

## The Largest Sunday-School in Canada.

WESLEY CHURCH SUNDAY-SCHOOL,  
TORONTO.

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BY THE EDITOR.

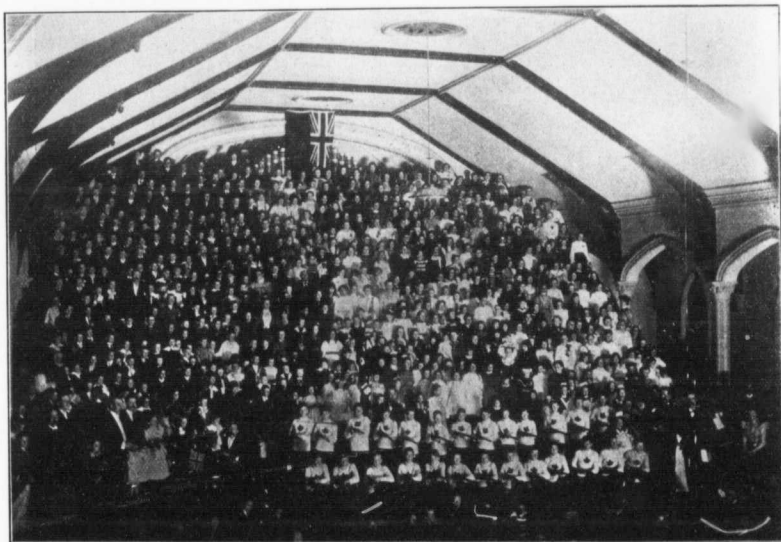
THE visitor who looks in at the school room of Wesley Church, Toronto, on Sunday afternoon, would scarcely suppose that it is the largest Sunday-school in the Dominion. He soon discovers, however, that this is only one section of the school, which is scattered in various parts of the large church.

nisett, who has under his direction twenty-eight teachers. This class has opening and closing exercises of its own, and never meets with the other part of the school except on review Sunday. The Primary Department, which includes scholars slightly older, who can read, is presided over by Mr. Vokes, who is assisted by twenty-one teachers. I was pleased to hear these gentlemen state that they had but little difficulty in securing teachers to carry on the work.

The Home Department, with Mr. Til-

of our Church catechism. Fifteen minutes are occupied in this way, only one question being considered each Sunday. One whole year is to be spent in this way. Some of the teachers find it a little difficult to make the subject attractive to the scholars, but the superintendent insists that they can make it as interesting as they want to, by giving time and thought to preparation.

After the catechism lesson has been taught, the Bible lesson is presented in pictorial form from the blackboard, by Mr. John Thompson. Very careful preparation has been made for this. The blackboard picture is quite a work of art, and attracts considerable notice. Mr. Thompson has the art of arousing and holding attention to a remarkable degree. I have never seen a whole school listen



A PART OF WESLEY CHURCH SUNDAY-SCHOOL, TORONTO, ON ANNIVERSARY DAY.

The Bible classes meet in the auditorium, and in several class rooms. They have a total enrolment of 640. The Primary Department is domiciled in the basement, and has a membership of 462. The intermediate classes have an enrolment of 230. The total number of scholars on the roll is 1,453. The actual attendance of teachers, officers and scholars on the Sunday of my visit was 1,029. The school is greatly handicapped for want of better and more commodious quarters. When the new school room, which is now talked of, is erected, no doubt the numbers will greatly increase.

This school is very much like a big departmental store. The manager-in-chief, Mr. Robert Awde, keeps a watchful eye on the whole concern, but all the detail work is done by his assistants. The Infant Class is in charge of Mr. F. Hun-

ton as superintendent, has a membership of about 150. Mr. Awde informed me that this department had been a great blessing to the Church. It had been the means of restoring many broken down family altars, and of saving souls.

The singing in the main school is led by a very good orchestra of about ten pieces. The members of the orchestra meet together in a class of their own for the study of the lesson. Scholars and teachers sing as if they enjoyed it, and after the opening hymn all kneel reverently in prayer. The order is very good indeed. Immediately after prayer the secretary calls the roll of teachers, nearly all of whom answer to their names. The lesson is then read by one of the teachers. A novel feature of the school is that the time usually taken up with the International lesson is given entirely to the study

so intently to an address from the platform as upon this occasion.

After a few words by the superintendent the closing hymn is sung, and the library books distributed.

The dismissal is one of the prettiest features of the school, and is under the direction of Major Wallace, who conducts it with military precision. At a tap of the bell the entire school stands, and at a second signal all face in one direction. Then to the music of the orchestra the scholars march out two by two, walking down one aisle and passing in front of the desk, then out to the door. There is no crowding or scrambling, but everything is done decently and in order. It impresses a visitor as a very beautiful way in which to conclude the exercises of the afternoon. The whole session occupies an hour and a quarter.