

Sabbath School Committee

The General Assembly's Sabbath School committee met in the Bible House, Toronto, on the 4th inst. The Convener, Rev. J. Neil, presided. The other members present were, Rev. D. Styles Fraser, Lt.-Col. D. Torrance Fraser, Rev. W. W. Peck, Rev. E. K. Hutt, Rev. A. Hamilton, Rev. J. A. Logan; Synod Conveners, Revs. D. A. Thompson, J. McEwen, J. C. Tibb, R. Douglas Fraser, J. A. Brown, J. T. Hall, A. McWilliams, J. Beckett, J. A. Cranston, J. G. Stuart, J. H. Graham, and Messrs. J. A. Paterson, John Winchester, Jas. Turnbull, Thos. Yellowlees, A. S. McGregor.

For two days the time of the committee was fully occupied in the consideration of a number of interesting and important questions relative to Sabbath school work. The committee fully recognize the splendid field there is for a wider extension of Sabbath school work. It will be of interest to Sabbath school teachers and workers to learn something of the plans and aims of the committee. Sabbath school class registers, distinctively our own, are likely to be issued before the close of the year. The committee on Children's Day programme reported that 290,000 copies had been printed, and forwarded in parcels to the superintendents of the different schools. Each parcel also contained a circular letter from the Assembly's Sabbath school convener, as well as a letter from Rev. Dr. Campbell, General Agent Century Fund. The question of supplying literature to new and mission schools was considered by the committee. A sub-committee was appointed to act in co-operation with the Assembly's Publication committee, with the view of doing something to meet the needs of such schools as soon as possible.

Teacher training gave rise to an interesting discussion. A committee was appointed to take into consideration the whole question and report at the next meeting of the committee. The committee was instructed, meantime, to correspond with the Senates of our theological colleges, with reference to the giving of lectures in Pedagogics to students in attendance; during the ensuing winter to provide in as many places as possible a course of lectures on Normal Teaching; and if deemed advisable to outline some course of Normal and Bible and Training Lessons.

In respect to the contributions in our schools it was a matter of regret to the committee to learn that so large a percentage of the schools fail to contribute to the schemes of the church. With the hope of cultivating the missionary spirit among the young, the committee respectfully requests Sessions and superintendents to see that all schools under their charge, give something to the missionary enterprises of the church.

Many Sabbath school teachers and scholars will be pleased to learn that in accordance with the action of the last General Assembly, diplomas are to be awarded for the memorizing of Scripture, and of the Shorter Catechism. A diploma will be given by the General Assembly to any pupil in a Sabbath school, who is certified by the superintendent, or minister in charge, to have accurately repeated Scripture memory verses, to be specially selected, to the number of two hundred, or thereabouts, at one continuous sitting. A similar diploma will be given to any pupil of a Sabbath school, who is certified by the superintendent or minister in charge, to have accurately repeated the whole of the Shorter Catechism, at one continuous sitting: candidates to be eligible for both diplomas.

The memory verses for the present year

are to be selected in line with the Sabbath school lessons.

The committee decided, that, in the case of the Primary classes, a simpler certificate of recognition be substituted for the Diploma, for the recitation of the memory passages, prescribed for that grade.

In regard to the closing of schools during part of the year, the committee are of the opinion that it is of the greatest importance to have the school open every Sabbath in the year. The committee sincerely hope that all the schools in rural districts will continue open during the winter months, where the custom has been to close them, and that the growing and most injurious practice in cities and towns of closing the school during the holiday season in summer may be arrested.

"What do These Foreigners Gain From it All."

"W. D." says in the London (Eng.) Presbyterian: Until the curtain fell on Manchuria when the province was overrun by the Boxers, the wonderful ingathering by Presbyterian missionaries (Irish and Scotch) was proceeding with undiminished speed. The quality of the converts may be judged by the case of one of forty-three baptised on the same day at Liaoyang by Mr. Douglas, of the United Presbyterian Mission. On the day on which this man, Yu, was examined, a member of church had been beaten in open court for his faith. Mr. Douglas asked Yu whether he was ready to suffer for Christ's sake. "Pastor," Yu answered, "the day that Mr. Wylie was murdered in this city I saw him fall, and I said to myself, 'If it only comes to this, what do these foreigners gain from it after all?' I had heard some talk in his compound once about heaven, for I used sometimes to do work for him (as a tinsmith). Then I said, 'If any man ever deserved heaven, surely it was he.' And the thought grew, and I began to ask, 'Then, what about me?' And now, pastor, it has come to this: If I should have to suffer in the same way for my Saviour, it will be my life's crown of joy."

There is a move on foot in the Methodist churches of the United States, remarks the Canadian Baptist, to inaugurate the opening year of the twentieth century with the addition of two millions of new church members. The work is to be entered upon in an up-to-date methodical fashion. There is a call for 80,000 volunteer revivalists, and the number of new converts to be made by each will be duly assigned. In brief, it is to be a sort of canvass such as is carried on at a general election, or for adding to the membership of a life assurance company. At one stage in the life history of the people of Israel they thought that God was such a one as themselves, and modern people are apt to revert to old types, oblivious of the fact that God is not a machine.

Horatius Hope in the London (Eng.) Presbyterian: What a wonderful people the Japanese are. How, by rapid strides, they are fast approaching the standard of civilization. One thing curses them, brights like the mildew the bud of promise, and destroys forever more, unless great changes are wrought, their hope of greatness. They are a nation of atheists. Blank atheism is the swaddling band of that new race, and with such nursing can much be expected? The Marquis Ito says: "I think most of the educated Japanese prefer to live by reason, science, and the evidence of their senses. I myself, regard religion as quite unnecessary for a nation's life."

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The reputation achieved by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills not only in Canada, but throughout the world, rests upon a very solid basis, which may be summed up in two words—sterling merit. The Enterprise has had occasion to investigate a number of cures effected by this medicine, and knows that in some instances at least these cures were wrought after other medicines had failed even to give relief. Recently another cure came under our notice that cannot fail to increase the popularity of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in the locality in which it occurred, and as we can vouch for the facts, it may well bring hope to sufferers elsewhere.

Mr. Walter H. Johnson is one of the best known residents of the northern section of Quebec's county. He resides in the town of Caledonia, where he keeps a hotel, and also runs a stage that carries passengers and mail between that town and Liverpool, a distance of some thirty miles. Mr. Johnson was in Bridgewater recently, on which occasion he gave a reporter of this paper the following facts: About three years ago he was taken very ill. He had the best of medical attendance, but made very little progress towards recovery, and the doctor told him there was very little hope that he would be able to return to his former work. The trouble appeared to have located itself in his kidneys, and for eight weeks or more he was confined to bed. He suffered greatly from constant pains in the back, his appetite became impaired, and his constitution generally appeared to be shattered. At this juncture he decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and got a half dozen boxes. In the course of a couple of weeks he noticed an improvement in his condition and he continued the use of the pills until he had taken some ten or twelve boxes, when he not only felt that his cure was complete, but also felt that in all respects his health was better than it had been for years. Since that time he has been continually driving his coach between Caledonia and Liverpool, and has not had the slightest return of the trouble, notwithstanding that he has to face at times very inclement weather, that might well bring on a return of the trouble had not his system been so strongly fortified against it through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

If the blood is pure and wholesome disease cannot exist. The reason why Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure so many forms of disease is that they act directly upon the blood and nerves, thus reaching the root of the trouble. Other medicines act only upon the symptoms of the trouble, and that is the reason the trouble always returns when you cease these medicines. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills make permanent cures in kidney troubles, rheumatism, erysipelas, anaemia and kindred diseases. But be sure you get the genuine which bear the full name Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People on the wrapper around every box.

Sins of commission are the usual punishment for sins of omission. He that leaves a duty may well fear that he will be left to commit a crime.—Gurnall.