



A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEMPERATURE CHART

By W. F. Heal

A simple and effective method of keeping a comparative record of the attendance before the eyes of every member of the Sunday School is in use in St. Andrew's Sunday School, Moose Jaw, Sask., in the form of a Sunday School Temperature Chart, a section of which is reproduced on this page. The chart is placed on the wall, at the rear of the platform, and at once catches the eye of every visitor.

It is about 14 ft. 6 in. long and 2 ft. 6 in. high, and is prepared on heavy paper so that it can be easily taken down and rolled up without injury. The ruling as shown by the illustration is simple. The fifty-two vertical lines, representing each Sunday of the year, are about $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. apart, while the 26 horizontal lines are $\frac{1}{2}$ in. apart, each space representing an attendance of 10 and numbered from 300 to 550.

The chart was first used in 1915, the attendance being marked each Sunday with a heavy black carbon pencil. After it had been in use for about six months, the 1914 attendance was entered on the chart in ordinary lead pencil and it at once became a Comparative Attendance Statement.

In 1916, a red pencil was used to mark the record, and in 1917 a blue pencil is being used. A new chart will probably be prepared for 1918 as the increased attendance will require provision for higher attendance than the present maximum of 550 allows for.

In glancing at the section of the chart reproduced here the eye is at once caught by the "peak" of 650 on the last Sunday in May, 1916. The notation "Provincial Go-to-Sunday-School-Day" gives the explanation. At the request of the Provincial Sunday School Federation, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Saskatchewan by Order in Council proclaimed that day as Go-to-Sunday-School Day. Wide newspaper publicity was given to the occasion, and a record attendance was the result.

It will be seen on the chart that for the following month the average attendance was higher than that for any month in the history of the School, up to that time. Unfortunately, however, with July, the holiday season commenced, and the sharp annual decline occurred until on the first Sunday in August the attendance was less than 50 per cent. of the "peak." When Rally Day came along, the effect was striking. In 1914 the attendance jumped from 400 to 510, in 1915 from just under 300 to 500, and in 1916 from 450 to 581, and the continuation of the chart would show that the improvement was steadily maintained for the balance of the year.

Moose Jaw, Sask.