

will be in such a shape as will warrant us granting the request of the Alberta Conference. We are informed that the Conference is not pressing for an immediate appointment."

SUMMER SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

A report of the Summer School Committee, appointed by the Executive to report to the Board, was received, and the recommendations of the Committee adopted as follows:

"We are strongly of the opinion that the Summer School is a mighty agency for the dissemination of helpful information, the creation and development of public opinion along moral and religious lines, and the education and training of Christian leaders and workers for church and national and world activities, and that, therefore, such schools should be encouraged and strengthened and multiplied in number in order to obtain the maximum results."

"We are agreed that inasmuch as the work of the Sunday School and Young People's Department touches young life everywhere and is largely responsible for its development and training for religious leadership and work, it should have a proportionate time on the programme of the Methodist Summer Schools at present operating and of such as in the future may be established, and that where such proportionate time is provided, this General Board provide a leader or instructor for the work."

"We believe that the time has come when the importance of the work of our Department warrants the organization of new schools to deal wholly or in part with Sunday School and Young People's work in co-operation with other organizations or under our own direction and jurisdiction, and to this end we recommend the appointment of a Standing Committee, whose business it will be to evolve plans and ways and means to organize and establish such new schools."

This committee as appointed consists of Rev. F. L. Farewell, convener; Rev. Prof. McLaughlin, J. H. Gundy, the Field Secretaries, and Rev. T. B. Darby as corresponding member.

The Manitoba Conference, having requested a statement from the Board as to the relation of the Denominational to the International Sunday School work, the following was adopted:

RELATION OF DENOMINATIONAL TO INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION SUNDAY SCHOOL WORK.

Inasmuch as the General Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies has been memorialized by the Manitoba Conference to make a pronouncement upon the mutual relationships of Methodist Sunday School work and the work of the International Sunday School Association, we deem it desirable to make the following statement, not as finally authoritative, but as meaningful suggestive and practical, viz.:

Whereas the International Sunday School Association was organized in 1875 for the purpose of conserving the interest of and developing the field of general Sunday School work, and

Whereas one of the aims of that organization was to serve the denominational churches and to stimulate them and organize their efforts in Sunday School development, and

Whereas in recent years the denominations have responded to these continuous efforts to a degree that they in general, and the Methodist Church in particular, have organized their own Sunday School Boards, and

Whereas the tendency has been and is for the International Association to hand over to the denominations such Sunday

School interests and activities as they are prepared to assume and direct, and

Whereas the modern study of psychology and pedagogy and the present world-wide Sunday School revival have laid upon the Sunday School an increasing responsibility for the winning of young men for Christ and their education and training for service in the Kingdom, and

Whereas the Methodist Church ultimately is responsible for the winning and educating and training of Methodist children and young people, and

Whereas Christian leadership is more and more concurring in the belief that effective and permanent service for our youth can be best carried on through the agency of a spiritually strong, aggressive, educated Church, and

Whereas there was organized three years ago the Sunday School Council of Evangelical Denominations, representing some twenty-six evangelical denominations and some eighteen millions of communicants, for the purpose of assuming and directing denominational responsibility for this important work, and

Whereas the said Council is now negotiating with the International Sunday School Association with a view to a larger volume in the determination of its principles and methods of organization and work which shall guide denominational effort.

Therefore, be it resolved:

That we the members of the General Board of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies of the Methodist Church place ourselves on record as follows:

1. We recognize with profound gratitude to God the great and permanent work that the International Sunday School Association has done for the Sunday Schools of the North American continent since its organization in 1875.

2. We pay tribute to the great task it has accomplished in arousing denominations to a sense of their denominational obligation to the Sunday School movement to the extent that a large number of Churches now have their denominational Boards with the various Sunday School departments prepared to assume and actually assuming large responsibilities.

3. We recognize in every movement the operation of the extensive and the intensive principles, and our conviction is that while the International Sunday School Association must continue to stand primarily for extensive work, each Church must more and more perform its own intensive work and assume the full responsibility for the realization in its own schools and in its own peculiar way, the highest ideals of life and the best standards of Sunday School organization and methods.

4. We are strongly of the opinion that in consequence, while willing to co-operate with the International Sunday School Association in the more extensive field of their general provincial and county work, we should, as a Methodist Church, preserve our denominational rights to carry on our work in ways which will best conserve and develop it, and prosecute with wisdom and vigor the District and Local Institute or Conventions as called for by our Discipline, that through these agencies we may have opportunity to discuss at close range and in intimate manner, the problems for whose solution we are peculiarly responsible as a Church, and to seek to inspire and inspire our pastors, Sunday School superintendents, teachers, and workers all, to the best possible Sunday School endeavor in their local schools.

5. In view of these tendencies and these increasing responsibilities, we strongly urge our people, while giving sympathy and co-operation to all sister organiza-

tions wherein there are common interests, to be first and continuously loyal to ideals, plans and discipline of the Methodist Church in its broad and comprehensive policy to serve best its Sunday School constituency.

6. We would strongly recommend in the matter of district work that the District Sunday School Secretaries arrange and carry on annually a series of local schools or institutes along denominational lines, and that in the organization of such institutes our Church officers seek a mutual understanding with the International, Provincial, County or Township officers so as to avoid on the part of either any undue overlapping of territory, dates, or local arrangements.

7. Lastly, in view of the fact that Annual Conferences and other Church organizations are urging upon the Board the appointment of further Field Secretaries, and the undertaking of other obligations involving an increasingly growing budget, we earnestly request all our pastors, officers, and schools generally, to observe the last Sunday in September as Rally Day, as provided by Discipline, and to seek to make that day's offering, both from the general congregation and the Sunday School, commensurate with the rapidly increasing needs of the work. Moreover, where there is co-operative effort in Provincial or County work between our denomination and the Provincial Associations, we would recommend a mutually satisfactory understanding as to the financial obligations to be borne by the respective co-operating organizations, and in respect of every other interest to the end that there may be preserved that good-will and sympathy between us as we contribute to the realization of the Kingdom of our Lord.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The following Ten-point Standard of Excellence was adopted for our Sunday Schools:

1. School open all the year.
2. Organized Class Roll.
3. Adult Bible Class, organized and registered.
4. Home Department in operation.
5. Graded school, with Uniform Lessons and Supplemental Lessons or Graded Lessons.
6. Teacher Training Class.
7. Systematic Evangelism.
8. Systematic Missionary Instruction and Giving.
9. Regular Temperance Instruction and Pledge Signing.
10. Rally Day and Disciplinary Offering to General Sunday School Fund.

RECORD BOOKS AND REPORT BLANKS.

The General Secretary was instructed to prepare for the use of the District Sunday School Secretaries a permanent Record Book for each district. Also half-yearly report blanks to be filled by them and returned to the central office. Also half-yearly report forms for the use of all District Epworth League officers in correspondence with the central office. These are ordered so as to ensure a more complete and reliable return of work done on the districts by the appointed officers to the General Board.

OTHER MATTERS.

The preparation of a more appropriate catechism and of a suitable text-book for the instruction of Catechumens were referred to the Executive, with power, as were also those recommendations of the General Secretary's report dealing with greater Epworth League efficiency.

On recommendation of Mr. Farewell's