

What the Oxford Group Movement Did for Ottawa

Mr. Editor.—As I understand that members of the Oxford Group expect to visit Winnipeg shortly I should like, as one who has been brought closely into touch with the work of the group in Ottawa, to say a word on its behalf.

The Group came to Ottawa last November and during a mission of nine or ten days, without any advertising or excitement or emotional appeal hundreds of lives were changed

Among these hundreds were professing Christians who were ushered into a life of reality and power. Many whose faith had become diluted and insipid entered with a new confidence. Families that once were strangers to each other were united by the bonds of a new love. Daughters that were once selfish and thoughtless became ministering angels to their mothers. Sons to whom fathers were little more than "the old man" began to show filial attention. Husbands and wives that were fault-finding, impatient and bad-tempered were clothed with a new and kindly spirit. Women whose pastime was bridge and whose ambition was that intangible thing known as society, found their delight in higher things. Bands of young men and women whose aim was a ceaseless round of giddy pleasure discovered a higher joy in serving others. Employers established a new relationship with their employees and employees noticed that their employers had undergone a change. Men and women in bondage to drink, narcotics and impurity, were released from the domination of sin.

One of the gratifying features of this new evangelism is that it lasts. Lapses are almost unknown, instead of declining, the interest is increasing. These men and women whose lives have been changed are continually thinking, praying, working and planning how they may change others. Groups are meeting nightly throughout the city with this objective in view and their end is being attained in a remarkable degree.

The writer has had a long experience in the ministry and never has he seen people so hungry for the love of God. The Bible, formerly an uninteresting book and to some utterly unknown, has now become a glorious revelation. Bible classes are being held in different parts of the city; one where over two hundred women have been meeting for months on a Tuesday at 10.30; another where between forty and fifty men have met since the end of November on Sunday morning at 9.30.

There is not a church—even where there has been little ministerial sympathy — but has been quickened through the influence of the Group meetings. Booksellers report that more religious books and Bibles have been sold in the past five months than in the past four years.

Criticism there has been; much of it through ignorance, some of it through enmity. This is unavoidable. Our Lord was criticized, so was St. Paul and all those who have endeavored to rouse people out of their indifference and their sins.

Those who are willing to fully identify themselves with the Group Movement will find it characterized by sanity, sobriety, and a supreme passion for the salvaging of human lives.

Never were the times so opportune. Never was the call so urgent. Let the ministers and all those who have the Kingdom of God at heart, roll up their sleeves, put in their sickles, and reap for "all they are worth"

REV. J. W. H. MILNE.

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