

Filling Up the Ranks

In very many Sunday Schools, the ranks of the teachers and officers have been sorely depleted by enlistments. A report from the Sunday School of St. David's Church, St. John, N.B., given on another page of this issue, suggests two steps which should be taken to fill such vacancies.

In this School, boys, just growing into manhood, but still under the military age, and young women are volunteering to take up the work of those who have gone.

Besides, an unusually large Teacher Training Class has been started in the School. In this class the older boys and girls are being trained for the work of teaching.

In these simple ways a difficult situation is being satisfactorily met, and the work which soldier teachers and officers have had to lay down, is being effectively carried on.

It is likely that any superintendent who finds his School in a position similar to that of St. David's, can find older boys, and it is certain that he can find young women, to step into the gaps made by the War. And it is hardly possible to imagine a School in which a Teacher Training Class cannot be carried on to keep up the supply of qualified teachers.

The War has taught us many things about our church work. Not the least important of these lessons is, that there is much talent and energy in our churches that can be harnessed up to our Sunday School work; and the further lesson that a little "pep" and initiative will make a way through difficulties that to the more timid ones seem insurmountable.

Teen Age Classes: The Teacher's Opportunity

From all parts of the church come reports of how Adult Bible Classes have been "shot to pieces" by the war, so far as their young men membership is concerned. Before the days of the draft, Bible Classes furnished their full share,—and more—of volunteer soldiers; and since the draft has been in operation, they have, of course, been still further depleted of their young men.

At the same time, the number of teen age classes of boys has been rapidly increasing. A fine programme has been arranged for both their Sunday meeting for worship and study and their week day activities. Similar provision is made for girls' classes of the same age.

In the growing demand of teen age boys and girls in our Sunday Schools for organization and the excellent provision made for them, it is not possible to miss the beckoning of opportunity. There is no finer or more promising field of religious service open to-day than that presented to the right man in a class of teen age boys, and the right woman in a similar class of girls.

It should never be forgotten that the War has rendered boys and girls of this age more impressionable than ever before. They are feeling down in their young hearts the responsibility that the absence,—alas, in so many cases the death or disablement, of their older brothers—has laid upon them, and are longing for the guidance and help in trying to make their lives count for the most possible.

Planning for Production

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the interesting story of how a city Sunday School, last spring and summer, enlisted its boys and girls in a campaign of production, culminating, early in the autumn, in an exhibition of the fruits of the season's labors.

It may be that other Schools have carried out a similar plan, with like excellent results. There are many other Schools which might follow the good example thus set.

And one condition of success is, that the planning should be commenced in good time. These winter days, when there is no working the garden or field, are just the days for taking a look ahead to the spring and summer of 1919. Schools which expect to do the best work in production next year, should set about their arrangements before New Year's Day is very far past.

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