

THE Canadian Epworth Era

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Field Notes

(Reports by Rev. F. L. Farwell.)

Supts from recent institutes indicate that Missions in the School and Teacher Training are becoming live issues in our rural districts.

Word has come to this office that at the Sunday School Institutes recently held at Bayfield, Holmesville, Dunganon, Westfield, Blyth and other points, the addresses and papers given by the local workers have been admirable, indicating a growing vision and a deepening interest in respect of the rapidly extending work of the Sunday School.

The series of institutes now being conducted in London Conference under the direction of the Associate Secretary, the Conference Sunday School Secretary and the District Secretaries, should be attended and supported by every pastor Sunday School superintendent, officer, teacher and worker within their reach.

The Sunday School Institutes held in the Brantford District at Thompsonville, Snowball and Queensville in accordance with arrangements made by Rev. A. F. Mackenzie, the District Secretary, were practical every way. Valuable assistance was rendered by Rev. A. F. Latter, Rev. T. W. Neal, Chairman of the district, the Conference Secretary, the Associate Secretary, and others. Local workers contributed not a little to the success of the gatherings.

At the Institute held at Thompsonville, a small committee obtained 15 subscriptions for the ERA. At Snowball 9 subscriptions were secured, while in the series of Institutes in Goderich District 29 subscribers were enrolled. This is splendid. Let the good work be continued. At each Sunday School or Epworth League Institute see that a bright aggressive committee is appointed to push the ERA.

At a rural school not long ago, out of 114 members in attendance in the afternoon, 62 were adults, and from 25 to 30 cutters and sleighs were in the shed—and this in spite of the fact that a bright service was held at that appointment both morning and evening. Where there's a will there's a way. This motto to solve almost every Sunday School and Epworth League problem.

Nile School has been the first to report a forward movement as the result of a series of Institutes in Goderich District, and this is the forward movement;

A Cradle Roll, a Home Department, one if not two organized Adult Bible Classes, monthly missionary programmes, quarterly missionary offerings and the observance of Rally Day and Decision Day. Moreover this circuit already contributes five cents per member to the Sunday Aid and Extension Fund. A pretty long step towards the Heights, isn't it? All honor to the aggressive Committee of Management of this school. Who'll be the next to report progress?

At a crowded Sunday School Institute on one of our Western circuits a few weeks ago, this question was asked, "What do you think of the boy who makes a hard snowball and lets it drive at the preacher as he passes down the street, hitting him just behind the ear; who, post-shooter in hand, sends a pea red-hot to the cheek of the teacher when she is not looking, who takes a smaller boy by the coat-collar and flings him sprawling in the snow—what would you call such a boy? Immediately an elderly local preacher arose from the front seat and exclaimed, "I should say he was a good boy." Of course the answer convulsed and yet somehow satisfied the audience. The local preacher, who was evidently a lover of boys, was right. There is no "boy problem," so-called. It is the pastor-problem, the superintendent problem, the teacher problem, the leader problem in respect of boys. Boys are all right. They need only a strong, virile, manly leader who knows them.

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