

"Recognizing the growth of the pernicious cigarette habit with its deplorable effect on the moral and physical life of our youth and consequent manhood, and the need of seeking the most effective means to restrict and prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of the cigarette, this Board seeks to co-operate with other bodies to confer or correspond with the Right Hon. R. L. Borden, President of the Dominion, soliciting effective legislation to grapple with the aforesaid evil."

The above was adopted and referred to the Temperance and Moral Reform Department of the Church.

Resulting from a discussion on the revenue of the General Sunday School Fund, as provided for through the offerings of Rally Day, and with a view to securing uniformity and general observance of the Discipline in the matter of financial support of the Board, the following resolution was adopted, and in harmony with the instructions of the Board has been mailed to every pastor and Sunday School Superintendent throughout the Church.

"That inasmuch as in meeting the financial obligations of this Board, a situation which is seriously embarrassing has been created by the failure of many of the Superintendents of our Circuits and Missions to take up their annual offering for the General Sunday School Fund, and by the failure of others to make returns of the full Rally Day offering when taken, according to Discipline, this Board earnestly appeals to all our pastors and Sunday School Superintendents to comply with the reasonable provisions of the Discipline, so that none may be delinquent in regard to the financial support of the Board in its work.

"We urge that a special effort be made, in this the last year of the current quadrennium, to enlarge the contributions of the whole Church, and direct that to this end, all our pastors and Sunday School Superintendents be asked to faithfully observe the paragraph of the Discipline giving directions regarding the General Sunday School Fund, assured that if this be done, at the approaching General Conference the Board will be able to report all its financial obligations fully met and its treasury in satisfactory condition.

"We direct that a copy of this resolution, with that of the paragraph of the Discipline referred to, be sent immediately by the General Secretary to every pastor and Sunday School Superintendent in our Church."

*From Par. 296, Discipline:*

"On the last Sunday of September in each year special offerings shall be taken up in the Sunday Schools, and special envelope offerings in the regular Church services in support of the General Sunday School Fund, and this Sunday shall be observed generally as Rally Day. It shall be the duty of Superintendents of Circuits and Chairmen of Districts to see that such collections are taken up."

After a report from the General Secretary on the preparations being made by the Committee for the forthcoming International Epworth League Convention, the Board passed as follows:

"That this Board endorse fully the plans for the next International Epworth League Convention to be held in Buffalo, N.Y., from July 1 to 5, 1914, and that the Field Secretaries and the representatives of the various Conferences on the Board be asked to assist the General Secretary in every possible way in advertising the Convention and in securing the largest possible Canadian delegation."

The General Secretary explained the steps already taken towards securing a

Sunday School membership in our Church of half a million, and the following resolution was enthusiastically adopted:—

"That this Board heartily endorse the movement inaugurated by the General Secretary for a great Ingathering Sunday School Campaign, and that such be conducted as thoroughly as possible under the auspices of the Board, throughout the whole Church, that the total Sunday School membership of our Church be brought up to the 500,000 mark if at all possible during the present Conference year."

The report of the Committee on Advanced Course in Teacher Training was adopted, and the following books were accepted as comprising that course:—

The Worker and his Bible. (Barclay.)  
The Graded Sunday School in Principle and Practice. (Meyer.)  
The Teacher and the Pupil. (Weigle.)  
Missions in the Sunday School. (Trull.)  
Landmarks of Church History. (Cowan.)

The section of the General Secretary's report dealing with statistical returns for the year, reads as follows:—

"I regret that to date the General Conference Statistician has been unable to tabulate the figures for the whole Church, and this through no neglect or failure of his own. Consequently I am unable to quote altogether from his official schedules, but the figures I have collected in addition to those he has been able to provide are, I believe, correct and will be very little altered, if changed at all, when Mr. Baldwin makes his official report.

Our Sunday School totals are as follows:—

We have 3,360 Sunday Schools, with 593 additional union schools.

In our own Sunday Schools there are 376,199 scholars enrolled.

In union schools there are 8,708 Methodists reported.

In West China Mission we count on 3,500.

Our officers and teachers number 38,981.

So that our total Sunday School force is now 427,388, being an increase of 27,268 during the year.

Our Epworth Leagues and Old Young People's Societies number in all 1,954, 13 less than in 1912. In these there are 79,685 members, a decrease of 798 when compared with 1912.

Our Sunday School work gives us grounds for congratulation on a reasonably prosperous year, and the Epworth League is by no means as weak as it has sometimes been represented as being."

The following were the committees appointed during the sessions:

On Evangelism: J. P. Westman, F. Holtby, T. B. Darby, M. Doyle, and W. A. Davidson.

On the Rural Problem: F. L. Farewell, F. H. Langford, J. K. Curtis, M. S. Madole, and T. S. Cassmore.

On Course of Study for Probationers for the Ministry: F. H. Langford, W. E. Cooke, J. K. Curtis, E. S. Bishop, and W. I. Croft.

On Reconstruction of the Sunday School and Epworth League Constitutions: A. C. Crews, F. L. Farewell, E. S. Bishop, G. S. Clinefinn, F. Woodbury, E. H. Machum, J. A. Doyle, and the remaining Field Secretaries.

In each case the first named is Convener, except the last-named committee, which was placed in charge of the General Secretary, who is also considered *ex-officio* a member of all committees.

The Committees on Summer Schools and Boys' Work, appointed by the Board at its 1912 session, reported progress and were continued with the addition of the name of F. H. Langford to the latter.

A resolution appreciative of the excellent Sunday School periodicals published under the editorship of Rev. Dr. Crews was heartily adopted, as were also similar ones relating to the work of the General Secretary of the Board, the Field Secretaries, the Treasurer, and the Auditor, Mr. James Hales.

The time and place of the next meeting of the Board were left with the Executive Committee.

The Finance Committee, consisting of the Treasurer, Dr. W. E. Willmott, Dr. Cooke, E. Keenleyside, and F. B. Holtby, reported on the appropriations for the coming year, showing the financial budget to require a total of \$21,356 to meet all probable expenses.

It was shown to be approximately \$4,000 more than last year, on account of the additional Field Secretaries appointed to meet the expressed needs and desires of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Conferences. Confidence in the offerings of the Church were expressed, and the hope and expectation of a full Treasury were manifest.

Further consideration of the proceedings of the Board and the outgrowth thereof must be postponed to a future issue.

Meanwhile the above will afford quite a full account of the business actually done.

500,000

HALF A MILLION

500,000

This is the number which we are aiming at in our Sunday Schools within a year.

**THE EPWORTH LEAGUE MAY GREATLY HELP!**

You want something to do; here it is. You want something that you can do, here it is. You want something in which everybody can take a share; here it is.

Organize your League for The Campaign. Place yourselves at the service of your Sunday School Superintendent for earnest, persistent, untiring work in making a systematic house to house canvass of your community for new members. Get your share of the HALF MILLION.