

The Teachers Monthly

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, D.D., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, D.D., Associate Editor

Vol. XV.

Toronto, July, 1909

No. 7

THE STORY OF TEN YEARS' GROWTH

At the General Assembly of 1898 it was decided to appoint a Committee of Sabbath School Publications. This was accordingly done, Rev. Dr. Warden being named as Convener. In August of the same year, the Committee held its first meeting, when Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, was appointed Editor and Business Manager. Mr. Fraser entered immediately on his duties, with a view to the issuing of the periodicals for 1899 in good time.

For the year 1898, the work of publication had been in the hands of Rev. E. Scott, Editor of the Presbyterian Record, Montreal. Prior to this it had been conducted for the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee by Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, of St. John, N.B. The present Committee has now completed ten full years of work. They have been years of development and expansion. The five Lesson Helps in existence in 1898, namely, THE TEACHERS MONTHLY, HOME STUDY and PRIMARY QUARTERLIES, and HOME STUDY and PRIMARY LEAFLETS, have been enlarged and improved; and five additional publications have been undertaken. JEWELS—an illustrated weekly for the Little Ones, and THE KING'S OWN—an illustrated weekly for Boys and Girls, were begun in 1900. THE KING'S OWN was a continuation of the Children's Record, published, to the above date, by Rev. Dr. Scott, of the Record, as a monthly. In 1903, a very heavy venture was made, a large eight page illustrated weekly for young people—EAST AND WEST. But the time was ripe, and the threefold appeal of the new paper—for a richer Christian life, for an active interest in missions, and for a sturdy patriotism—met an immediate response. The venture, like the minor ones that preceded it, proved a success. In 1907 the increasing demand for material specially suited to the needs of scholars of the intermediate grade, led to the launching of the INTERMEDIATE QUARTERLY and INTERMEDIATE LEAFLET. These also met instant recognition, and have already attained a very substantial circulation. The total circulations now bulk considerably over a quarter of a million.

The Publications Committee works hand in hand with the General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee, and has profited from the impetus which Sabbath School work throughout the church has received from that Committee's wise and vigorous administration. By the publication of the Teacher Training Handbooks, the Supplemental Lessons, the Patriotic Service and the Service for Children's Day, as well as by the discussions in the TEACHERS MONTHLY of the many problems of the Sabbath School, and by the general publicity that has been possible through its wide circulations, the Committee which prints has been able effectively to help the Committee which plans and administers.

In regard to finances, the present Committee began its operations practically with an empty hand. Under Mr. Scott, the Publications for the first time paid their way. The Committee's problem was, from the earnings of the Lesson Helps then in existence, and without aid from any other source, to continue their publication, to improve them, and to commence such additional Helps and Papers as would constitute, with those already issued, an adequately complete series. At the end of ten years, it is gratifying to report an income