

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER.

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From schools in part payment of grants—

1899	\$787 99
1900	954 41
1901	1,042 24
1902	1,399 27

Total\$4,183 91

Grand total of receipts, \$11,920.05.

MISSIONS.

The contributions of the Sunday Schools to missions have been as follows :

1899	\$19,835
1900	20,257
1901	20,770

Total\$60,862

Sunday School teachers could do much to increase interest in missions, by introducing attractive missionary facts and illustrations, and encouraging the scholars to give small amounts systematically. Monthly collections instead of annual would result in greatly increasing the missionary income from the schools.

ACCESSIONS TO THE CHURCH.

One of the most encouraging things we have to report is the large number of Sunday School scholars who have united with the church during the past four years. The following are the returns :

1899	8,847
1900	9,376
1901	11,442

Total\$29,665

These figures indicate that more attention has been paid to leading young people to decision for Christ, than at any similar period in our church's history.

Sunday School Progress.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE OF
THE TORONTO CONFERENCE.

OUT of 458 schools in the Conference 440 are reported as being kept open during the whole year, an increase of 61 over last year. Some 1,561 have united with the church during the year, and 9,684 are reported as belonging to the church; yet that seems a small number out of over 50,000 scholars. There are only 3,557 learning catechism, while only 9,738 are pledged abstainers.

One item is a matter of surprise to us, and that is, that while there are 5,000 more scholars in our schools than last year, there is a decrease of 120 teachers. We think there are some mistakes in the returns. We would urge more careful tabulation.

The finances of the year show a decided advance in every department.

There has been an increase of 574 members in the Home Department. We hope that this field of labor may be more than ever cultivated. There are many all over the Conference that would rejoice in the thought that the Sunday School can be brought to them when they cannot go to the Sunday School; for that is what the Home Department means. If more of our pastors and Sunday School superintendents knew the great value of this modern adjunct they would see to it that every school had one.

A matter of great interest, especially to country schools, is the library. It has been suggested to us, and we think the suggestion a good one, that something might be done along the line of travelling libraries. We would, therefore, suggest that wherever practicable, a circle of five schools unite, and each procure a library of 100 books, each list of books being different from the other. Each school would hold a set of books for one year, and at the end of the year a general exchange would take place. In this way a greater variety of books could be procured for the different schools than in the present way.

At the same time we would suggest that a part of each library be chosen with special reference to the needs of the teachers.

It is desirable in the opinion of your committee that the average of efficiency among our faithful and dearly beloved teachers should be raised more nearly to that of public school teachers by the adoption of methods similar to those pursued for the equipment of the latter.

We therefore suggest for the accomplishment of this end that the General Conference be memorialized to pass legislation empowering Annual Conferences to adopt a method, of which the essential features shall be as follows : (1) A general curriculum of studies, harmonized, as far as possible, with the Normal Course, chosen for the purpose of instructing our teachers in teaching methods in the Word of God, and such other things as may seem desirable or possible; all from the point of view of our church. (2) Written examinations. (3) Diplomas. (4) Gradual introduction of this plan.