

CURFEW BELL.

(MRS. S. G. E. MCKEE, Superintendent).

It is a matter of congratulation that from ocean to ocean the subject of Curfew Bell is receiving the attention of good men and earnest women.

The need of looking after the children is so apparent, and the consequences of neglect are so disastrous, that any means whereby the chances of criminality among the young are lessened, help given in temptation, or an arm of protection thrown around them in danger, are all hailed with gladness. And so this matter of ringing a bell to call them off the streets and bid them seek their homes, is finding more favor every day.

Recently, Toronto's city clerk asked officially that towns where the Curfew By-law had been passed would communicate with him, giving details as to efficiency, etc. From Quebec in the east to Edmonton in the north-west, with many a call in between, your Superintendent has replied to queries and given information as far as possible on this question.

I must again mention Mr. Nelson's valuable help in keeping the subject in the public mind. His little pamphlet on the "Revival of the Curfew" is deserving of special mention.

Of the Departmental work your Superintendent would beg leave to report the following:

Sent circulars to each Union where by-law is in operation, asking for statement regarding its enforcement; whether any means had been used for its greater efficiency, etc. To these circulars 18 counties replied, as follows:

COUNTY.	No.	TOWN
Bruce.....	1 place.....	Warton
Durham.....	".....	Port Hope
Grey.....	".....	Owen Sound
Haldimand.....	".....	Dunville
Lambton.....	".....	Petrolia
Leeds.....	".....	Brockville
Muskoka.....	".....	Huntsville
Northumberland.....	".....	Cobourg
Peterboro.....	".....	Peterboro
Peel.....	1 place.....	Port Credit
Simcoe.....	5 places.....	
Waterloo.....	3 places.....	

Of these 18, 12 testify to its benefit, and say it is well enforced. This does not represent all the bell-ringing towns—there are about 40—but these are all with which I have made acquaintance.

Your Superintendent has in progress a circular to be sent to all the municipalities of Ontario, urging the passage of the by-law,