

## The Ontario Lord's Day Alliance

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### Are You a Member of the Alliance?

No doubt this question raises in your mind other questions which you would like to have answered, such as—what it is, why it was formed, what it has accomplished, what membership involves, and why we think you should be a member?

**WHAT IT IS.**—The Lord's Day Alliance is a voluntary Association of Christian people having for its object the "preserving of the Lord's Day in its integrity and securing to the whole community the right to its full enjoyment." This the Alliance seeks to do by educating, arousing and organizing public opinion on the subject, securing the enforcement of the Law of Rest, and where necessary, seeking such amendment as will make it effective. It does not attempt or desire to enforce by law the religious observance of the Day, but only to secure to all the liberty to rest and the opportunity to worship.

**WHY IT WAS FORMED.**—It was formed to meet the serious peril threatening the Lord's Day. The greed of gold and the love of pleasure—both essentially selfish—have linked hands to "paralyze this right arm of the Church of Christ." The greed of gold offers various seemingly innocent conveniences to selfish pleasure-lovers in such forms as Sunday excursions, concerts, spectacular exhibitions, variety shows, ball games, all of which have already invaded our beloved land. The influence of many

powerful corporations tends to make inroads upon the integrity of the Sabbath.

Again, the law that is meant to protect the Rest Day is, as at present interpreted, alarmingly defective. Corporations, which are coming to control a great part of the commerce and industry of the country, are not in general amenable to its restrictions and penalties, and only certain specified classes of persons are subject to the law. In these and other important respects the law is in a most unsatisfactory condition.

These dangers are real and most serious, and affect the whole Province. Unless the Christian people generally are up and doing, we shall soon lose once for all our hold upon the priceless boon of the Christian Sabbath.

WHAT IT HAS ACCOMPLISHED.—The efforts of the Alliance have been crowned with a very large measure of success. Notwithstanding all hindrances, very much has been accomplished. In 1899 the number of branches increased from 24 to 70. A law prohibiting radial electric railways and another prohibiting street railways from running on Sundays were passed in 1895 and 1897 respectively at the request of the Alliance. These apply to the whole Province, except to certain roads chartered previously to the enactment of these laws. The Alliance has been interested in 29 matters of legislation in the Legislature and in Parliament, such as requests for amending legislation, opposition to applications of corporations for Sunday running privileges, etc. In 27 of these it has been in whole or in part successful. In various parts of the Province, factories have been prevented from operating and contractors from forcing their employees—numbering altogether many hundreds—to labour on the Lord's Day. And what has been accomplished is but an earnest of what can be done if Christian people generally unite in support of the work.

WHAT MEMBERSHIP INVOLVES.—It means that you are in sympathy with its objects, that you wish to be identified with the movement, that you are willing to do all you can by prayer, by receiving, reading and circulating its literature, and by other personal effort, as time will allow, to promote its objects. There is an annual membership fee of at least fifty cents. No financial obligation beyond this rests upon members, though of course, voluntary subscriptions, gifts or bequests are always welcome and helpful.

WHY YOU ARE ASKED TO BE A MEMBER.—*You owe it to the toiling masses* of your fellow countrymen. They need the rest of the weekly Sabbath; their physical, mental, moral and spiritual natures demand it. But the greed of gain and love of pleasure would rob them of it. The Alliance stands for the defence of their right to its priceless benefits. No true friend of the nation's toilers will grudge the prayerful sympathy and practical aid that membership in the Alliance involves. "The liberty of rest for each demands the law of rest for all."

*The interests of the Kingdom of Christ* call for your practical support of the Alliance. The Church cannot do its blessed work without the Lord's Day. The people cannot be reached with the Gospel if kept away from the House of God by labor or pleasure-seeking on the Lord's Day. The Sabbath is one of the bulwarks of Christianity. The Alliance stands for its preservation in its integrity. Those who love Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath, and His Church, and the world he seeks to save through the Church, will surely support the Alliance.

Further, it is a *Divine Institution*. At Creation, God rested on the Sabbath and hallowed it. At Sinai, He wrote the law of the Sabbath in the very heart of the Decalogue, and afterwards by various prophets enforced its observance by His people. Jesus also taught its faithful

observance both by example and precept, rejecting only some foolish ordinances of men that had gathered about it. The New Testament continues the weekly day of rest and worship, under the title of the Lord's Day, thus giving it a still higher character as commemorating the completion of Redemption in the resurrection of our Lord. God expects us to observe this weekly Sabbath ourselves, and as far as possible, to secure to others the same privilege.

*A direct responsibility* rests upon you in this matter. The people of our Province must themselves decide what shall be the Lord's Day of the future. Whatever laws the people of Ontario show that they want, they will have. You, therefore, who read this leaflet will as certainly, by the measure of interest manifested by you, take part in deciding this question as if you had a seat in the Legislature.

In view of these considerations, do you not feel it to be your duty to assist in the defence of the Day that is at once God's Day and Man's Day? Religion, patriotism, philanthropy, and your own highest interests—love to God, love to man, love of country, love of home, love of Church, love of liberty—all unite their voices in calling upon you to join forces with the Alliance and to do all in your power to save the Lord's Day. To be apathetic, to stand aloof, is to aid and abet an implacable enemy alike of God, of humanity, and of Canada. May no reader of this leaflet be found so doing!

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Telephone 1005.

ISSUED BY

THE ONTARIO LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE

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N.B.—Literature may be had on application at the office.