

Field Work in Newfoundland

Mr. Curtis Tells Some of His Experiences

An Interesting Account of Some of Our Work in the Ancient Colony

WHEN you step ashore from the s.s. Bruce, in St. John's, Nfld., in the month of March, and escape from the dangers incident to iceberg and Atlantic billows, do not think that all the hardships and discomforts are past, if you purpose to itinerate through the island, even in the interests of Sunday schools and Epworth Leagues; but the splendid hospitality of a warm-hearted people, and the genuineness of their religious life

curing a book of methods, etc., and in the exchange, all profit. Once the value of this plan is experienced, it will become a fixed part of Sunday School outfit, whatever else the Sunday School lacks.

We must pause to commend the zeal and devotion of the Sunday School workers of New Melbourne, who, when notified late the previous evening of our passing through next morning, gathered for a ten o'clock session, busy though



A GROUP AT THE EAST KOOTENAY, B.C., SCHOOL.

will wonderfully compensate for any inconvenience of travel or cold.

Our first visit after landing, March 23rd, was to the ancient capital, Harbour Grace, where we spent Sunday and part of the week. The pastor, Bro. T. B. Darby, chairman of the Conference Sunday School Committee, was in the midst of special services, and not without profit. Those being won for Christ were chiefly Sunday School scholars of adolescent years, showing that the right kind of influences were being diffused in Sunday Schools by those responsible.

At Clarke's Beach and Bay Roberts, next visited, sessions in the interests of Sunday Schools were well attended, and the teachers particularly interested in discussion of methods for the furtherance of their beloved work.

Sunday services were divided between Carboneau and Freshwater, where revival services were also being held with considerable results, particularly in the former place. On Sunday afternoon, a mass meeting of the Sunday Schools in the interest of Missions was held at Freshwater, and on Monday afternoon and night an Institute, to which the pastors and teachers of Harbour Grace and Carboneau also contributed. A feature of this Institute was the formation of an organized Adult Bible Class, and the evening session closed. The work attempted in these schools measured up well to the "standard of excellence."

At Hear's Content next day, an afternoon institute was held, and a mass meeting at night at Scilly Cove, followed by a Round-table Conference of all present. The attendance was large, though the times were busy. The ideal of Sunday School attainments there are set high. Hant's Harbour and New Melbourne, both gave good audiences in the Institute and mass meeting. A plan for a Sunday School Teachers' Library was formed at Hant's Harbour, and we sincerely hope, with successful issue. It can be done with the trifling expense of each teacher se-

they were, and some had come five miles at that.

At Old Perlican the afternoon and evening were devoted to Institute and mass meetings, for the good of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues. The young people here, seemed to be well cared for, with Boys' Brigade added to the other Young People's organizations. That the Loyal Orange Association closed its scheduled session to attend the Young People's meeting, is, we think, greatly to their credit, and a recognition of the worth of the young life of the place, and its important relation to the future. Next day, Good Friday, was spent at Lower Island Cove, and the pastor kindly gave us the two services for the work of the department. The veteran Sunday School Superintendent is mindful of his great responsibility, and is much in the counsel of his beloved pastor. We had the good fortune to be at Western Bay and Blackhead, Sunday. There is evident appreciation on the part of these churches of the value of Sunday Schools, and large and modern buildings are being erected. A Sunday School Institute was held at Blackhead, Monday, in which the pastor and others from Western Bay circuit participated.

A Round-table Conference held at Carboneau, passing through, was devoted chiefly to discussion of the organized Adult Bible Class. With pastor and Sunday School Superintendent anxious for this organization it is very likely to "happen." How much depends on leadership! My report gives twenty teachers present.

Britannia Cove Circuit's Sunday School force are handicapped somewhat by lack of efficient leadership, but they are nobly facing their problems. Foster's Point, on the same circuit, received a blessed uplift in a number of decisions for Christ at the close of the mass meeting. Shoal Harbour workers gathered in force, and manifested a deep interest in the discussion of their needs and prospects, and we believe to their profit.

From here we hasten back to St. John's for the "Newfoundland Sunday School Convention." We had the pleasure of preaching on Sunday in Cochrane and Wesley churches. A unique sight was the assembling of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational Sunday Schools of the city, in Gower Street Church, Sunday afternoon. The estimated number present was 1,800. The sight from the rostrum was most impressive. It suggested unlimited potentialities. Who will lead this multitude? Will the church enlist them for Christ? Was not the presence of each scholar there a challenge to the church? "Will you do it?" Was it not further an indication of willingness, "You may!" So much will depend, after all, on the Sunday School teachers. If only we could realize our opportunity. God help us to do!

The sessions of the Convention, held for three week days, were certainly helpful to those who attended. We think that the importance of the work of teaching in the Sunday School is not yet realized. Otherwise, far more who accept the responsibility, would avail themselves of such opportunities afforded for equipment.

We spent the next Sunday on Trinity circuit, Bonnavista District. The cause here is not large, but the belief in Sunday School work is. The pastor announced that as a result of Rally Day he had sent over \$28.00 to the department.

Elliston, and Bonnavista and Catalina in succession afforded most pleasant and profitable sessions. The "Standard of Excellence" is their goal in Sunday School organization, and the spiritual objective is withal prominent. A consecration hour at Elliston was indeed uplifting, and the pastor and workers agreed to follow on with a week of services in the interests of the young people. The pastor at Bonnavista has a large organized Adult Bible Class in which he may be really doing the permanent work of his faithful pastorate.

We have now passed the railway terminus, and await the coastal steamers bound for Greenspond, our next centre. The Sunday Schools here, we find anxious to apply the methods that are helping other schools forward. Lack of suitable accommodation for classes here, as in many places, makes a difficult task doubly difficult.

Wesleyville, with Brookfield and Newton as important parts of the circuit, afforded a fine opportunity for helpful



STAFF OF INSTRUCTORS AT ALBERTA SUMMER SCHOOLS.

Institutes, and large mass meetings at night. We are hoping for large Teacher Training Classes here, as in some other circuits visited. In some cases the Teachers are being trained for future service during school hours, a plan we heartily endorse if not convenient otherwise, and if the class being trained in the school hour has had previous opportunity for preparation.