

In order to perfect all arrangements, a wise leader will hold a conference with his workers and discuss plans, at least one month ahead. The printed programmes are exceedingly helpful, and each division of the School and young people's society should be held responsible for a portion of the service. The postcard invitations have been found very helpful in some districts. The personal touch of a card or a letter is almost always effective.

Judicious advertising should not be overlooked. For almost three consecutive Sundays, the aim and object of Rally Day should be set forth from the pulpit and every member and adherent impressed with the fact that it is their duty to do all in their power to make it a success.

The object of Rally Day is in danger of defeat if the small envelopes are not distributed to the various departments, at least two weeks before the date of the service. It should be the duty of the individual teachers, to impress upon the pupils how essential to the success of the Rally it is, that each and every one make a *personal contribution*.

It has been found that a flower service arranged in conjunction with Rally Day adds interest and enthusiasm to the gathering.

The person selected to give the address should be in complete sympathy with the work, and should be able to present the claims of the Sunday School in interesting and illuminating fashion. The address should not occupy more than fifteen minutes of the time of the service. The gathering in of the contributions should be a distinct act of worship, and should be made as impressive as possible. That their own money is going to help others, and be used directly in the work of the kingdom, is the impression we seek to make upon the hearts of the young folk.

Vancouver, B.C.



## The Country Sunday School in Winter

By Rev. J. Gordon Cheyne, B.A.

The problem of the country Sunday School in the winter is more imaginary than real. Many Schools close for the winter months, as a matter of course, and yet there is no real reason why this should be done. There is the same imperative necessity for keeping open the country Schools as those in the town or city. We cannot estimate the loss that comes to the church, the scholars and the community by this course.

It has been said that the best way to do a thing is just to do it. The only way to keep open the country School for the entire year, is to plan that it shall be done, and that it shall be the settled policy of every School to be at work every month in the year. This can be done, because it is accomplished in the

great majority of our Schools, at the present time under conditions which are often difficult. If the Sunday School is one of our most important, if not the most important, department of the church's work, then it is of supreme interest that all who are concerned in it and have it at heart, should see that even difficulties which are hard to meet should be overcome so that every boy and girl in every community can go to Sunday School not only in the summer but also in the winter. We do not close our churches because of weather or road conditions, and it is just as important that we should not close our Sunday Schools.

The reason given for the closing of many of our country Sunday Schools in the winter is that the children cannot get out on account of the severe cold and bad roads. Also, in Ontario, where there is so much dairying and stockraising, the work of which must be done on Sunday as on other days, there is no time to go to Sunday School, especially when the School meets in the morning, generally before the regular preaching service at 10 o'clock.

These are conditions that do exist in our rural communities. There are real difficulties in the way, but, nevertheless, they can be overcome, and every School can be kept evergreen, if those who are charged with this work make up their mind that it shall be so. All that is needed is a little courage and determination to face the situation squarely and call upon the hearty cooperation of all who have the spiritual well-being of our boys and girls at heart.

I had the honor of being the pastor of two purely rural Schools for eleven years, where the conditions are typical of other parts of Ontario, and in all that time we did not lose more than ten or twelve Sundays. One of those Schools met at 10 a.m. and the other at 2 p.m. The attendance during the winter was almost as good as in the summer, except that the very young children of the Primary Department could not get out quite so regularly. In that part of the country all the farmers are engaged in stockraising or dairying and consequently there was the same routine of work every day. Quite a number of the scholars were young lads hired on the farms, and notwithstanding all the work which had to be done in feeding, etc., necessitating very early rising, they were always in their places just as faithfully in the winter as in the summer. In many cases it meant a drive of from two to four miles or more from their homes to the church.

Why, then, should any of our country Schools close in the winter? There is no valid reason why it should be done, and all can be kept open if we are really in earnest in our Sunday School work and desire to win and train our boys and girls for service in the master's kingdom.