

### P. E. I. Presbyterian Young People Hold Week-end Conference Rally

Fifteen representatives of the Presbyterian Young People's Societies of P. E. I. recently assembled at Keir Camp for a week-end training conference under the leadership of Miss Margaret MacDougall, Rev. G. C. Cunningham and Rev. J. A. McGowan.

After the young people were established for the week-end in their various quarters, they gathered around the organ for a fellowship period and service of worship.

On Saturday morning, Mr. Cunningham brought to the Young People the first message on the theme, "Serving the Lord". In this Mr. Cunningham pointed out that all are servants to something, either to sin and so to death, or to obedience to God's will unto righteousness. If individuals are to be true servants of Jesus Christ they must seek His will and put themselves in His hands. They must beware of

choosing their own way and then asking God's blessing upon it. Rather let them be alert to God's speaking to them through influences in their lives, open and closed doors and other things.

On Saturday afternoon, after a period of free time, the Young People again assembled and participated in two most profitable discussions on Young People's work and on Sunday Schools. Regarding the former, the group discussed the former, the group discussed, who should be in Young Peoples (whether the Young People's service was to be a time for all the young people of the congregation to get together or was it more of a time of study and fellowship for those who are committed to Christ that they might better bear witness to others). While no definite conclusion on this was reached, all felt that those two groups should be kept in mind when planning a program. Programs and program

material were also discussed. The Young People are looking forward to the Study Book of this year, entitled, "The Church of Jesus Christ", it being a Biblical study in the origin, foundation, and faith of the church, the doctrines of the Reformed Church and the study of social problems. The Young People should find this Study Book practical and helpful.

#### Group Study

In the Sunday School discussion the Young People were divided into small groups and assigned three questions to discuss among themselves and report upon, namely (1) the purpose of Sunday School, (2) the form the worship should take in the Sunday School, and (3) whether or not memory work in Sunday School is desirable. The reports of the findings proved most interesting and with some further discussion the group arrived at the conclusion that the purpose of our Sunday School is to provide Christian teaching, that the youth of the church may be led to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and gain opportunity for fellowship among Christian young people and to prepare and train for church membership. It

was felt that too much of the Sunday School hour is given to worship under the whole school and perhaps students would gain more if the opening service of worship were shorter, leaving the reading of the scripture lesson to be done in each class.

A thought was given to the idea of the time of Sunday School, and it was found that in some places where it could be done, the plan of having the children join in the church service of worship and then go to their own Sunday School class for their study, was proving satisfactory. It was fairly generally agreed that the children should memorize choice passages of scripture, catechism, etc., even if they do not completely understand them.

Later on in the evening there was further discussion on the theme in which was stressed the desirability of vitiating, rather than resorting to other popular means, to raise the necessary funds for our Church work.

Throughout the day ten new members were welcomed to the Conference, thus bringing the number to twenty-five.

On Sunday morning at 7:30 Mr. Cunningham conducted a most impressive Communion Service.

At 11 o'clock the Young People assembled for a song service and a service of worship, led by Miss MacDougall, who based her thoughts on Christ's prayer as recorded in John 17. Following the meditation everyone present joined in a season of sentence prayer, followed by prayer by Mrs. Cunningham.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. McGowan brought the second message on the theme, "Serving the Lord". Mr. McGowan turned the thoughts of the Young People to Barnabas, as a living example of devoted service. He pointed out how Barnabas, through his faith in Christian men, was the one who believed in Paul's change of heart, and introduced him to the work of the church. Later on, his faith in John Mark kept Mark in the service of the church, and thus, through Barnabas, two outstanding missionaries were encouraged and strengthened in Christian service. So we, to be true servants, must ever be ready to support and strengthen our brethren. This service was conducted entirely by the Young People with the following taking part: Bernice Llewellyn, Christine MacInnis, Joan Large, Marion Lockhart, Priscilla Reid, Laura King, Carol Adams, Ellnor Bernard, Buddy Trainor, Edison MacDonald, and Robert Smith.

of regular members at the Societies' own meetings. Ten points are awarded to the Societies supporting the Young People's project recommended by Presbytery's committee. Fifteen points for support of some missionary project. Ten points are awarded to all Societies taking up a definite study at its meetings. Sixteen points for attendance of delegates at council meeting.

The possibility of starting a project for the coming year was discussed to some extent. It was moved by Rev. G. C. Cunningham and seconded by Laura King that a Bible drama project be selected by a committee to oversee the whole matter, the semi-finals to be decided at each District Rally and the finals to be decided at our next Labor Day Rally at Keir Camp. It was moved by Rev. G. C. Cunningham and seconded by Addie Halliwell that Doris Ferguson, Mrs. Cunningham and Mrs. F. N. Young be the members of this committee.

#### Next Year's Rally

After some discussion on the advisability of appointing several committees to look after the Rally for next year, it was moved by Rev. G. C. Cunningham and seconded by Anne MacEachern that the new Executive certain individuals be appointed for the various factors of the Rally, and that they be given power to choose their own committees, preferably from Council members, and that the Executive have the privilege of using the executive funds to allow these committees to get together for one full meeting in the spring to finalize all plans and to have everything in readiness for the next Fall Rally. The following committee leaders were appointed: Publicity, Joan Large; Program, Addie Halliwell.

Considerable discussion followed on how the Young People's Societies might be able to pay the salary of a full time Young People's Secretary appointed in Freetown and the possibilities of Sunday School projects to support a missionary in British Guiana. It was moved and seconded that each Society contribute \$10.00 to the camp fund in the coming year, and set aside a special night in Young Peoples, the offering to go to the support of the missions. It was also moved and seconded that the National Young People's Night be revived.

The meeting was brought to a close with prayer by Rev. G. C. Cunningham.

At the afternoon session the Executive took charge of the worship service. The president presided. Hymn 570 was sung, followed by the scripture reading from second Timothy, 4th chapter, verses 1 to 8, read by Addie Halliwell. Mrs. James Nicholson led in prayer. The worship service was brought to a close by singing hymn 590.

#### President's Report

The president then gave a comprehensive report of the year's work.

Mr. Boyd Bearisto extended a hearty welcome to all present and Mrs. James Nicholson responded on behalf of the various Young People's Societies represented. The president then called upon Rev. G. C. Cunningham who gave an outline of the Council meeting held in the morning.

The Young People were then divided into discussion groups to discuss the following topics: (1) Why so many young people are not interested in Young People's work; (2) some of the reasons the young people are not willing to take part in the meetings and discussions. After a short time the Young People re-assembled to report the findings of the groups. Regarding the former, the following points were brought out: (1) outside interests; (2) dullness of program; (3) business too long; (4) shyness in the individual; (5) stubbornness. The following remedies were mentioned: (1) have executive meetings every two weeks or so to deal with the business and then bring it up before the main meeting; (2) be persistent when inviting shy people to come to meetings; (3) personal touch. Regarding the reason why some young people are not willing to take part in the meetings, the following were mentioned: (1) shyness; (2) inexperience; (3) lack of preparation. For the inexperienced it was suggested that help be given by the experienced.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. F. N. Young.

The evening meeting, which was held at Long River Church, opened at 7:30. The service of worship was conducted by Marie MacEachern. Hymn 494 was sung, followed by the scripture reading taken from the 6th chapter of Isaiah, verses 1 to 8, read by Randolph Nicholson. Bernice Llewellyn presided at the organ. The group was then favoured with a

#### Sunday School Work

After a period of free time the Young People again assembled to continue the discussion on Sunday School work. At this period the group thought especially about reasons why so many children drop out of Sunday School when they reach the intermediate and senior classes. There were many obvious reasons given, the main one being that children felt that Sunday School was something childish and that they were too advanced to attend. It was also felt that more teachers were needed so that the children of the same age, as possible, and that if the lesson could be so prepared and studied, so that the story, as printed, would not only be considered, but from it something of the teachings of our church regarding God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and the causes of evil could be drawn out, the children would be given something vital to study and cope with, thus challenging their abilities to study and helping them to realize that Sunday School is not just for little children but that there are great areas for study and thought for a whole life time.

In the evening about 8 o'clock, the theme of the service was "Missions" and the service was led by Roma Rodd, with Thelma Larter, Margaret MacDougall, Laura King and Mrs. Cunningham taking part in the service of worship. A very interesting study of the Foreign Mission work of our church was presented by Anne MacEachern who dealt with China and Japan, Addie Halliwell, who dealt with British Guiana, and Doris Ferguson who dealt with Formosa. Then Miss MacDougall told of the early missions, from Scotland to our land, and of our work in Canada, today among Chinese, French, Italians, Ukrainians, and Hungarians. A song service and a delicious lunch brought the evening to a close.

#### Council Meeting

On Monday morning, the Council (consisting of the members of the Executive and one delegate from each Young People's Society), held a meeting on the shore where the business was carried out under the leadership of the president, Hazen MacLure.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. J. A. McGowan.

In the absence of the secretary Joyce Nicholson, Doris Ferguson was appointed secretary pro tem. The minutes of the 1949 Provincial Rally were read and approved.

The following committees were appointed: Nominating, Rev. G. C. Cunningham, Thelma Larter, Marion Lockhart; Banner, Roma Rodd, Joan Large, Buddy Fraser; Resolutions, Anne MacEachern, Laura King, Bernice Llewellyn; Press, Doris Ferguson, Marion MacEachern.

A discussion as to what should be required in order to merit the banner, it was moved by Rev. J. A. McGowan and seconded by Marie MacEachern that a committee be appointed to draw up a set of rules, setting forth the requirements to merit the banner, and present them later. The following were appointed: Boyd Bearisto, Thelma Larter, Buddy Fraser.

Some discussion followed on the advisability of re-forming the District Rallies. All present felt that they should be revived. It was moved by Rev. J. A. McGowan and seconded by Addie Halliwell that we revive our District Rallies, and hold them at an earlier date than in former years, this date to be set by each district.

Rev. J. A. McGowan then gave a financial account of the camp situation. After this the group adjourned for a swim. Later the meeting was called to order to finish the business. Thelma Larter, chairman of the Banner committee, brought in the following report: "Our committee recommends the Banner be awarded on the following basis: 1. Twenty-five points for percentage attendance of regular members at Rally. Regular members should be ones who attend 50 per cent of the meetings. 2. Thirsty points for percentage average attendance

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and troublous times. Labor and capitalist troubles were far greater then. The Los Angeles Times building was dynamited. Governor Stannenburg was assassinated. Coxey's Army marched on Washington during the panic of 1892. Harry Orchard and the McNamara started a reign of terror in the West. He and his brother James went from the N. B. and Maine lumbering woods to Seattle, Washington in 1892 — thence on the greatest mining stampede the world ever saw to Dawson City in 1896. "Shot" Miles Canyon and the raging White Horse Rapids in an open boat with two other Islanders, Joe Johnston and John McGinnity. — "White water" pilots got \$100 for the trip. Mr. Higgins thought he could handle a boat as well as any regular pilot. — And then the beautiful Halcyon Trip, 440 miles on the swift river to Dawson.

After making two trips to the Klondyke, Mr. Higgins married Miss Maude McLaren in Seattle, in 1906, and bought a farm in Kensington, P. E. I. He stumped about 35 acres of maple "jungle". He has one son (Maurice), in Tasmania; several sons and daughters in Ontario. He replied to the address and presentation in feeling terms. The large gathering of old neighbors and friends extended the kindest felicitations. Mr. James Sanders acted as Master of Ceremonies in his usual capable and distinguished manner.

#### Officers Appointed

The report of the Nominating committee was given by Marion Lockhart, resulting in the appointment of the following officers: Honorary President, Rev. F. N. Young, East-President, Mr. Hazen MacLure; Vice-President, Miss Doris Ferguson; President, Miss Christine MacInnis; West-Prince, Miss Marie MacEachern; East-Prince, Mr. Colin King; King's Miss Priscilla Reid; Secretary, Miss Joan Larter; Treasurer, Miss Thelma Large; Program Convener, Miss Addie Halliwell. Rev. J. A. McGowan installed the officers for the ensuing year.

The following report of the Resolution committee was read by Laura King.

Resolved—

1. That appreciation be expressed to the congregation of the Long River Church, Rev. Mr. McGowan, Rev. and Mrs. Cunningham, Miss Margaret MacDougall, the Executive and to all those who in any way helped to make this a successful rally.
2. That we, as Young People, support the camp both prayerfully and financially.
3. That the new projects of the camp, Bible dramas, and the support of missions receive the wholehearted support of the Young People.
4. That we express our allegiance to the King, our country, and endeavour to keep the resolutions made at this Rally, and above all to serve the Lord in all that we do.

Rev. G. C. Cunningham brought the message based on the Rally theme, "Serving the Lord." His words brought a challenge to all the Young People and encouraged and inspired them to go back to their own societies to carry on their work.

Hymn 152 brought a most successful conference and rally to a close followed by the benediction by Rev. G. C. Cunningham.

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WORMWOOD! BE CAREFUL!

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