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The Sunday School Banner.

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TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1883.

Sunday-School Extension—The Duty of the Hour.

AFTER all the remarkable Sunday-school progress of recent years, it is a fact demanding grave consideration that, of the 3,159 preaching places throughout the territory covered by the Methodist Church of Canada, there are schools reported at only 1,947 appointments, leaving 1,219 appointments, or over two-fifths, without any school at all. Of the 1,947 schools reported, only 1,190 are kept open during the whole year, leaving 1,969 appointments, or nearly two-thirds of the whole, where there is either no school at all, or school only during the summer months.

Let us examine the Conference returns a little. In the London Conference, which has comparatively little backwoods and mission work, the proportion of schools, and of schools open all winter, is largest. The figures for 1882 being: preaching places, 732; schools, 558; open during the winter, 457. Yet even in this "banner" Conference there are 174 appointments where there are no schools at all, and in winter 275 appointments, or over one-third of the whole, where there is no school.

In the Toronto Conference, where there is a large amount of mission territory in Muskoka, Algoma, and the North-West, the state of affairs, as might be expected, is still worse. The figures for the same year are: preaching appointments, 983; schools, 593; open all the year, 395. There are thus 584 appointments, or nearly three-fifths of the whole, where there is either no school, or school only in the summer.

In the Montreal Conference, where there is much mission work and much severe weather, there are 563 appointments and 339 schools, of which 142 only are open all year, leaving 331 appointments with only summer schools, and 134 without schools at all.

For the Maritime Conferences the figures, as given in the Minutes of 1882, the latest we have by us, are:

Conf.	Appts.	Schools.	Open all year.
N. Scotia..	390	.. 174	.. 82
N. Brun'k.	411	.. 182	.. 41
Newf'land.	271	.. 121	.. 70
	1070	457	193

This shows 515 appointments, or more than half of the whole number where there are no schools at all, and 879, or over four-fifths of the whole, where there are no schools except during the summer months.