

The Teachers' Monthly.

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OUR ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895-6.

The S. S. report was presented to the General Assembly at an early stage, and in view of the important changes now necessary it was referred to a committee, who were instructed to report regarding the financial outlook and future management of the work. This committee appointed a small sub-committee consisting of Drs. Morrison and Warden, Messrs. J. A. Paterson, L. W. Johnson, and the Convener to give the whole matter more careful consideration and mature a deliverance. This sub-committee went minutely into the questions before them, and their recommendation was adopted and presented to the Assembly, but owing to fact that many members had gone home, it was thought advisable to postpone such an important matter for another year and meantime give presbyteries an opportunity of thoroughly discussing the best course to be pursued. It is hoped that liberal and progressive counsels will prevail and that another year will place this department of our church work on a permanent basis. Our statistics this year are not so full as we could desire, but we may safely number our S. S. army as embracing 2,200 schools, 18,000 teachers and officers, and 149,000 scholars.

In the course of *Higher Religious Instruction* it is gratifying to note that there has been steady progress all along the line. This is measured less by the increased numbers availing themselves of the advantages of the scheme, than by the greater excellence of the work presented. From 55 schools there have come up for examination 436 candidates, as compared with 385 last year. Of these 436 candidates, 317 have passed the examination and won diplomas, while 99 rank as prize winners, and 19 as medallists, as compared with 59 prize winners and 16 medallists last year. The interest in the Shorter Catechism keeps advancing, as evidenced by 210 diplomas having been issued for its correct recitation, as compared with 169 last year. The following is a statement of the present circulation of the Committee's publications as compared with the previous year. LEAFLETS—*Primary*, 4,332; *Intermediate*, 4,681; *Senior*, 20,648; total, 29,661. Last year the only leaflet published was the *Senior*, and at the time of reporting to the Assembly its circulation had reached 17,000. The increase is therefore nearly SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT. QUARTERLIES—*Primary*, 2,363; *Intermediate*, 4,155; *Senior*, 9,889; total 16,407, as against 4,000 for the *Senior* alone last year, an increase of over THREE HUNDRED PER CENT. THE TEACHERS' MONTHLY now boasts of 4,390 subscribers, as against 1,600 last year, an increase of nearly ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

The committee regard its finances also as in a very encouraging condition. The statement made in the Assembly that it was "getting deeper and deeper into debt" was a most unfair and misleading one, as the following table will shew:

	June 1894.	1895.	1896.
Total income.....	\$1,568 59	\$2,423 67	\$ 4,735 71
Liabilities.....	815 06	880 47	1,442 44
Value of subscription list to Lesson Helps.....	700 00	1,650 00	4,226 25
Increase of liability.....	415 51	65 41	561 97
Increase of value of subscription lists.....	500 00	950 00	2,576 25
Percentage of increase of liability.....	104	8	64
Percentage of increase in value of subscription lists..	250	136	156

No business man would consider that he was "going deeper and deeper into debt" if in one year he increased his business 156 per cent. while his liabilities increased but 64 per cent. On the other hand the very great success of our periodicals involves temporary embarrassment. We close the year ending April 30th with a deficit of \$1,442, we must therefore borrow the money necessary to print our periodicals up to the end of December. For this purpose and for other necessary expenses we shall require about \$5,000 over and above our probable receipts. In a few years the profits from our publications, together with the "Children's Day" collections, would easily overtake this deficit, but there is danger that due weight may not be given to this fact by presbyteries and that, laying stress upon the liabilities, they may overlook the substantial assets and vote to discontinue our publications. To meet this danger we have resolved to try and raise the whole amount required by an appeal to personal friends. We cannot reach many and therefore we ask the few to be generous. On their response within the next few months will depend altogether the continuance of our work. The Convener has already received several very handsome donations and hopes that all to whom his circular may come will respond with liberality.