

1918

children bring contributions to help send overseas parcels to these boys.

In our home mission exercises we can show how it is practical patriotism to educate our foreign children so that they will develop into real Canadians.

Perhaps the most practical patriotic lessons we can give now are those of production, thrift and conservation. Encourage the children to work in their home and school gardens. Their enthusiasm may encourage families who have not heretofore done so to go in for gardening next year.

Our public school teachers find that their talks to the children have led many families to realize the necessity of food conservation. Let us also "do our bit" in our church School. We can preach the "gospel of the clean-plate," and can tell them that by eating their porridge and vegetables, they are really helping the "man at the front."

So many of our best and bravest have already "gone west." They have gladly died to leave behind them a greater freedom for the coming generation. May we educate our little ones to be worthy of this heritage.

London, Ont.

The Lesson Letter

BY MISS VIOLET ROBINSON

After many unsuccessful attempts to induce a Sunday School class of Junior boys to prepare their lesson at home, a teacher in one of our city Schools reached surprisingly satisfactory results by using the following simple plan:

At the beginning of the year she secured a small copy of the Gospel of Mark for each pupil. Then, taking the scheme of lessons for the Quarter, she marked with red ink the portion to be studied each Sunday, thus simplifying the "finding of the place," which is difficult for unpractised children.

Instead of, as heretofore, studying her own lesson at the end of the week, she now made sure of the main facts of next Sunday's lesson not later than the previous Tuesday or Wednesday. She then prepared a homemade Lesson Help in the form of a letter, for each pupil on a sheet of moderately-sized pad-paper, after the following plan, a space being left after each question for the answer.

March 3rd

LESSON—Mark 4 : 35-41 ; Mark 5 : 1-20.

GOLDEN TEXT—Ps. 126 : 3.

MEMORY VERSE—Ps. 24 : 7.

QUESTIONS

1. Where was Jesus going in this lesson ?
2. What happened while he was crossing the lake ?

3. What was Jesus doing during the storm ?
4. What did he say to the sea ?
5. What did he say to the disciples ?
6. Who came to him on the other side ?

7. What did Jesus say to the unclean spirit ?

8. Do you know your Memory Verse, and Golden Text ?

A copy of this was mailed to each pupil in good time for him to fill in the answers and prepare the memory work before the following Sunday.

The next Sunday the filled-in question sheets were collected by the teacher who had prepared a recording-chart, where, below the name of each pupil, there was a space opposite the date for the insertion of a small gold star which was given to each pupil who had done the work. A simple reward was offered also for completing the whole Quarter's work, or the obtaining of thirteen stars.

The gratifying result of the first Quarter's work was a practically complete record for every member of the class.

One of the benefits to the pupil resulting from this plan was that it really secured the reading of the lesson at home, for, obviously, a pupil who had not read the lesson could not write the answers to the questions. It encouraged the pupil also to study his lesson

A programme is a ladder up which we climb toward our standards or ideals ; a slogan is the cheering from the sidelines which urges us upward. If we mistake the programme for the goal, we become petrified on the rungs of the ladder ; if we mistake the slogan for the goal, we turn to enjoy the applause from the group, lose our hold, and fall. Fortunate indeed is that church School which knows how to use a programme in the achieving of an ideal. — The Graded Sunday School Magazine