

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sabbath Schools would beg leave to report that they have endeavoured, during the past year, to attend to the subject entrusted to them, and are grateful to know that their efforts have not been in vain. In accordance with the overture of last Synod among Sabbath Schools, we have prepared a series of lessons for the current year, following very much, as to form, the course pursued by the Scottish Sabbath School Association. As this subject was looked upon by many in the light of an experiment, it was thought advisable to print a small number of these lessons at first, and increase the number as the demand increased. Accordingly 1000 copies were printed for the first and second quarters and we were much pleased to find that these were disposed of before the end of the first quarter. Two thousand copies were printed for the third and fourth quarters and this supply is now disposed of. The proceeds of these sales when paid in will be found sufficient to pay all expenses so that the Sabbath school scheme makes no demand upon the Synod fund. We would suggest here, that those who send for a supply of lessons should enclose the payment in postage stamps along with the order, because small sums when not immediately attended to are apt to be neglected.

In preparing these lessons it was thought proper to give equal prominence to the Old and New Testaments; selecting as our first year's issue portions of the book of Genesis and some of the parables and miracles of our Lord. Since the first of May good service has been done to the cause by giving explanatory notes on the lessons in the *Record*. These notes have been very much appreciated by teachers and scholars, and if continued in the same way must prove a most valuable assistance to the Sabbath school movement. Your committee are greatly encouraged by the reception given to this measure by the church. The schools in connection with twenty-five congregations have availed themselves of these lessons; and we trust that the number will go on increasing until all our Sabbath schools throughout the Lower Provinces shall teach the same lesson on Sabbath, and pursue the same system. On account of the delay in publishing our lessons last year several congregations supplied themselves from other sources, but this can be obviated in future by having the lessons prepared at an earlier date.

One of the great hindrances to the successful operation of Sabbath schools is the want of properly qualified teachers, but this hindrance may be, in a great measure, overcome by a little attention on the part of our

ministers. If the ministers were to meet with the teachers, form them into a class, and exercise them on the lesson for the next Sabbath, in the same way as the teachers exercise their classes, taking up each particular in its order, it would be found that the teacher would come to his class much better prepared, and the exercises of the classes would be more interesting and profitable. The minister should also, as often as convenient, visit the school, review the classes, and see to it, that the school is going on as it ought. In this way he is more directly carrying out the injunction of our Lord, "feed my lambs."

In conclusion your committee would record their gratitude to God that so many of the lambs of the flock are being fed, and would desire this Synod to give every encouragement to the work, that the young may be trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. B. MACKAY.

Convener.

Our Foreign Mission.

Appeal to the Children on behalf of the Dayspring.

The Synod at its late meeting resolved, "That the Board of Foreign Missions be authorized to make arrangements for the future maintenance of the *Dayspring*, with other churches or societies interested in missionary operations in Western Polynesia, the proportion of the church not to exceed £250 stg. annually; and that the Board be directed to take measures to enlist the youth of the church in annual contributions for the object." Under this authorization the Board have already communicated with the sister churches in Canada and Scotland, and will, in due season, hold similar correspondence with the Australian churches. In order to carry out the latter part of the Synod's resolution, the Board at a recent meeting instructed their secretary to prepare an appeal to the youth of the church, with a view to their continued support of the mission vessel, to the building and outfit of which they so largely contributed. In fulfilment of this duty it will not be necessary to prosecute any very lengthened argument. All christian parents of intelligence as well as