

It will be observed that Reports have not been received from six of our congregations: Bayham, Brucefield, Ashfield, Huron, Lucknow, and Langside. In the two last a pastor was but recently settled. The committee know nothing of the condition of Sabbath School work in the others.

Forty-one schools are in operation; some of these, however, are usually suspended during the winter months. The committee have reason to believe that such suspension is unavoidable in the later settlements, where roads are impracticable.

There are 239 teachers; 2,307 children on the rolls; 1,386 of an average attendance. Total increase on rolls since last report, 275; total increase on average attendance, 128; difference between rolls and average attendance, 92.

The total number of families in all our congregations is about 3,000. That ought to give, at the rate of 2 children per family, an attendance in Sabbath Schools of 6,000; according to this estimate 3,696 children are not receiving Sabbath School instruction.

The "special hindrances" in the prosecution of the work are "poverty," "indifference of parents," "paucity of suitable teachers," and the "scattered state" of families in the districts. The committee are not disposed to believe that poverty exists in such a degree as to prove a real difficulty in respect of Sabbath School operations. As a general thing our farming population is in a state of high prosperity. It is deeply to be regretted that parents should manifest so little concern about the religious instruction of their children. It is to be feared that such indifference and neglect are very prevalent; nor is the reason to believe that parents who despise the privilege of the Sabbath School are careful to discharge their solemn obligations in the family. The committee is encouraged to think that the coldness so painfully felt will gradually be displaced by a better sentiment, according as these precious institutions will vindicate their claim to public regard, by their increasing vigor and beneficial results. The future is full of hope; brightened, as it is, by the promises of God. In the meantime an address by the Presbytery, or by the Synod, on the importance of Sabbath Schools as an evangelical agency, would, with the divine blessing, be very seasonable and effective. The scarcity of teachers is a general complaint. In connection with this feature, the committee would express regret that Bible classes are so few. Let such class be a nursery or training-school for teachers. No other method appears to be available for supplying the deficiency. A conference in Presbytery on the best mode of conducting Bible classes with a view to the preparation of Sabbath School teachers might be of signal benefit.

The committee would urge the holding of an annual Sabbath School celebration, and the reading of an annual report, embodying all matters of interest in the management of the school. In congregations where such a practice is observed, the effect is excellent. The report might be printed in a local newspaper; and also a copy be sent to the Sabbath School committee appointed by the Presbytery. Only six schools hold annual meetings.

The Missionary Box, or Missionary Collection, appears but rarely in the report. This is to be regretted. Children are equally disposed to take a lively interest in the subject of Missions. The glorious enterprise is well entitled to take a place in the programme of Sabbath School studies. That the attention of our youth should be early directed to the great field of a world's evangelization is of incalculable importance in view of the