

# The Teachers' Monthly.

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## MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S SABBATH SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee met in the parlor of Central Church, Toronto, on Wednesday, the first of April last, present, Revs. T. F. Fotheringham, Convener, W. Farquharson, J. W. Rae, Vice-Conveners, D. D. McLeod, J. S. Henderson, R. H. Abraham, J. McP. Scott, and R. D. Fraser, Messrs. James McNab, P. J. McGregor, Jas. Turnbull, J. A. Paterson, and D. Fotheringham. Much important business was considered, but only the items interesting to the general public are here referred to.

The convener reported the circulation of our lesson helps, as on the 20th of March, to be as follows: Leaflets—Edition A, 15,472, Edition B, 4,316. Total 19,788. Intermediate, Edition A, 2,148, Edition B, 2,041. Total, 4,189. Primary, 3,843. **Total Leaflets, 27,820.** Quarterlies—Senior, Edition A, 5,888, Edition B, 2,800. Total, 8,688. Intermediate, Edition A, 1,666, Edition B, 1,781. Total, 3,447, Primary, 2010. **Total Quarterlies, 14,145.** Teachers' Monthly, **3,875.** The circulation reported to last General Assembly was, Leaflets, 17,000, increase 10,820, or over 63 per cent; Quarterly, 4,000, increase 10,145, or over 2½ times; Teachers' Monthly, 1,600, increase 2,275, or nearly 1½ times. Subscriptions are still coming in so that a larger number will be reported by the time Assembly meets.

The publication of such a complete series of lesson helps, involving a large outlay for sample copies, circulars, &c., and the unavoidable necessity of printing at job rates instead of by tender, has laid a very heavy financial burden upon the committee. The result of their enterprise is entirely satisfactory. The renewal of the subscription list now in hand, even if not increased next December, would pay all the expenses of its own publication for 1897. But there is every likelihood of a very great increase. Our schools have shown themselves heartily in favor of supporting our own literature, and in a few years we hope to see nearly all fall into line. The financial question was relegated to a committee consisting of Rev. W. A. J. Martin, Convener, J. McP. Scott, J. A. Paterson, G. Tower Fergusson, and D. Fotheringham.

Over 71,000 copies of last Children's Day service were called for, and a correspondingly large increase in the contributions was reported. Our schools, however, do not yet realize the magnitude of the work now carried on by the Committee. In former years but a small sum was asked, because the chief outlay was in connection with the department of Higher Religious Instruction. Since we have begun the publication of our own helps, our printing bill alone has risen about \$300 per month. It is true this is but a temporary strain upon our finances. In a year or two we shall receive much more than we spend and our publications will become a comfortable "endowment" for the working expenses of the Committee. But meantime we must urge our schools to consider the necessities of the present and contribute accordingly. Had we received all that was collected last Children's Day in the envelopes provided by the committee, it is possible that we might not have had any deficit, notwithstanding our great initial expenses. But several of our largest schools forwarded a portion only to the convener, devoting the balance to other schemes of the church. The sum sent was, in most cases, a handsome one, viewed in the light of the appeals of past years, and it would have seemed ungracious to complain, but we hope that our work will be so well understood by next September, that a special effort will be made in every school, and that the Committee will get the whole exclusive benefit of it. The exact figures of our accounts cannot be given until the close of the financial year.

A very cordial vote of thanks and appreciation was given to Mr. Geo. H. Archibald for his services in connection with the preparation of the Primary helps. It was also decided to increase the size of the *Teachers' Monthly* to 32 pages, beginning with the last quarter of the year. The Committee meets again on the second Wednesday of June, at 10 o'clock, a. m.