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The Teachers Monthly

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EDITORIAL

Our Stricken Sunday Schools in Halifax

Nearly one half of the scholars in one of our Sunday Schools, killed by the terrible explosion of December 6th, and many more injured and in hospital, is typical, in greater or less degree, of the instant and overwhelming disaster that fell on the churches and Sunday Schools and homes of that fair city.

These are courageously gathering themselves together again. Neighboring churches and Sunday School buildings that were not swept away or hopelessly destroyed, opened their doors to the congregations and Schools that were devastated and decimated, thus succoring them in their dire need, and giving them help in the first step to restoration. The stricken ones are putting a brave face to their calamity. They have universal sympathy, and it has been a joy to put out the helping hand to those who have been so eager to help themselves.

Hail to the Draftee !

The military authorities are making no difference between the fresh recruits and the draftees. They go side by side into the ranks of our "Fifth Hundred Thousand," as it has been called. Mr. Justice Riddell, of the High Court of Ontario, an eminent jurist and keen advocate of the prosecution of the War to a victorious finish, said, at the close of his sittings on appeals for exemption : "I confess that, in common with others, I was disposed to look upon those who claimed exemption as in most part simply slackers. My experience in this court has shown me this : I was wholly wrong—the fact is the diametrically opposite. In practically every case there was reasonable and sensible claim, respectful and quiet presentation, and cheerful acquiescence in the law" (even when the law went against the claimants).

The draftee has come honorably into the Overseas Forces. Let us give him due honor. He will acquit himself well, as our whole Canadian Force has done. He should not be prejudiced in the eyes of the people by the "slackers" whom it required a Conscription law to force into the service, or by any unworthy seekers for exemption. On church and Sunday School and Y.P.S. Honor Rolls, the draftee should have his honorable place.

The "Improved" Uniform Lessons

There seems to be confusion in the minds of some in regard to the "Improved" Uniform Lessons. We have been asked from many quarters whether we publish the "Improved," as well as the familiar Uniform, Lesson ; or whether we have discontinued the latter and publish only the former.