

THE Canadian Union Messenger

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

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WHY WE OPPOSE THE SUNDAY BILL

There are several reasons why we oppose this Bill, and we wish to set them out in order before the people so that there may be no misunderstanding in regard to the matter. In doing this we shall not misrepresent anyone, though we may have occasion to refer to some things which have been said with reference to the work and the people which we represent; but we shall not indulge in personalities, believing that that kind of an argument is a confession of the weakness of a cause which is obliged to resort to it.

Our numbers are small, and our resources are limited so far as the things of this world are concerned; but our cause rests upon the eternal principles of truth, and these principles are bound to command the respect of men who are willing to grant to others the same privileges which they would like to enjoy themselves. From those who are not willing to grant these privileges, we expect nothing; but we believe that the men who compose the committee to whom this Bill has been referred, are men who will grant this poor boon, and that is the reason why we make this appeal.

The first reason we have to urge this Bill is that it is Religious Legislation. I am well aware that this statement will be opposed by religious people, and yet we have never seen a reason advanced by these people that would stand the test of logical criticism, to show that it is not religious legislation. From whatever point of view we look upon this Bill its true religious character is revealed.

ITS TITLE

It is called "The Lord's Day Act." Why the *Lord's Day Act*, rather than a Bill to Secure a National Holiday? The reason is plain. It is because those who are seeking to secure this legislation do not in any sense regard the Sabbath as a holiday, but they do regard it as a *holy day*. Common, civil labor, or harmless recreation, would not be considered as a crime if performed on a recognized legal holiday such as Dominion Day or even on Thanksgiving day. Why then should they be so considered when performed on Sunday, unless that day was regarded differently from these other days, and the difference consists in the fact that Sunday is regarded as religious, while the others are merely civil holidays.

The Sabbath is called "My Holy Day," "The Lord's day," and it is spoken of as being "Sanctified" in the Scripture. Now all these expressions are religious in character, and they all show the religious character of the day to which they are applied. Never once is the Sabbath spoken of in the Bible as a civil institution. No one would ever think of the Lord's prayer, or the Lord's Supper, as being other than religious institutions; but it is the title which is applied to them that gives them their religious character. Similarly the title of this Bill betrays its religious character.

ITS DESIGN

It is claimed by the promoters of this measure that the object of the Bill is to secure to the working man one day of rest every week. Now if that is really the case, and there is no design to enforce religion upon any one, if the design of the promot-

ers is purely philanthropic in character, and not religious, if their only purpose in this legislation is to secure to the laboring man a day of rest, without reference to religion, there are several little coincidences and circumstances connected with it that demand an explanation, as they seem to indicate a very different purpose; and the first of these is

THE DAY SELECTED

The very fact of having selected Sunday rather than some other day of the week, betrays the religious character of the Bill. It is a fact that mere physical rest can be taken upon any other day of the week as well as upon Sunday, and it is a fact that in many industries that are operated upon seven days of the week, provision is made with the workmen who desire it whereby they are required to work only six days in the week. The Toronto Street-car Company furnishes an example of this kind.

In addition to these facts it is well known that there never has been a time in all the history of the world when labor was so well organized as it is at the present time, and if the laboring men were really suffering physically for want of a weekly day of rest, they would not be slow in making known their grievances and in taking steps to have them redressed, through their organization.

Many times in the past, the laboring man who has suffered grievances in the way of underpay, or over-work, has sought and found redress through his organization. That is the very object of the organization. The laboring man needs no assistance from the church to secure his weekly day of rest except from the spiritual point of view.

THE ORIGIN OF THE BILL

The source from which the Bill originated reveals its religious character. It originated with the Lord's Day Alliance, an organization, the executive board of which, both Provincial and Dominion, are com-

posed almost entirely of Protestant clergymen. There are between thirty-five and forty such on the Dominion Board.

Much more might be said under this head, but we will leave it for next week.

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Just before the Israelites went into the promised land, they were very fearful and were distrustful of God.

When God saw the spirit of distrustfulness coming into the hearts of the people, he spoke to Joshua, their leader, and told him to be "strong and of good courage." Joshua's faith was strengthened and he went forward into the land of promise without ever turning back or doubting God.

God's people at the present time, are going through just such a trial as the people of God went through at that time. Although every thing looks dark and tempestuous before us, let us be "strong and of good courage," and like faithful Joshua go into the promised land which is only such a short distance in the front.

Let all be girded about with the truth and be true to the divine calling. If God be for us who can be against us. We have the majority on our side after all. With all the mighty powers of heaven on our side why are we so weak? Now is the time to "strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees."

Let us one and all, be "strong and of good courage," and present a solid front to the enemy of all righteousness. And then, when all is finished, we can be among that happy throng that shall see Jesus come, and be caught up in the air with Him to reign throughout eternity.

E. L. SPENCER.

"Habit is a cable; we weave a thread of it each day, and it becomes so strong we cannot break it."—*Horace Mann*.

FROM THE FIELD

Halifax, N. S.

DEAR MESSENGER :—On Sunday, Mar. 25, we closed a series of four weeks meetings here.

The weather conditions were somewhat against having a good attendance; this, combined with the apathy and indifference of the people gave us small audiences outside of our own people. Three, who have been keeping the sabbath for some time, have expressed their desire publicly to unite fully with us in church fellowship, and three others also made a start for the kingdom and will unite in due time. The church has been strengthened spiritually, and the aim of all is to press toward the kingdom, and help to spread the message of salvation.

Elder Guthrie and Bro. Levi Longard rendered valuable service during the series.

At our conference committee session, which was held here during the meetings, it was decided that the writer and family should return to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in April, and continue the work which was left there two years ago. Elder Guthrie will keep in touch with the work in Halifax as the occasion demands.

We expect to see the work prosper on the Island, as much of the good seed of the word has been sown there and it is time to go in and reap.

Pray for us, and the prosperity of the Third Angels Message.

Yours in the blessed hope,

J. GREER HANNA.

Lynden, Ont.

We thought we would report to the MESSENGER, as the Lord has blessed us so much in our little company here, although not a strong company by any means, yet we see he work prospering in our hands.

We have two new Sabbath-keepers, brother Frank Poulton and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Roy Poulton, as an answer to our prayers and a reward for our labors.

We are all of good courage and are anxious to learn more of the truth, and we hope to continue to do well by God's grace

Your's in faith and love,

M. C. MYERS, in behalf
of the Lynden church.

Lorendale Academy Notes.

The winter term closed Thursday evening April 5, with the last meeting of the Literary society. An excellent program was rendered for the evening. The students and friends of the school met in the Academy parlor where the various talents were displayed. The program was principally Musical and Literary. The society was favored by piano duets from Mr. and Miss Taylor, and Mr. Spencer and Miss Walker. The evening was enjoyed by all, and the exercises were fitly closed by three short addresses from Elder Burrill, B. B. Noftger, and the Principal.

Among the visitors from the outside, were Miss Blanche Walker, B. B. Noftger, A. O. Burrill, E. L. Spencer, and Mrs. Taylor with her son and daughter.

Fred Boettger, one of the faithful students of the Academy, left for home Friday morning. His presence and cheerful words will be missed by all. He has been connected with school nearly three years.

Henry Pengelly who has been connected with the school ever since it started, intends to spend the summer months in canvassing.

Miss Florence White and Miss Iva Sumner are spending their vacation at their respective homes, but they both intend to return after the holidays.

Miss Ora Hickok will not remain with us during the spring term. We shall miss her pleasant smile.

Master Bruce Nebbitt and Master Richard Satterlee will both remain on the school farm during the vacation.

Miss Edith Pangburn met with an unfortunate accident recently. Her right thumb was severely cut on a broken bottle, so that she is unable to play the piano. We miss the music very much.

Miss May Mathews and her sister Evadna intend to remain at the school during the spring term.

Master Howard Capman returned to his home in Chatham last week.

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EUGENE LELAND, Editor.

TO OUR READERS :-

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

Entered as second-class matter.

John McEachern intends to spend the summer months with a tent. Brother H. D. Carr will associate with him in the work. We wish them much success.

Howard Patchett intends to spend a portion of the time in canvassing, and of course Miss Myrtle will remain at home to help her mother.

Miss Merle Bruner who has been connected with the school ever since the first year, is still at her post of duty.

Misses Maude and Annie Pengelly intend to return to school again for the spring term after spending a couple of weeks at their brother's in Beeton.

Our school farm is looking well under the skillful management of Brother Herbert Knister. What with new fences, new ditches, a new silo, and some other improvements, the place would hardly be recognized by those who have not seen it for a year or so. Fifteen carloads of fertilizer have been drawn on to the farm the past winter, and with diligent effort and the blessings of rain and sunshine, we hope to gather a remunerative harvest the present year.

It is our intention to conduct a summer school the present year in which a limited number will be

able to pay their way entirely in work. Should any be interested to attend upon these terms, we should be pleased to correspond with them.

A small announcement will be printed and sent out soon.

The committee to whom the Lord's Day Act was referred, has been appointed, and their first meeting was held on Monday. We hope to be on hand to oppose the Bill.

OFFICE NOTES

Two new Sabbath-keepers are reported at Lynden, Ont.

Quarterly reports are coming in fast, for this we are thankful.

Please send in the Haskell Home offering soon, as the money is needed at the home.

This office would be glad to receive clippings from newspapers relative to the Lord's Day Alliance Bill now before Parliament.

Several from Toronto attended the closing exercises at Lornedale Academy the 5th inst. An excellent program was well rendered.

Mayor Fallinsbee, of Strathroy, spoke to the company in Toronto last Sabbath. His discourse was enjoyed by all, and a most excellent testimony meeting followed.

From word just received, we believe that Brother T. H. Robinson, of London, Ont., will likely be with us again by the time this reaches you. He has been sojourning in California.

Mrs. A. A. Crackel, of Chatham, Ont., writes that she is just recovering from an attack of appendicitis. Her husband has recovered sufficiently to take up his business again.

An excellent order for books and papers has just arrived from the Librarian of the St. Thomas, Ont., church. The Librarian writes that they intend doing more missionary work than they have been doing.

Report of the Canvassing Work for Week Ending Mar. 30, 1906

Name	Place	Book	Orders	Value	Value Miscellaneous	Orders	Delivered
Earl Spencer,	Toronto, Ont.	B. R.	4	8.25			
Grant Priddy,	Markham, Ont.	D. R.	6	6.			
G. W. Sowler,	Toronto, Ont.	B. R.	3	7.50	1.30		7.25
A. M. Taylor,	Galt, Ont.	G.C.	2	4.75	5.90		2.25
John McEachern,	Lorne Park, Ont.	D. R.	1	3.			
Mrs. R. Barnett,	Stratford, Ont.	Grt. Cont.	2	5.50			
Totals,			6 Agents,	18	\$35.	\$7.20	\$9.50