

ladies have set their hand to and that adequate support will be forthcoming without delay. We would impress upon congregations, and especially upon the ladies in every congregation, the great importance of this work, and would bespeak for it a generous response. In the other departments of work, the Committee finds much to do, and the prospects are bright for spring time and harvest.

THE OUTLOOK FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

THE *Ladies' Home Journal* is disposed to take a somewhat pessimistic view of the modern Sunday school, alleging that it is inefficient and on the decline. We do not know how far this may be true on the American side of the line. But we are satisfied that it is not true of Canada, at least in the Presbyterian Church. Of course there are many defects, and there is much room for improvement. We are not allowed to forget that the service is all volunteer unpaid service and that most of the teachers are amateurs. But on turning up Dr. Torrance's last statistical report which makes some comparisons, we find that in the last twenty years, during which our population has grown very slowly indeed, the attendance in our Sunday schools has a little more than doubled, and the number of teachers well nigh trebled. Personal observation has satisfied us that the order and efficiency of the schools in the cities and towns have greatly improved, while the country schools are at least as good as they were then. One of the needs is closer supervision by Sessions and Presbyteries. The Presbytery of Montreal has just completed a visitation of practically all its schools within the bounds by means of delegates, who for the most part were experienced teachers. The effect has been good. Other Presbyteries might do the same.

MONTREAL CITY MISSIONS.

IN our essay of the 17th we made reference to the report of the Montreal city missionary, who might be called the Presbyterian chaplain to the public institutions. But it must not be supposed that this is the amount of mission work the Montreal churches are doing in their own neighborhood. For over thirty years past Crescent St. church has maintained a missionary Sunday school on Nazareth St. in Griffintown and supplies an efficient band of teachers under Mr. James Ross as Superintendent. For a short time a church was organized in connection with it, but the population was too migratory to make this a success and the organization was given up. A Sunday evening service is, however, kept up and week night prayer meeting. The school numbers over 300 scholars, and there are 24 teachers. St. Paul's church after assisting Victoria church to self-support has recently taken up a mission in Point St. Charles and expends on it about \$7 a year. The school here numbers 130 with 17 teachers. Services are regularly maintained and a great deal of valuable work has been done in the district by visiting the houses and holding sewing classes during the week.

Erskine church contributes about \$4 a year for the maintenance of the Maisonneuve church and furnishes some of the most active workers in the Sunday school including the Superintendent.

Knox church has no mission under its care at the present time, but has only recently been relieved of responsibility for the Cote St. Louis Mission and so soon as its own church debt is a little reduced will certainly be found taking up some outside work.

St. Matthew's church has opened a mission in the adjoining municipality of Verdun. Calvin church has a branch Sunday school in St. Henry with an attendance of about 60. There is also a Sunday school at Montreal Annex where service has been begun. It has not yet been adopted by any of the churches but some arrangement for its maintenance is likely to be made before long.

In addition to all these the American Presbyterian Church has an active missionary centre on Inspector St. where there is a large Sunday school. Services are maintained regularly both on Sunday and during the week, under the care of a missionary Evangelist. The cost of maintaining these missions is not less than \$3000 per annum over and above the cost of the buildings which have been provided for most of them.

CHINESE WORK IN MONTREAL.

A MOST interesting Conference was held in Stanley St. church, Montreal, on Tuesday evening the 15th inst., of the teachers in the various Chinese Sunday schools in the City under the care of Dr. Thomson. About forty teachers were in attendance. Some discussion took place regarding the best books to use in teaching the men who come. They commonly bring their own books, but it was thought well that Dr. Thomson should print a list of books for the guidance of teachers in recommending the ones they should procure. The question of securing additional teachers was also considered in view of the fact that notwithstanding the large number engaged in the work, scholars often had to be dismissed for want of teachers. Attempts are being made to group them in classes instead of furnishing a teacher for every scholar as has been the usual practice. There seem, however, to be practical difficulties in the way of carrying this out beyond a very limited extent, and a larger number of workers is urgently called for in order that the opportunity offered for Christian influence on these strangers may be used. Over 300 teachers are now at work. There is room for nearly a hundred more.

This work presents many encouraging features. The Chinese population of the city is not large, as compared with some of the great centres in the United States, and, therefore, it has been possible to reach almost the whole of it in one way or another through these schools which now number 16 with an average attendance of 25 scholars each. The devotion of the teachers has been exceeded only by the eagerness of their scholars, to profit by their instruction. Of course the primary motive is to acquire a knowledge of English for business purposes, but almost without exception they receive the religious teaching given with the utmost respect, and in not a few instances with the deepest interest. Quite a number have already received baptism and a larger number have applied for it. It is expected that several will present themselves for baptism at the next communion in Knox church. A number who have returned to China are known to be exerting a good influence in their native villages. The Christian sentiment of Chinatown is itself now so strong that the usual vices which are associated with such districts elsewhere are found only to a very limited extent. Until recently the resident Chinese were almost all laundry men. Now quite a few are engaged in domestic service and are giving good satisfaction.

The appreciation of the service rendered them on the part of the Chinese themselves is indicated by the