there are those who are asking you honorable gentlemen to pass a law whereby this God-loving people can be compelled to keep another day, the sacredness of which they do not believe in, and thus they would be deprived of one-sixth part of the time that God has given them to labor for the support of their families. "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work." Exodus 20:9.

We are also an incorporate body as found in 58 Vic. 95 p. 301, in which act we are recognized by the legislature of Quebec and

given all the rights of a body of Protestant Christians.

Now how would a Sunday law affect this body of Christian people? When a man found that he could not support his family by working five days in the week he would be tempted either to violate this law that the government is asked to make or violate the law which God has already made. Ex. 20:8-11. Then such a law would drive him either to be a criminal in the sight of the world or a sinner in the sight of heaven. This is a serious question, and we humbly, yet earnestly protest against a law being made that will trample under foot our provincial rights, and brand our people as criminals or make sinners of them.

As long as the State cannot assume the responsibility of the sins of the people, it should not make laws whereby they cannot worship according to the dictates of their own consciences. Our church covenant is to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, (Rev. 14:12) and I am sure that it is not a religion to be ashamed of, nor are we a people such as would make trouble for any nation; for if all the world lived up to that covenant, we would need neither police, judges, nor gaols.

We cannot make Christians by law. It has been tried in every age, from the days of Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon, to the present time, and every time it has proved a complete failure. It is in direct opposition to the foundation principles of Christianity as laid down by our Saviour himself in these words: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them."

Are those who are asking for this Sunday law doing as they would like to be done by? Would they like to have us ask Parliament to make a law to compel them to keep Saturday? No. Nor do we wish for such a law. The weapon of the Christian is the sword of the spirit, which works from within instead of from without. It operates upon the mind and heart rather than upon the person.

We believe in law and order and obey our rulers in all civil matters, and our prayer for all those in authority is that wisdom may be granted them from heaven to keep forever separate the Church and the State, the union of which has always brought persecution, and can never have any other result.

H. E. RICKARD.

A HEARING WITH THE PREMIER

In company with Elder W. H. Thurston, Elder H. E. Rickard, and Elder A. O. Burrill, the writer had the pleasure of presenting before the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the Minister of Justice, Mr. Kirkpatrick, a brief setting forth the reasons why we object to the proposed Sunday law urged upon the Dominion Parliament by the Lord's Day Alliance.

Neither of the honorable gentlemen made any response to the matter as it was presented before them, and we hardly expected them to do so; but reports were taken of the points which we made, and appeared in all the leading papers of the Dominion of Canada. Not only so, but our brief will be sent to the leaders of the Lord's Day Alliance, and this will have the effect of setting before their minds in a clearer light than they have ever had it done our reasons for objecting to their proposed Sunday law.

Elder Rickard's appeal appears on the first page of the MESSENGER this week. Although not so lengthy as the one presented

by the writer it contains many good points, and will bear a careful study by our people throughout the Dominion.

The mass-meeting held in the evening in St. George's Hall was not so well attended as we had desired, but some of the people of Ottawa were in attendance, and seemed to appreciate the principles of religious liberty as they were set forth. A reporter from one of the leading papers was present, and an account of the meeting appeared in the leading Ottawa papers the next morning.

We hope to present in future numbers of the MESSENGER an outline of the brief which was given at that time. The principles of religious liberty are not as well understood, even by our own people; as they should be, and we hope that when these matters in this concise form are placed before them that each one will by a thorough study of these articles become better acquainted with these principles.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

OUR experience in meeting with the Minister of Justice together with the circumstances connected with it, holding the meeting in the evening after the hearing, and interviewing the editors of the leading papers of Toronto the next morning, has confirmed us in the belief that the principles that Seventh-day Adventists have been teaching ever since they first became a distinct denomination, are certainly the truth. Not only so, but we are more and more convinced from these experiences that we are nearer the conclusion of the controversy upon this Sabbath question than even we ourselves are aware.

I visited six offices of the different daily papers in the city of Toronto, and in not a single instance was I able to get the publication of the brief alluded to in another column. Nevertheless every one of these papers had published notices varying in length from a few lines to a half column,

covering to a greater or less extent the points which we had made in the brief.

One of the leading papers in the city promised that if we would leave them a copy of the brief that they would make use of it for an editorial in a future number of their paper. We intend to send them a copy as soon as we can do so. We hope that this agitation of the Sunday question will stimulate our brethren to the greatest activity in circulating the petition in opposition to this law. The Premier granted Elder Thurston the privilege of presenting the petition as soon as a favorable opportunity would allow. For this we are thankful.

FROM THE FIELD

NEWFOUNDLAND

THIS mission field of the Canadian Union Conference has only one organized church of Seventh-day Adventists. This is located at St John's, the capital of the island. Very little effort has been put forth for the advancement of the message in the "outports," and in the writer's mind that is the reason that there is less than half a dozen Sabbath-keepers outside the metropolis.

This field is exclusively Methodist and Church of England, with a few Presbyterians and Congregationalists. The Salvation Army has a growing influence. There is not a Baptist church or organized company on the island. When we see that influential denomination with its various divisions fail to get a foothold, we thank God for the evidences of his power and presence with the Advent message.

Elder C. H. Keslake having arrived to take charge of the work, we sailed from St. John's Nov. 8, for Twillingate, arriving the evening of the 11th. We are now on this small island, twenty miles from the mainland, and the harbor is frozen over, so the MESSENGER will have to be conveyed to us on dog sled. While everything has the ap-

pearance of the Arctic region yet our hearts are warm, and we rejoice in the work, and praise God for health.

A little farther north is the coast of Labrador, the home of the Esquimaux, where no Seventh-day Adventist has ever set a foot. They are a "people," and surely some one must give them the invitation to the "marriage supper." This may seem fanciful to some, but to my mind it is "cold" fact.

We are meeting with determined opposition from pulpit and press, and have been unable, so far, to get a place for public meetings; yet we look for victory. As things develop we shall report. Pray for us.

F. A. TRACY.

PALMERSTON

DURING the week of prayer we held services each evening at our house. These services were attended by some from the outside, who came each evening and seemed to appreciate them very much.

On Sunday evening the leaders of the Millennial Dawn came to lay bare the "fallacy of Adventism." They gave good attention to the lesson for the evening, and seemed pleased with the thoughts presented. When the services were over they concluded that their time had come. Then a spirited Bible talk for more than an hour ensued. The Bible truths hedged them in closer and closer until but one way of escape was found,—to deny the Scripture which completely closed their gates. This they did. The truth, instead of being vanquished, shone brighter than before. One of them said ere leaving that he was a learner, and that if we had truth that he did not have, he wanted it.

The week of prayer was a precious season to us all.

I am visiting about twenty-five or thirty families a week, and hope to sow some seeds that will bring forth fruit for the kingdom of God.

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EUGENE LELAND, Editor.

TO OUR READERS :—

When requesting change of address, be sure to give both old and new address.

In case the paper is not received promptly, notify us and another copy will be sent.

A blue pencil mark here indicates that your subscription has expired.

Entered as second-class matter.

I visited the public library and obtained the privilege of placing some of our literature on its tables. I am now keeping there regularly the *Signs and Life and Health*.

We should wisely improve every opportunity, and enter every opening to disseminate the seeds of truth.

Remember us in your prayers.

A. L. MILLER.

To LIVE content with small means, to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages with open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never; and in a word to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious, grow up through the common—this is to be my symphony.—*William Elery Channing*.

OTTAWA TREATMENT ROOMS

It was a decided pleasure to spend a short time at these rooms during our recent visit to the capital. Better equipped rooms we have never had the pleasure of visiting; and under the hustling management of Brother Will Hurdon, with his wife and her sister as assistants, we are sure that the work will prove a success, and a blessing to the people of Ottawa.

Elder Miller's letter which appears in another column, was received some time ago, but, unfortunately it was mislaid, and it has just come to light. The matter is of interest, and we know that the letter will be read with pleasure by Elder Miller's many friends. We owe him our apologies.

Let no one slacken his efforts in the direction of securing signatures to the petition against the proposed Sunday law. People are more ready to sign the petition than we had supposed at first. From actual experience we find that when the matter is properly put before the people, seven out of every ten will sign it.

OFFICE NOTES

We are glad to hear good reports of the petition work from all parts of the Dominion.

We have just shipped three more large orders of our tracts at reduced prices.

Elder Leland of the Lornedale Academy visited the Toronto church last Sabbath.

Brethren G. W. Sowler and Earl Spencer are canvassing in this city with good success so far.

We would ask all the Sabbath-school secretaries who have not already done so, to please send in their reports.

We have a good supply of the two religious liberty tracts, "Principles Too Little Understood" and "An Appeal to the Christian People of Canada." Hereafter the price of these two will be only fifty cents a hundred postpaid.

Report of the Canvassing Work for Week Ending Jan. 5, 1906

Name	Place	Book	Orders	Value	Value Miscellaneous	Orders Delivered
J. Pengelly,	Shelburne, Ont.	C. K.	33	39.50	24.25	
Mrs. C. O. Hickok,	Bracebridge, Ont.	G't Cont.	10	27.50	3.50	
H. D. Carr,	Lorne Park, Ont.	D. R.	3	6.75	10.25	
John McEachern,	Lorne Park, Ont.	C. K.	2	2.50		
Totals,			48	76.25	38.	