

in the interest of our Sunday-schools, and without any addition whatever in the price of the periodicals, the publisher being determined that those of the Methodist Church of Canada shall be cheap as the cheapest, and good as the best.

The changes thus announced will take place with the October issues of these periodicals. It requires considerable time to order paper of the enlarged size, and heavier weight, to prepare new chases, or forms, for locking up the type, and making the other changes necessary for these marked improvements.

The enlarged series will be in the hands of all our Sunday-schools in ample time for them to renew, and, we hope, increase their orders for their periodicals for 1897.

Our schools throughout Canada are, for the most part, thoroughly loyal to the publications of their own Church. Let every Methodist school in the country rally round our own papers, and prove that the enterprise and energy and large faith shown in their enlargement and improvement is appreciated.

For our other periodicals we do not at present promise enlargement, but they will be maintained at the highest possible state of efficiency—and improved when possible.

Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund.

At the meeting of the General Sunday-school and Epworth League Board, held August 12th, a very satisfactory report was presented by Mr. Warring Kennedy, Treasurer of the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund. From this interesting document we make a few extracts. The receipts from the collections taken up in the various schools amount this year to \$2,747, being an increase of about \$180 over last year.

The contributions by Conferences are as follows:

Toronto Conference.....	\$401 56
London.....	399 10
Montreal.....	429 16
Hamilton.....	371 20
Bay of Quinte.....	388 98
Nova Scotia.....	162 40
New Brunswick.....	145 76
Manitoba.....	240 16
Newfoundland.....	134 70
British Columbia.....	74 00

\$2,747 04

In addition to this amount, the sum of \$1,393.51 has been received from schools receiving aid, in part payment of grants. The system adopted by the General Secretary is to aid poor schools in destitute neighbourhoods by

grants of papers and periodicals, etc., and these schools are expected to pay at least one-half of the cost.

In this way we make it possible for weak schools to secure Sunday-school literature at small cost, the principle being to help those who show a disposition to help themselves.

Grants to schools have been made during the past year amounting to \$2,381.38. Especial care has been taken in the making of these grants, so that we are able to report that the debt has been reduced during the year by about \$900. The amount due the treasurer on July 1 was \$1,162.84. It is hoped that by economical management, and increased collections, this may be largely reduced during the coming year. We trust that a liberal collection will be taken up in every Sunday-school. By resolution of the Board, the last Sunday in September was appointed as the day for this collection in all our schools. Please remember it. Let there be a liberal response.

Sunday-school Progress.

THE Sunday-school statistics compiled by the indefatigable General Conference statistician, the Rev. Dr. Cornish, and published on another page, are full of encouragement. They report progress all along the line. In almost every respect there is a remarkably advance, the increase of schools is considerably more than the increase in preaching places. The increase of seven thousand schools indicates that the schools are growing in size as well as in number. There are, however, 1,215 places that are yet without a Sunday-school. In many of these places no doubt the children attend union schools, for there are over 4,000 Methodist scholars reported attending such schools. These schools are situated for the most part in remote and sparsely settled parts of the country, where it will be difficult to maintain denominational schools.

One of the best features of all in connection with our schools is that over 13,000 scholars have united with the Church during the year, and that 76,232 are usually meeting in classes.

A new feature in this report is the sums raised for the various benevolences of the Church. For the Educational Society, \$760; Superannuation Fund, \$124; Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund, \$2,681; and for missions, over \$21,000. Although this last is a decrease of \$823 as compared with last year, yet if other collections for church benevolences be added, it will show a considerable advance upon the previous year.

It is to be regretted that so many of our schools are closed during the inclement season