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Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1895.

Sunday-school Progress.

THE statistical report of our Sunday-schools, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Cornish, will be found very instructive. There is, it will be observed, an increase of 61 schools, 1,232 teachers and officers, 3,341 scholars and an increase of 2,893 scholars who are members of the Church. These increases in some respects are not so large as the average in previous years, but in other respects that average is surpassed, especially the increase of teachers and officers. It is only by looking at a longer period the steady increase of the growth of our Sunday-schools can be shown as during the last two quadrenniums.

The number of Sunday-schools in 1890 was 2,977; in 1894, 3,251; increase, 274; increase of previous quadrennium, 348. Total increase in eight years, 622.

The number of teachers in 1890, 28,411; the number in 1894, 30,807; increase of previous quadrennium, 4,024. Total increase in eight years, 6,420. Number of scholars in 1890, 226,050; number in 1894, 252,546; increase, 26,496; increase of previous quadrennium, 34,865. Total increase in eight years, 61,361.

Number of teachers and scholars in 1894, 283,020.

The entire amount raised in the school for all purposes is the very large sum of \$143,670. We suppose that the financial stringency of the times has something to do with the very considerable decrease in the missionary givings. For the first time collections have been taken for the educational and superannuation funds amounting to \$607. This is a small beginning, which, we have no doubt, will grow to a very handsome sum.

We regret that the collections for the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund amount to only \$2,622, or \$308 less than the previous year. To this should be added the amounts contributed in part payment to poor schools for grants. This in 1894 was \$1,572, and we presume it will not vary much from that this year. The growth of this fund, computing contributions from both sources, has been very rapid.

During the first four years of its existence its income averaged \$524 per year; during the second four years, \$785; during the third quadrennium its income averaged \$2,044 per year, and during the last quadrennium its income has averaged \$4,430 per year.

It is exceedingly important that the Sunday-school Aid collections be largely increased. Heretofore the expense of administration has been almost nothing, amounting to only a few dollars for postage and the like; every penny of the income of the fund, with this exception, going directly in grants to poor schools. The appointment by the General Conference of a special Sunday-school and Epworth League Secretary to devote his whole time in these two departments requires that his salary and traveling and office expenses be met by the Sunday-school Aid Fund and Epworth contributions. This will demand largely increased subscriptions to the Sunday-school Aid Fund. So urgent have been the claims on this fund for the aiding of poor schools and planting new ones that it has been already overdrawn. The grants for schools in remote and destitute places along the stormy coasts of Newfoundland and in the mission districts and frontier parts of our work must be withdrawn unless this fund is largely increased, as it cannot go any further into debt and must as speedily as possible reduce its indebtedness. But in view of the large amount raised by our schools there should be no difficulty in at once raising all that may be required. An increase of only one per cent. to the aggregate of \$143,670 raised by our schools would be ample to meet the increased claim upon the Sunday-school Aid Fund and in a short time to wipe out its indebtedness. All that is needed is that schools should recognize the obligations placed upon them by the late General Conference and increase their givings to the Sunday-school Aid Fund accordingly.