

THE BOYS PARLIAMENT

A Report of the Recent Sessions of the Fifth Ontario Older Boys' Parliament Held in the Parliament Buildings, Queen's Park, Toronto, December 26 to 31 Inclusive.

(Jack Mills of Hanover, Member for South Grey)

On Saturday afternoon, December 26, the Parliament was opened at 3:30 with a short address from Bishop Brewing of Toronto. At this opening session, held in the Parliament Buildings, nearly 100 boys were present, representing all sections of Ontario. Addresses were delivered by Albert Tucker, Speaker of the 4th Boys' Parliament, and Frank Adams, Leader of the Opposition in the same parliament. Gordon Lapp, the retiring Premier, then gave his report of the year's work in which he stated the various activities of last year's parliament, and, incidentally, stated that he had travelled over 7,000 miles in the interests of the Boys' Parliament. The number of C. S. E. T. boys had been increased, and they had raised \$11,000 by the bond selling campaign. They were now in a position to maintain the two-man staff (Charles Plewman and J. M. Findlay) who were devoting all their time and energy in the interests of provincial boys' work.

Clay Lyman, the retiring provincial secretary, gave his report. The main item was the fact that there were now fourteen established C. S. E. T. camps in Ontario, with a total membership of 1,006. This meant that there were 1,006 boys getting Canadian Standard Efficiency Training, and under the guidance of the great boy workers of Canada and Ontario. The Boys' Parliament had formed many of these camps, and that alone was a tremendous achievement.

All the members then signed the Oath of Allegiance and meeting adjourned from the Parliament Buildings to the Central Y. M. C. A., where a "get-acquainted" supper was served at 6 o'clock. At this enjoyable supper, everybody got acquainted, and a few words of welcome were given by R. B. Whitehead, president of Ontario Boys' Work Board, and George F. Webb, general secretary of the Baptist Board of Religious Education.

Premier Outlines His Platform

At 8 p. m. the members again met at the Parliament Buildings for the purpose of electing a Premier and a Leader of the Opposition. Three candidates were in the field, namely, Ronald Frederburgh of Perth, James Grimmon of Picton and Edward Devitt of Kitchener. The candidates were introduced to the members, said a few words, then the members voted. As a result, Ronald Frederburgh was elected Premier, James Grimmon Leader of the Opposition, and Ed. Devitt as Minister of Education. The platform of the newly-elected Premier was:

- (1) That a definite budget be introduced, this statement to cover the expense of province-wide boys' work; (2) That members accept greater responsibility of trained Christian leadership for younger C. S. E. T. groups, promoting keener loyalty to the local minister and more active participation in the missionary enterprises; (3) That Parliament found a circulating library for its own members, of a few of the best books on vital issues; (4) The development of the pioneer program to meet the need of the isolated boy unable to join an organized Tuxis group; (5) That the Parliament as individuals undertake to foster the spirit of world brotherhood and peace by the following active support to the League of Nations. The exchange of letter packets with boys of other nations and by sending a representative to the International Boys' Conference in Finland next summer; Study of suitable literature for the purpose of educating ourselves to great problems of international good-will; and a more Christian attitude towards and co-operation with the foreign boys of our own towns and cities.

Personnel of Cabinet

The Premier was highly successful in carrying out his program, which embodied the needs of the Boys' Parliament. We made no mistake in electing Ronald Frederburgh to the important office of Premier. He then announced his cabinet, as follows: Edward Devitt, Kitchener, minister of organization; Vernon Proctor, Chatham, finance; Frank Perkins, Ottawa, co-operation; John Hart, of Parry Sound, pioneer work; Alex. McGregor, Bowmanville, education; Walter Gallum, Sarnia, health; Merckley Hager, Midland, religious education; Hugh Scratch, London, provincial secretary; Ronald Frederburgh, of Perth, Premier and minister of world brotherhood; Earl Lautenschlager, Kitchener; John Mears, Niagara Falls, and Reginald Hanna of Kingston, without portfolio; James Grimmon, Picton, Leader of the Opposition. Bruce Whidden of Toronto was chosen as chairman of the committee of the whole House, and Albert Tucker of Toronto was elected as Speaker. There were 58 members on the government side and 44 members in the Opposition.

Sunday, December 27

At 11 a. m., the members attended church with their hosts and hostesses. At 4 p. m. there was a meeting in Knox College Chapel, where Taylor Statton, the great Canadian boy leader, gave an inspiring address on "Our Responsibilities." At 5:30 we had tea as guests of St. Paul's United Church, and at 7 o'clock, all members sat in a body in the church and listened to a splendid address by Rev. W. H.

Young, whose topic was "Youths in the Seats of Power."

Monday, December 28

At 9:30, there was a caucus of all members in the Parliament Buildings. The Premier led in the devotional period and read the announcements. At 10 o'clock, we were given a talk on parliamentary procedure by Albert Tucker, and at 11 o'clock, there was a meeting of the standing committees. All members belonged to some committee. There was the finance committee, health committee, and so forth, with the cabinet minister acting as chairman. In these committees, all bills and resolutions which were to be brought up in the House were fully discussed, and agreed upon before being presented to the House. At 12:30 there was luncheon and photographs, and the committees re-assembled at 2. At 4 o'clock there was a rehearsal of the formal opening and assignments of seats, and at 5:45 the members were guests of the Ontario Boys' Work Board for luncheon at the Central Y. M. C. A. At 8:30, Parliament was formally opened. Mr. S. B. Gunday acted as Lieutenant-Governor and read the Speech from the Throne. This was an impressive ceremony and was carried out in exactly the same manner as the opening of the Ontario Legislature. Over 200 people were in the galleries. The debate on the Speech from the Throne lasted until 10 o'clock, and the House then adjourned in true parliamentary fashion.

Tuesday, December 29

At 9:30 there was a caucus of all members, and a meeting of the committees at 10:30. Members were the guests of Toronto Rotary Club at a sumptuous Father and Son banquet in the King Edward Hotel at 12:15. The second sitting of the House commenced at 2:45 and lasted until 5:30, followed by luncheon at Hart House. The House re-assembled at 8 p. m. and sat until 10:30.

Wednesday, December 30

At 9:30 there was again a caucus of all members, and meeting of the committees at 10:30. At 1:15 we had a bus ride to all places of interest in Toronto. The fourth sitting of the House took place from 3 to 5 p. m., and the evening program was arranged by caucuses.

Thursday, December 31

The House met at 9:30 and sat until 11:30, when a caucus was held to nominate leaders for the next Parliament. Three members were elected to contest the Premiership; namely, Vernon Proctor of Chatham, Earl Lautenschlager of Kitchener, Hugh Scratch of London. The sixth and final session was held from 2 to 4, with a closing Speech from the Throne by S. B. Gunday.

What the Parliament Did

Provided for promotion of pioneer C. S. E. T. work; Made the necessary amendments to the parliamentary Act; Outlined a policy and program of the Parliament for the coming year; Urged Tuxis Squares to accept larger responsibility for leadership of Trail Ranger camps; Enthusiastically and unanimously accepted the responsibility of raising \$11,000 for co-operative C. S. E. T. work throughout Ontario by means of a Bond-Selling Campaign (see article on the Bond-Selling Campaign below); Defined electoral divisions in Ontario, and made some necessary alterations (there are now 116 seats in the Older Boys' Parliament, which represents nearly every section of the province of Ontario).

In addition to the above six Bills, there were fifteen resolutions, as follows: (1) For the establishment of a circulating library for Members of Parliament; (2) That greater emphasis be placed by C. S. E. T. groups on the devotional period; (3) To establish a news service syndicate to link up the C. S. E. T. papers in the Province; (4) Re-affirming belief in the value and necessity of a two-man staff for the Ontario Boys' Work Board; (5) Expressed the conviction of the need of the development of a national consciousness in the C. S. E. T. movement, and that a conference of Premiers of the various Boys' Parliaments of Canada as the best means of doing so at the present; (6) Decided that, if circumstances permit, Gordon Lapp be sent by the Ontario Boys' Parliament to the Y. M. C. A. World Conference in Helsingfors, Finland, next August, and that James Grimmon and Edward Pickering be first and second alternatives for same; (7) Approved of a policy of promoting World Brotherhood; (8) Expressed the hope that a fair proportion of the delegates to the World Sunday School convention in Los Angeles in 1928 should be people

under 21 years of age; (9) Urged that the Members of Parliament accept responsibility for the development of greater interest in the missionary work of their own churches; (10) Urged that Mentors' Institutes and Clubs be organized by local Boards and churches; (11) Again pledged support to and belief in the Beausoleil Island Leadership Training camps; (12) Expressed the opinion that the business of subsequent Parliaments would be facilitated by distributing instructions in parliamentary procedure among the members elect before the House assemblies; (13) Made recommendation to the National Boys' Work Board concerning the Trail Ranger Swimming Badge; (14) Resolved that the whole C. S. E. T. movement should support efforts to suppress undesirable literature; (15) Endorsed the principles and ideals of a Junior League of Nations Society, and pledged personal support to the Society. They re-affirmed their stand of last year in supporting governing bodies in their efforts to keep amateur sport clean; discussed the extension of the franchise and membership in House to Canadian Girls in Training but defeated the resolution by a close standing vote; discussed the National athletic competition, and, while no resolution was passed, various members stated that it was in use in their constituencies and would be again in use this year.

Lively Discussion and Debate

Every Bill and Resolution brought before the House was always given the fullest attention. If there were any flaws in them, the Opposition would notice them, and vice versa. There were some splendid speeches made, and plenty of interesting debates. Parliamentary procedure was strictly adhered to, and the Fifth Older Boys' Parliament, did the same way as any Ontario Legislature, and perhaps in a better way than our provincial rulers.

Addresses and Messages

Addresses were heard at various times, generally in caucus, from such notables as Bishop Brewing of Toronto; Hon. N. W. Rowell, who spoke on the work of the League of Nations; Rev. George T. Webb, J. M. Findlay, C. F. Plewman, Taylor Statton, H. A. Hall, R. B. Whitehead, Albert Tucker and three former premiers, Joseph McCullay, Allan Van Emery and Gordon Lapp.

Mr. S. B. Gunday of Toronto acted as Lieutenant-Governor; Mr. Shroyer of Niagara and Mr. Martyn of Ripley acted as Clerks, and Mr. Bradshaw of Toronto as Sergeant-at-Arms.

During the sessions, messages of greetings and best wishes were received from the Maritime, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia Boys' Parliament, then in session; Messrs. Buckley and Cook of the National Y. M. C. A.; G. Watt, of Ottawa; Calvert, Head of Toronto; Baptist Board of Religious Education; National Education Council C. A.; Religious Education Council of Canada; World Committee of Y. M. C. A. (Geneva); Basil Matthews; Grey County Boys' Work Board; R. T. Kidd of Listowel; Edward Pickering of Windsor; London Boys' Work Board, and National Boys' Work Board.

Who Comprises the Parliament and Who Can Vote

Who can stand for election to the Boys' Parliament? Any boy who is a member of registered Tuxis Square or a Mentor who has passed his 16th but not his 21st birthday, is a member in good standing of an evangelical church; a non-smoker; abstainer from intoxicating liquors and drugs; who has held office in his group or in a C. S. E. T. Council. The boy is nominated, announces his platform, and his name is placed on the ballot. The candidate securing the highest number of votes is elected to represent the riding in which he stood as a candidate.

Who can vote? Any boy who has passed his 12th but not his 21st birthday before November 27, who is a member in good standing of an organized Sunday School class or a C. S. E. T. group that is duly registered with the Ontario Boys' Work Board, and has had the names of its members placed on the returning officers' list by November 17.

Members of Parliament are not paid for their work. The constituencies are expected to pay the polled railway fare for its member, \$8.45, and some constituencies pay the expenses of their member. The Parliament Buildings are given free to the use of the Boys' Parliament.

TICKLING COUGHS

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but the Parliamentary staff who work for us are all paid out of the sum the members raise by means of the Bond Selling Campaign. The main purpose of the Parliament is to train boys for leadership and to teach all boys to live "The Jesus way of life."

The Bond Selling Campaign

Last year the 4th Older Boys Parliament raised \$11,000 for boys' work in Ontario, and to finance the Ontario Boys' Work Board. This year the 5th Parliament passed a bill, accepting the responsibility of raising \$11,000. Each riding is given an objective to reach, and the objective for the County of Grey is \$200, exclusive of Owen Sound.

This money is raised by the sale of One Dollar Bonds, and these bonds are sold by the Tuxis Boys or voters in each town or village in the riding. The security for the bond is your own personal satisfaction that you are contributing to boys' work in the province. There is no limit to the amount of bonds one person may purchase. Medals are given to the boys for selling certain numbers of bonds.

The Bond-Selling Campaign covers a period of two weeks, February 1 to 13, inclusive, and in this period of time, Durham must raise a certain objective. The citizens of Durham will be asked for contributions to carry on this splendid work, and the leaders of boys' work in Durham are hoping for a generous contribution from all citizens. Meetings are being held now to organize this town and to select the bond salesmen. The fellows are going into this campaign full of enthusiasm and energy, and Durham is bound to go over the top as she always does.

Below is a list of the items which go to make up the sum needed:

Table with 2 columns: Expense, Amount. Includes Salaries of two secretaries, Office expenses, Traveling expenses, etc.

Conclusion

In closing this report, the writer

Always Buy "SALADA" GREEN TEA

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would like to say that if any person desires any further information in regard to the work of the 5th Older Boys' Parliament or the Bond Selling Campaign, he will be only too glad to answer all questions to the best of his ability and knowledge.



The Man with Money

THOSE who have saved are able to buy, and the man with money in the bank is always ready for any opportunity or emergency. Determine to save a certain sum - say \$100. That accomplished, save a second \$100, and you will soon have \$1,000 in the bank.

Ask for our booklet, "The Measure of Your Income." It will help you.

The Royal Bank of Canada

Durham Branch - J. A. Rowland, Manager

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As our stock is large and our space limited, this stock MUST move if low prices will do it. When we say SELL, we mean it, and the people of Durham and vicinity will be fully satisfied with the prices we are able to give them at this sale.

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