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RELIGIOUS EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL

Following is the report of the County Religious Educational Council, read at the annual convention of the Carleton County Religious Education Council held at Bath, July 15, and the list of members appointed:

Since statistics are a dry and apparently meaningless subject to some people, I will tackle them first and get the monotonous feature over with. The total number of Sunday Schools

of all denominations in Carleton County is about 90. The total enrollment membership or attendance is approximately 4,500. Owing to lack of knowledge, lack of interest, lack of records and other causes, it appears impossible to get accurate figures from many schools, and anyway it is difficult to classify some folks who come very irregularly. There should be a time limit set to tell whether they belong in the members' or visitors' class. The average attendance for all the schools is about 2,250.

This is a considerable increase over five years ago when 80 schools reported an average for all of 2,325. The total number of teachers is about 450. Classified according to denominations, the schools ranks as follows: United Baptist 28, Union 28, Methodist 14, Reformed Baptist 5, Presbyterian 5, Church of England 4, Primitive Baptist 2, Adventist 2, Salvation Army 1, Pentecostal 1. About 65 out of the total are evergreen. About 700 parents attend Sunday School. One school in Woodstock with a membership of 78 reports no parents attending. 23 schools report cradle rolls with a total enrollment of about 500. In 1919 there were 38 cradle rolls reported. Evidently there is a decline of interest and activity in the department. Some names appear on cradle rolls as a sort of perpetual memorial to the fact they were once babies. There is room for a great deal of improvement in the manner in which this branch of the Sunday School is being conducted. Graded lessons are being used in 23 schools. This is an encouraging feature to report. It shows that a large number of our Sunday School workers now understand the working of the child's mind, and are not trying to teach ideas and words beyond the comprehension of the child. Only a few schools have organized classes. Activity in this line appears to be slackening. Very few schools have a workers' conference or teachers' meeting. Evidently most of them are satisfied to plod along in some of the old ruts. Five or six schools have C. G. I. T. groups organized. Only about 10 schools are giving any special missionary instruction outside of the regular Sunday School lessons, while about 25 are making special contributions to missions. One school is supporting 4 Armenian orphans this year, and at least two are supporting native missionaries in India. Only two schools report any special temperance instruction. This is a lamentable fact. Did you know that cigarettes are the greatest menace to our boys and girls in Carleton county? Still most of our Sunday school teachers are as "mum as oysters" about them. It is time everybody got busy. We are just letting things drift, but a reckoning day is sure to come. Only about 20 schools provide any special music for the children. Is it any wonder so many young people lose their interest in the Sunday school when they hear nothing but the same old familiar, totem, tune, and even fossilized hymn tunes (I mean the music not the words in most cases) from Sunday to Sunday? With so much lifeless singing is it any wonder the school loses its life and drags along in the old hum-drum way? I don't mean sarcasm here, I am just mentioning facts as they appear to me. Coming now to a subject of great importance in most of our schools, namely, their biggest problem. I find that lack of interest and lack of teachers and leaders are the most common and greatest sources of difficulty and weakness in connection with the work. If some of our so-called Sunday school workers had as much interest in the Sunday school as they have in their potato fields, what a vast change might be wrought! Other problems are: How to get boys and girls of teen age to attend? Lack of rooms, lack of adults, how to keep order, how to get the children interested, how to get young men to attend, how to get a man teacher for a boy's class, lack of money, too many divisions and opinions in the church, and some other problems not considered worth while discussing. There is another problem, however, that is very serious in connection with our Sunday school work and that is the problem of our pastorless churches. I think that accounts very largely for lack of interest in many communities and the failure of the Sunday schools. A great many schools are now just existing with little sign of life. They are not doing any special work along any line and the cars on Sunday are taking more people away from Sunday school than they are bring to it. We have a big staff of county and district officials but some do not seem to be aware of their appointment and others are waiting for "George to do it." Nevertheless, all honor to our few faithful workers. Without them this convention would not be here today. Allow me to kindly express my sincere appreciation of the help and kindly sympathy I have received from some of these. I trust

you will take my criticism in a kindly spirit, as from one who wishes to stir up some honest effort in his own peculiar way.

OFFICERS

President, Clyde E. Rideout, Hartland.
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Supt. of Missionary Dept., Mrs. S. S. Miller, Hartland.
Supt. of Temperance Dept., Rev. E. B. McLatchey, Woodstock.
Supt. of Home Dept., Mrs. S. J. Barker, Bath.
Supt. of I. B. R. A. Dept., Mrs. Jos. Morrill, McKenzie Cor.
County Representative to the Maritime R. E. C. convention at Truro, N. S., Clark A. McBride.

Here and There

In response to the appeal of the University of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Que., for \$500,000, to meet present needs, the Canadian Pacific Railway has supported the plea by subscribing \$15,000 to the fund.

Canada will soon be the mecca of many moving picture directors, according to Herbert Brenon, producer of Thomas Meighan, who recently arrived at Banff to film the big outdoor scenes for James Oliver Curwood's "The Alaskan."

The fish catch of the world approximates \$1,000,000,000 a year in its cost to the consumer, of which \$750,000,000 goes to those who harvest it, statistics furnished by the United States Fish Commission declare.

The value of the tourist traffic to Canada is proved by figures supplied by the Parks Department of the Dominion Government, which show that the enormous sum of \$136,000,000 was spent by tourists in this country in 1923. This represents the Dominion's fourth largest source of foreign cash income.

On her arrival at Quebec, June 14, the Canadian Pacific steamship "Empress of France" broke the record for the fastest time made between that port and Southampton, England, from which she sailed, having maintained an average speed of over 19 knots. This vessel also holds the record for the run between Quebec and Liverpool.

Arrangements for the Pageant of Empire, to be held at the British Empire Exhibition July 21-August 30, are now rapidly completing. Episodes showing the history of Canada and the other Dominions as well as of the Mother Country from the earliest times to the present day are being organized with the assistance of prominent residents of the Dominion now in London.

Hon. J. E. P. P. Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries for the Province of Quebec, on his return from a recent extensive trip to the Temiscaming district of that province, stated that there were over 2,000 prospectors exploring the gold-fields of Quebec and at least a million dollars would be expended in development work in the region during the course of the season.

According to figures prepared by the freight department of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the export grain movement via Vancouver reached a total of 48,971,930 bushels on May 31, 1924, compared with a total of 17,387,715 bushels as on May 31, 1923. In each instance the figures cover the crop year commencing September 1st. The increase is therefore 31,584,215 bushels or 181.5 per cent.

Enthusiastic celebrations took place at Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., when the special service squadron of the Royal Navy, headed by H.M.S. Hood, the largest warship in the world and flagship of the squadron, visited those places recently. The squadron is expected on the Atlantic seaboard in August, when efforts will be made by Canadians on that coast to outdo the Pacific cities in the warmth of the welcome they extend. The anticipations are that thousands of visitors will gather at Quebec and elsewhere to demonstrate their affection for the officers and men of the fleet.

"You may say that Canada is becoming more and more interesting to Englishmen and before long additional English capital will be used here in the development of industries. I am very optimistic and I believe that we are now progressing towards an era of unprecedented prosperity. What we need more than all now is the immigration of good men who will become an asset to this country," declared Sir John A. D. President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, on his return from Europe recently aboard the Canadian Pacific steamship "Empress of France."

Riverside Camp Meeting

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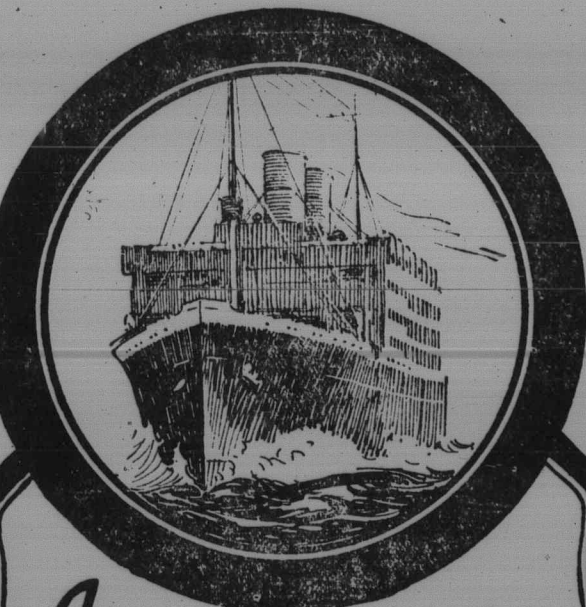
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