

The Teachers Monthly

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THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

A YEAR'S BUSINESS ; AND A FORWARD GLANCE

The business year of the PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS Committee closes at the end of April. The Report of the year's work is presented to the General Assembly in June, and therefore the July issue of the TEACHERS MONTHLY is the first in which any extended mention of that work can be made.

The scope of PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS is very wide. At the formation of the Committee by the General Assembly in 1898, it was concerned only with the five Sunday School periodicals then in the early years of their issue. Its responsibilities have been enlarged by the instruction and with the approval of subsequent General Assemblies, until now it is concerned, not only with Sunday School periodicals, but with Y.P.S. literature and a large and constantly increasing business in Church, Sunday School and Y.P.S. supplies.

In regard to the periodicals issued by PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS, these have increased in number from five to twenty-one, and have been greatly improved in size, substance and style, and include the seven Departmental Graded Lesson Helps for teachers and scholars instituted last year. This new series has instantly been taken to the bosom of our church. They embrace the Beginners, Primary and Junior Grades, and the PUBLICATIONS is anxious to extend them into the Intermediate Department so soon as the way is made clear. Every periodical costs heavily to produce at the outset. It is only when a sufficiently large subscription list has been obtained that it pays its way. And, as the PUBLICATIONS Committee has no income except what its periodicals and business earn, it has sometimes to pause a while in issuing an additional periodical even when such issue is most desirable. Our constituents may be sure, however, that such delays are not a moment longer than is absolutely necessary.

The year 1915-16, owing to war conditions, was a year of many difficulties and anxieties, not the least of these arising from the very sharp and constant advances in the cost of materials, etc. ; but the shareholders of PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS will be glad to know that the business showed an increase both in cash receipts, which were \$19,012.14 in advance of the preceding year, and in net profits, which were \$5,489.95. These net profits, it may be explained, all go, by instruction of the General Assembly, to the improvement and extension of our output. As mentioned above, they are our only source of revenue for such improvement and extension.

The "shareholders!" These are the readers of the TEACHERS MONTHLY and all other Canadian Presbyterians ; for the PUBLICATIONS Committee is a committee of the General Assembly ; is, indeed, simply the Presbyterian Church in Canada in business to supply, as adequately and economically as possible, the needs of its Sunday Schools, Young People's Societies and congregations in the line of its periodicals and supplies.

It follows, therefore, that it is in their own interests that these "shareholders" should use the facilities of the PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS to their limit. Every subscription to our own periodicals, every purchase of our own supplies, adds by so much to the profits that come to the "shareholders" in the way of better service.