THE Canadian Epworth Era

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF WORK IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

At Home with the Editor

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Personal Words

To the many kind friends and coworkers in the Sunday School, who have so freely and generously contributed to this issue, the Editor gives his hearty thanks. All work has been done from pure love of the Sunday School.

To the thousands of special readers to whom this number will go, we send a cordial invitation to join the Eaa family. Twelve consecutive issues constitute a year, and cost 50 cents. You will surely find that much worth of practical, helpful reading in a year's pages. Send all subscriptions to William Briggs, Wesley Buildings, Toronto.

What are you doing in your school to

make World's Sunday School Day memorable? Let every pastor preach in the interest of the work. Let every superintendent plan for a special programme. If nothing more, use the service given in all our Quarterlies. Let every teacher pray earnesity, and work diligently to bring every scholar into livng unlon with Chrst.

And as the World's Sunday School Convention meets in Washington, D.C., from May 18 to 24, let every soul Interested in the world-wide Sunday School Movement seek God's blessing on this great gathering that mighty Holy Ghost power may prevail, and Christ's name be glorified.

What Our Superintendents Say About Our Sunday School Work and Its Needs

The men who are doing the actual work to the Sunday School know best what are the conditions, needs, and prospects of our conzextonal field. To obtain their opinion and counsel, the General Sceretary and Editor, issued a circular leiter some time ago, containing two questions, viz, "What has given you the greatest satisfaction in your work during 1909" and "What in your judgment is the greatest need of the Sunday School during 1910"

Over 800 of our brethren in service answered our letters, and it has been a great Joy to us to read their replies. Anything like an exhaustive study of these would fill this paper. A mere catalogue or inventory of the responses would fill pages. The most of two pages were given to some extracts, in our April number, and have proved suggestive to many.

This article will show you what are the outstanding causes for encouragement, and what the most urgent needs of our work, always of course, from the Superintendents' points of view, as manifested in their letters received.

Co-operation.

It is significant that fully 125 refer to this spirit on the part of officers and teachers with the Superintendents. Not one letter breathed any spirit of disunion, distrust, or division. A whole sermon on working together might be preached on this fact. But let it speak for itself.

Character of the Work.

Nearly 100 said that to know that they were engaged in the great work of transmuting the Divine Word into human character, and helping build up the Kingdom in young lives as well as extend it through them, gave them the greatest Joy, --that the work itself was its own reward. It is a matter of congratulation that our Sunday School Superintendents do not consider their work a burden but a delight, and take pleasure in the privilege it affords.

Results Visible in Human Life.

Elighty-two tell us that they have had the supreme satisfaction of seeing manifest fruit in the lives of the scholars. They have not tolled in vain. Souls have been saved, members have been durited, cleansed, dedicated to God, and by many such statements we learn that there is no joy that is superior to that felt by a successful winner of souls. No: Thank God, the evangelistic spirit is not dying out, nor are our people all idle in personal sou-winning.

Increased Attendance.

Seventy-seven report that there has been a most satisfactory increase in at-tendance in the school, and thirty-two more refer in plain terms to the increased interest in Bible Study. The Sunday School is not a decaying institution, nor is the Word of God an effete or worn-out Twenty-five of our letters refer book. particularly to the enlarged number of men and women in the actual member-ship of the School. There appear to be appear to be more adults in the schools than ever before, for which we all may be devoutly thankful. The organized Adult Bible Class is referred to time and again as a source of strength to the school. It surely is, or the twenty-one of our correspondents who express their profound appreciation of it as the *most* satisfactory thing in their school in 1909, are astray in their judgment.

Sunday School Periodicals.

Some thirty direct and particular references are made in terms of highest commendation to our Sunday School publications, and evidently the general consensus of opinion is that the papers and helps being put forth by our publishing house under the able editorial management of Dr. Crews, are equal to any issued by any house elsewhere. Special reference is made to the Banner, whose

editorial pages are manifestly highly appreciated by the Superintendents writing.

Other Causes of Satisfaction.

The foregoing paragraphs have shown in only the most general way what our Superintendents have written. Many Many other satisfactory features of work are enumerated in less number. say that the hard personal work involved in the duties of their office has done them the most good. Five state that the help of the pastor has been the most satisfactory experience in their office. Three refer to the profit of their teacher's meetings. -and so on. But what seems to us rather striking is that only fifteen make definit reference to any increased missionary in-Perhaps our letters are no safe guide in making conclusions in this matter; but our Superintendents everywhere must not forget that the Sunday School is the most fruitful field for missionary instruction and recruits. We are confident that they will not.

What About the Future? What are its

The outstanding need seems to be efficient teachers, for upwards of 140 Superintendents so express themselves. Associated with this idea of efficiency are many such words as "trained," "competent," "devoted," "able," and "perpared." but the word "consecrated" or "consecration" most frequently occurs in relation to them. And it will help us understand the bearing on our work to note that no fewer than 80 letters express the desre for more power as soul-winzers. In the same connection it is remarkable that 55 give expression to a conscious need of the power of the Holy Spirit in attaining this desired end, while 30 state that a deeper sense of personal responsibility on the part of the teachers is most needed for the accomplishment of the granvity of the situation" is used to convey the grant importance of the school influence on the lives of the young.

We rejoice in all this, for it shows that We rejoice in all this, for it shows that our Superintendents are alive to the evangelistic possibilities of the achools. This is the great felt want—bo 'or to win and train young lives for Christ. Other needs are expressed; but the preponderating weight of testimony leads to the very heart of our work, and we know that unless the affections are engaged and the will enlisted for Christ, mere intellectual information will not suffice. The hearts of our leaders are true to their divinely appointed service, and we confident's look for increasing numbers of accessions to the active membership of the church as the result.

the result. Fifty-three others say the great need in their schools is better Bible study. 40 call for more workers. 29 appeal for men, and many give evidence of such need as "more room," "better premises," 'Tuiler "equipment," organization," "more financial support," and such like, but in the actual life of the school the acknowledged lack, the great desire is more power for permanent spiritual results.