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Methodist Book and Publishing House,  
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C. W. COATZ,  
2176 St. Catherine St.,  
Montreal, Que.

S. F. HUMSTON,  
Met. Book Room,  
Halifax, N.S.

## Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1902

The Sunday School Work at the  
General Conference.

The General Conference devoted much and earnest attention to this important subject. We present the substance of its legislation in the following report. The suggestions of the memorial of the Editor of the Sunday School periodicals were in part adopted and in part answered in a more comprehensive and effective manner. It is true the Sunday School and Epworth League Boards were not separated, but Sunday School topics are to have a whole day for their consideration, and both Epworth Leagues and Sunday Schools will have the benefit of a large and undivided board.

No separate Sunday School Secretary was appointed, but something far better was provided. The four mission super-

intendents and the missionary secretary of the North-West will necessarily give a large amount of their time and care to Sunday School work, which is almost always the pioneer of circuit work. The natural and almost inevitable order is first organize a Sunday School, then gather around that nucleus the membership of a church. This is especially true in the pioneer work of New Ontario and the North-West.

Then the General Conference provided that instead of one special Sunday School Secretary, each Conference employ field help for Sunday School purposes, a travelling secretary or travelling agency of its own, if it wish, or any other means of planting Sunday Schools. There may indeed, be several of these agents, some may be of local character, some may be devout women who have been so successful in organizing Sunday Schools elsewhere. This is the method which has been successfully adopted, as set forth in our memorial, by other churches. The Congregational Church of the United States, for instance, has employed at one time for the last five years from thirty-five to forty-eight Sunday School organizers. The Presbyterian Church of the United States employs ninety-seven missionaries, who organized last year 773 new schools. Such work is far beyond what any Sunday School Secretary or half a dozen of them, could accomplish. Let us learn from those zealous and successful Sunday School workers.

If the appointment of a special Sunday School Secretary were to relieve in the slightest degree the 2,000 pastors and 3,400 superintendents in our schools of their responsibility for Sunday School extension, it would be a disaster and not a benefit. The importance of local initiative to which we referred cannot be too greatly emphasized. The principal thing is to raise funds for the development of this work. Instead of having an income of \$2,644 per year, this sum ought to be raised to \$10,000 a year. This would give a grant of \$25 in books and papers to start four hundred new schools every year, or sixteen hundred in the quadrennium. And this will not overdo the work, for there are 1,169 preaching appointments where there are no schools at all.

The church is undertaking such aggressive missionary operations that it will tax its resources, and it looks especially to the Sunday School Aid and Extension

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