

inspiring one. Rev. J. J. Tossdale has just commenced a pastorate here which promises to be very successful.

District Conventions were attended at Charlottetown and Bedeque, but on account of the harvest being on, the attendance of delegates was not large. Farmers in every direction were busy cutting their grain although it was the middle of September. The conventions were excellent ones, and at the evening services there were large audiences.

A. C. C.

### General Epworth League and Sunday School Board.

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Epworth League and Sunday-School Board was held, August 29th, in the Board Room of Wesley Buildings, Toronto. The following members were present: Revs. Dr. Carman, J. E. Laneley, D. N. McManus, W. F. Wilson, J. H. Hazlewood, C. T. Scott, Wm. Johnson, Dr. Griffith, James Elliott, Dr. Withrow, and A. C. Crews; Messrs. J. S. Deacon, J. A. Tompkins, T. B. Shillington, and Warring Kennedy.

Rev. Dr. Carman occupied the chair. The report of the Sunday School Aid and Extension fund was read by the treasurer, Mr. Warring Kennedy. This showed that the receipts from the various Conferences in collections amounted to \$2,485. The amounts received from Sunday Schools in part payment of grants amounted to \$787, showing total receipts of \$3,273. After all debts had been paid there was a balance on hand of \$86. The treasurer expressed satisfaction that the debt, which had been resting on the fund for some years had been entirely removed. He also stated that during the past twenty-five years the Sunday School Aid and Extension fund had paid over \$100,000 to assist poor schools in destitute localities to secure papers and periodicals. On motion of Dr. Withrow, it was resolved, "that the sincere and heart-felt thanks of the Board are due to Mr. Warring Kennedy, treasurer of the Sunday School Aid and Extension fund for the past twenty-five years for his faithful and indefatigable services."

The report of Dr. W. E. Wilmott, General Treasurer of the Epworth League fund was

also a very satisfactory one. It showed that about \$1,300 had been received in collections from the Leagues, which, together with some other sources of income, had paid all the expenses of the Board, leaving a satisfactory balance on hand.

The General Secretary's report was then read. It stated that, as far as membership was concerned, that there had been some decrease during the year, but in every other respect the report was a most gratifying one.

The following items from the Sunday School statement may be of interest:

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

Number of Sunday Schools.....	3,334	decrease	11
" officers and teachers.....	20,096	"	18
" scholars.....	270,140	"	180
" in Home Department.....	10,453	increase	3,302
" who have united with the Church during the year.....	8,847	decrease	782
" who are pledged abstinence.....	64,363	increase	11,164
Contributions for Missions.....	\$19,955	decrease	\$801
Number of schools that have regular Teachers' meetings.....	247	"	49
Number of schools that keep open the whole year.....	2,439	increase	205

#### YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

Epworth Leagues.....	771	increase	53
" of Christian Endeavor.....	777	decrease	92
Junior Societies.....	323	"	7
Total number of Young People's Societies.....	1,876	"	71
Total membership.....	70,916	"	5,019
Contributions for Missions.....	\$16,955	increase	\$4,195

A special committee was appointed for the purpose of preparing the annual letter to the various Young Peoples' Societies and Sunday Schools, embodying some of the leading features of the report.

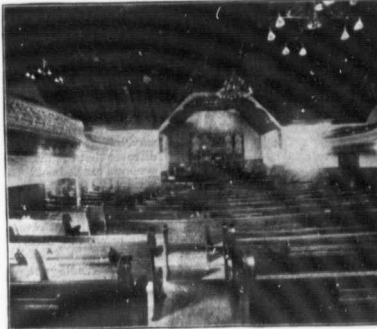
#### THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL STATEMENT.

The Secretary stated that on account of a considerable increase in office duties he had not been able to do quite as much field work as in former years. During the year he had travelled 11,302 miles and delivered 180 public addresses and sermons. During the sessions of the Board considerable time was taken up in discussing the reason of decrease in membership of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues. It was felt by all present that more attention should be given by pastors to the young people's work.

#### TWENTIETH CENTURY FUND.

The following resolution was unanimously carried:

"That this General Sunday School and Epworth League Board desires to call the attention of all Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues of the Methodist Church to the scheme launched by our General Conference to raise the sum of one million dollars as a Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund. We are of the opinion that the co-operation of the young people of our Church is necessary to bring this great undertaking to a successful completion, and we desire that in every young people's society and Sunday School, immediate efforts be made to encourage and



INTERIOR METHODIST CHURCH, SACKVILLE, N.B.

organize contributions to this fund. The century just closing has witnessed many advances on the part of the church, but in no department has she made more progress than in her wise and liberal provision for the children and young people of Methodism, and we trust that their gratitude will be stirred so that they will assist in a hearty manner to place the Church in a better financial position with which to meet the responsibility of the coming century. We would earnestly call upon all officers of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues to assist in this important enterprise of the Church."

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

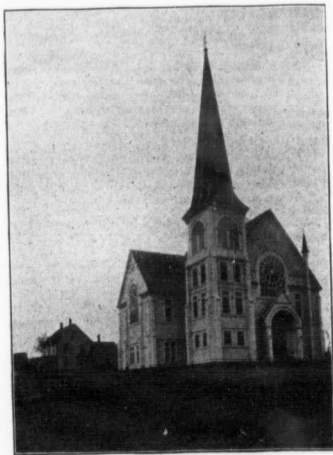
Considerable time was spent in discussing the subject of the character of the books which are placed in the Sunday School libraries. The following resolution was carried.

"The attention of the Sabbath School and Epworth League Board having been called to the character of some of the books in the circulating libraries of our Sabbath Schools, conversation was had with the Book Steward and Editors present on the subject, when it was resolved that it be urged by our Sabbath School and Epworth League periodicals, that increased care be taken by our local Sabbath School authorities and committees in the selection of their libraries, and that our Book and Publishing Houses under the provisions of the Discipline co-operate to the utmost of their ability that safe and sound literature in its breadth and richness be the one provision for our schools."

#### THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.

Touching the question of Sabbath observance, the following resolution was passed:

"Inasmuch as the Christian Sabbath is assailed from many quarters in its character, both as a day of rest and of worship, we urge upon our Leagues and Young People's Societies, and all the members thereof, the importance of guarding the Sabbath as the institution of God for human welfare, and as binding for its beneficent purposes upon the individual, the home, the church, and the nation. To this end we trust our young people by example and mutual co-operation will discountenance Sabbath desecration in every form; and that they will direct the influence of their societies in both public and private life against all plans and measures by which the money-loving and pleasure-seeking spirit of this age would dishonor the holy commandment of God, disregard His worship, and deprive the toiling millions of their rightful day of rest and their opportunity, with their families, to share on the appointed day in the covenanted blessings of the House of God."



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