

be glad to hear from our brother Secretary.

**S. S. SECRETARY**—Mr. President and members of the District Executive I must thank you cordially for your thoughtful kindness in extending to me an invitation to be present with you at a meeting of your District Executive. I have come to the conclusion that until such time as there may be a federal union of all the young people's forces in the Church, the Sunday School and Epworth League can do much by co-operating in their work. I think we are seeing more and more that the work of the Sunday School is essentially to teach the scholar Bible truths and principles which will enable him to develop a sturdy Christian character, while the work of the League is rather that of training. The organization of the League is such that the scholar of the school, whether boy or girl or adult, can find ample scope to practically work out the laws of the Kingdom and of self-development which he has learned from the superintendent and from his teacher. It will be seen, therefore, that these two organizations do not oppose each other, nor do they cover the same ground. They are rather complementary, and in working together with a perfect organization and high ideals will bring about a condition in the Church which will be the most conducive to the best and highest life. I am here, therefore, to seek your co-operation; not only your sympathy, but your active assistance in developing and expanding our Sunday School work on the District.

First, I should like your co-operation in interesting the ministers more in our Sunday School work.

**TREASURER**—Do you mean to say that there are some pastors who do not take much interest in the Sunday School?

**S. S. SECRETARY**—Yes, I am afraid this is true. Sometimes, of course, our pastors have not the time. Visitation, financial problems, and other worries absorb their mind that they have not a minute to give to the growth and development of the Sunday School, except in a very general way. Other pastors are more or less indifferent to our Sunday School work. Now, it is one of the greatest imperatives that our ministerial leaders should be prophets and seers, and as such they must be brought to see that the success of the Methodist Church on this District and throughout Canada depends upon the Sunday School and young people's societies of the present. Who is to lead unless the preacher? I am confident that if the Committee of the District Epworth League, co-operating with the District Sunday School Secretary, would take it upon themselves to interest every pastor personally in his local League and school, we shall have accomplished much for our organization.

In the second place, I seek your co-operation to inaugurate and develop the Forward Movement for Missions in our schools. I was struck by the plans unfolded by your 2nd Vice-President in respect of the work to be attempted for the present year. I am coming to feel, however, that the greatest field of Missionary effort is neither in the Epworth League or in the Church, but in the Sunday School. Why, I am told that there is a Sunday School in Toronto whose membership is only 500, and whose average attendance is only 300—Elm Street Sunday School. If I think they call this that raised two years ago for Missions \$500, and last year \$528. This same school has already this year subscribed \$450. The school is comparatively a poor one, and yet gives on an average \$1 per member per Sunday up the minutes I find that the number of scholars in the Sunday Schools on this

District is 2,600. At a dollar per member this would mean a contribution to Missions from the schools of \$2,600, while now we contribute only \$174. And not only could we raise money for Missions in this way, but we could teach the boy and girl how to contribute systematically to the branches of Church work, and not only so, but by proper teaching of Missions in the school, through travels and text-books, etc., we could make real missionaries of a large number of them. Now, my point is this, here is the work that can be done in the school. You have the workers to do it. Co-operate with us in the school, and I guarantee that we will astonish you by our givings.

**4TH VICE-PRES.**—What do you mean by co-operate? Do you mean in givings or in help?

**S. S. SECRETARY**—We do not want your givings. We are desirous that you should contribute through your League more and more, but we do want your help. For instance, I understand the League has a strong Missionary organization at Sparkie River, but at that appointment the Sunday School contributes nothing to Missions. Now what is to prevent the Missionary Vice-President, on visiting Sparkie River League, to get in touch with the pastor and Superintendent of the school, and one or two members of the League, who are teachers in the school, and Missionary enthusiasts, and organize a Sunday School Missionary Committee, having as Chairman a League member who is competent to interest the teachers through Mission Study to interest their scholars, with a view to their contributing systematically to Missions?

In the third place, the Epworth League may co-operate with the Sunday School in Bible study. I do not wish to do at the expense of the League, but I must say that your members are shamefully deficient in Bible knowledge. As you know, the A. B. C. Movement is expanding very rapidly. It is my purpose to organize an Adult Bible Class in every Sunday School on this District, and I shall look to you as Active members of the League to see that your members, both Active and Associate, unite wherever possible with such class. It is easy to see wherein this co-operation would mutually help the two organizations.

In the fourth place, the Epworth League should supplement the Sunday School teaching staff. A short time ago I stated that the League was the training organization of the Church. I think I will agree with me that this is true, and if it be true, then you should give some practical demonstration of your profession. In every Sunday School in this District trained teachers are needed. I would suggest that you consider the organization of normal training classes in your local Leagues, with the idea of assisting the Superintendent to properly man his school.

As I have already said, I was most interested in hearing the Treasurer outline his plan for the District reference library. I think we should see to it that the departments of Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues should keep us all in touch with the latest and best thought, on normal training, child psychology, the development of the boy and the girl, methods of Sunday School and Epworth League work, etc. This District Library would also perhaps assist us in working out later a system of correspondence, or even a correspondence school, under the supervision of the General Secretary and his Associates, which would enable us to pass regular examinations in these several subjects.

But, Mr. President, I do not want to longer trespass on your time. I simply wish to bring these few suggestions before you, to show that there are practi-

cal ways in which you as leaders in the Epworth League can be of valuable assistance to us in our Sunday School work, and I want to once more assure you of my active sympathy with you in all departments of the Young People's work.

**PRESIDENT**—The Sunday School Secretary is certainly aggressive and up-to-date, and not afraid to blaze out new lines of work. I can assure him of our willingness to co-operate with him in the work he has suggested, and before we adjourn I trust some step will be taken to effect such co-operation.

**SECRETARY**—I have been very interested in what the Sunday School Secretary has said. I am afraid I have sometimes thought that the Sunday School did not give the League its due, and perhaps on some occasions it was justified in so doing. But the Secretary of our District has certainly shown an appreciation of the League's effort, to which we must respond. I should like to point out, however, that he has presented only one side of the question, viz., How the League can help the School. As the Secretary will see, there is another side to the question, and a very important one from the standpoint of the League, that is, How can the Sunday School help the Epworth League? One of the difficulties which the League has is to organize and carry out a perfect look-out and visitation system. This part of our work is essential, and it is undoubtedly essential to the Sunday School, as I have often thought that it might be possible for the Sunday School and League to co-operate in look-out work, for the purpose of looking after absent members, and securing new members from time to time, and sending them to the League for them to do. I see no reason why representatives of the teachers and the Adult Bible Class should not join with the Look-out Committee of the League in working the Church and the community in the interest of both of the Sunday School and Epworth League, and incidentally of the whole Church. Moreover, if the teachers of the school were more interested in the work of the League, there should be no reason why they should not influence their scholars at a certain age to become active members of the League, and so provide opportunity for their development. In fact, there should be no reason why the teacher should not at an opportune time bring his whole class of girls or boys, as the case may be, into the League. The organizations of the Church are many, but the work of the Church is one, and the organizations, therefore, ought to work in harmony as co-operation.

**S. S. SECRETARY**—I am quite prepared to admit that there is the other side to this question, and I am glad that the League has brought it out, and I can only once more state my willingness to co-operate with you for the purpose of mutual benefit and help.

**SECRETARY**—If in order, Mr. President, I must like making a motion at this point?

**PRESIDENT**—I suppose this matter really should come up under new business, but if you are agreeable we will have any motion on this matter just now.

**SECRETARY**—I move that the President and the 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents be a committee to co-operate with the Sunday School Secretary in making a survey of our District, with a view of uniting our forces in Christian effort along such lines as have been suggested to-day.

**5TH VICE-PRES.**—I have pleasure in seconding this motion. I believe that there should be a direct relation between the intermediate scholars of the school and the Junior League, and I trust that this Committee in their deliberations