

Sunday School and Epworth League General Board Quadrennial Report

I. SUNDAY SCHOOLS

1. STATISTICAL.

The following summary of the Statistics for the Quadrennium will show the growth of our work.

	1906	1910	Increase
Number of Schools.....	3,552	*3,678	126
Number of Teachers and Officers.....	34,558	36,503	1,945
Number of Scholars—			
Cradle Roll.....	9,716	22,277	12,561
Primary.....	76,434	80,817	4,383
Intermediate.....	104,624	110,087	5,463
Senior.....	78,953	101,742	22,789
Home Depart-ment.....	14,295	190,61	4,766
Number in Union Schools.....	5,149	6,913	1,764

Total S. S. Membership . 323,729 377,400 53,671

While these figures show a marked increase in every Department of our Sunday School membership, it will be noted that over 65% of the growth is in the Cradle Roll and Senior Departments. This results most probably from the deepening sense of responsibility that is coming on the Church for the nurture and care of the infant children, and the larger idea of the Sunday School as a place not for children only, but for the whole congregation, irrespective of age.

During the Quadrennium the Organized Adult Bible Class Movement has come into effect and has had a marked influence on Sunday School life and work. We have, up to June 25th last, enrolled, according to the International Standard of Recognition, 563 classes, with a membership of 16,236. The unlimited possibilities of this Department of Organized study and work are only just beginning to be realized, and a great future awaits it if our classes are true to the standard of organization.

2. EVANGELISTIC.

During the Quadrennium 49,059 members of the Sunday School have united with the Church, an increase of 9,308 over the previous four years; 825 schools have observed Decision Day, being 178 more than were reported as doing so in 1906. The Sunday School should ever be the Church's most fruitful recruiting ground for intelligent members and active workers, and larger returns should be sought every succeeding year.

It is of moment in this connection to note that, though our Sunday School membership has made phenomenal numerical increase, the number of our scholars reported as learning the Catechism is growing less. In 1902 there were 26,523, in 1906, 24,075, and in 1910, 21,819. These last figures are only 20% of our Intermediate section alone. This fact may well provoke serious questioning, for to bring all our scholars into intelligent faith in Christ and to train them in our standards of Church Doctrine must be the aim of our Sunday School workers everywhere, if we would develop a high type of Christian man or woman in our schools.

3. TEMPERANCE.

During the Quadrennium 77,288 have signed the Pledge, and 109,212 are now reported as pledged abstainers. The inaccuracy of our statistics in this regard is manifest. In 1906 there were 98,488 pledged abstainers. Since then 77,288 have taken the pledge, and yet only 109,212 are reported in 1910 as our total number of pledged abstainers. While these figures for 1910 show an increase of 10,724 over those of 1906, they do not adequately represent the influence of our schools as centres of education in matters of Temperance and Moral Reform. More systematic attention to this Department is needed from the Primary up through all the grades, for the growth of the sentiment for the prevention of all legalized vice in our land will be largely in proportion to the faithfulness of our officers and teachers in imparting wise instruction in that pertaining to personal purity and social reform. Our Sunday Schools everywhere should train our children and youth in the principles and

* (Since 1906, 52 schools and 4,000 scholars in Japan have been transferred from our records by the consummation of Church Union there.)

practice of the highest type of Christian Citizenship, and a more thorough and reliable system of statistical reports should be introduced.

4. OUR PERIODICALS.

Our Sunday School papers and helps continue to increase in popularity and influence. Their circulation is now 363,000, an increase of 60,000 since 1906, while the number of foreign publications taken by our schools has decreased in the same time by over 5,000. In the face of the keen competition that exists for the patronage of our schools, the marked growth of our own publications and the decline of those from outside is most satisfactory, and is a tribute to the uniform and superior excellence of the output of our own Publishing House.

5. FINANCES.

A simple comparative statement for the Quadrennium will show the splendid increases in all Departments of Finance:

For Missions—	For Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund—
1906-10 \$155,947	1906-10 \$28,476
1902-06 98,161	1902-06 12,076
Increase \$57,786	Increase \$16,400
For Educational Fund—	For Other Purposes—
1906-10 \$4,142	1906-10 \$744,019
1902-06 2,526	1902-06 637,988
Increase \$1,616	Increase \$106,031
For Superannuation Fund—	For Other Purposes—
1906-10 \$3,478	1906-10 \$111,644
1902-06 2,311	1902-06 32,560
Increase \$1,167	Increase \$79,084
For All Purposes—	
1906-10 \$1,043,260	
1902-06 785,622	
Increase \$257,638	

These figures bear testimony not only to the great growth of our Sunday School work, but to the interest of our schools in all good works and their liberality in support thereof. They are most gratifying.

6. EVERGREEN SCHOOLS.

While we have yet 833 schools that close during part of the year, it is pleasing to note that 2,845 of our schools are kept open the whole year. This number shows 215 more than were reported as open the year round in 1906. The aim of pastors and superintendents should be to preserve unbroken the weekly school session throughout the year.

7. TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

Only 292 schools hold regular meetings for the teachers' study of the lessons. While this is 67 more than four years ago, it is only a fraction of the number that should be held.

8. SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS.

An excellent Course of Supplemental Studies has been prepared and recommended by our Board, but as yet only 421 schools seem to be doing work of this character. As this is a new feature of our work no comparison with a past quadrennium can be made. It is worthy of general adoption and might well be introduced in the majority of our schools.

9. RALLY DAY.

In 1906 there were 1,120 schools reported as having observed this day. In 1910 the number had increased to 1,674, an increase of 554. Where well planned and enthusiastically observed, Rally Day has ensured a good start for the school in the opening of Autumn. An appropriate Rally Day Programme has been prepared for some years past by the General Secretary, and issued by the Book Room. This year a fitting service, "The Path of Life," has been arranged by the Board to be freely distributed to all schools which ob-

"Opportunities approach only those who use them."