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The Teachers Monthly

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SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK IN THE ASSEMBLY CITY

The Capital City of Canada, the meeting place this year of the General Assembly, justly proud of many advantages, may specially congratulate itself upon its aggressive and active and efficient Sunday School life.

There are 15 Presbyterian Schools, ranging in type from that of the large, well-established family congregation, to the small and new, but promising, mission Schools, including one French School. There is an enrolment of 4,500 scholars and 400 teachers and officers. When one remembers that one-third of the population is French-speaking, and one-half owes its allegiance to the Roman Catholic faith, the enrolment of scholars and teachers is particularly gratifying.

Three features of Ottawa Sunday School life deserve special attention. These are not, of course, the exclusive possession of this city, but they are more than usually prominent in it.

The first is the Religious Educational Council of Ottawa. This is an inter-denominational body, composed of Sunday School Superintendents and Departmental workers. Its object is by monthly conference to promote efficiency in every branch of Sunday School activity. In addition to the regular monthly meeting, the organization holds during the winter a monthly supper, when an address is delivered by an expert on some feature of Sunday School life, followed by general discussion.

There is also an annual conference to which the ministers and teacher delegates from each School are invited. The Council prepares a programme of wide range and interest conducted by the officers of the Sunday School Departments of the different denominations. Such an association is invaluable in stimulating a personal interest and enthusiasm, and diffusing the new methods, and ideas, and naturally tells splendidly in the progress of the individual School.

A second feature is a natural result of the first, namely, the splendid average attendance of the scholars. In almost every School there is an Honor Roll, not for the individual alone, but for classes. This Honor Roll gives credit for Memory Work, Church Attendance, Regular Attendance at Sunday School, bringing Bibles, Lesson Preparation, Punctuality and Good Behaviour. Keen competition between classes makes for class spirit and individual competence. A survey of the churches shows that this method has proven beneficial in the progress of the Schools.

In the last few years there has been a revival of, and a new emphasis upon, the Organized Class. While novelty cannot be claimed for this in Ottawa, it has received special prominence in late years. Several of our Schools are almost completely organized, each class having a distinctive name, particular aim, and class motto, as well as class executive officers.

The Schools in Ottawa are very fortunate in having efficient, painstaking superintendents, who are supported by faithful teachers and officers, whose devotion to their work is admirable. The Schools are in a healthy condition, constantly striving to accomplish their full task.

R. B. WHYTE