

## Sabbath School Committee.

The General Assembly's Sabbath School Committee met in the Bible House, Toronto, on the 4th inst. The Convener, Rev. J. Neil, presided. The other members present were, Rev. D. Styles Fraser, Lt.-Col. D. Torrance Fraser, Rev. W. W. Peck, Rev. E. R. Hutt, Rev. A. Hamilton, Rev. J. A. Logan; Synod Conveners, Revs. D. A. Thompson, J. McEwen, J. C. Tibb, R. Douglas Fraser, J. A. Brown, J. T. Hall, A. McWilliams, J. Beckett, J. A. Cranston, J. G. Stuart, J. H. Graham, and Messrs. J. A. Paterson, John Winchester, Jas. Turnbull, Thos. Yellowlees, A. S. McGregor.

For two days the time of the Committee was fully occupied in the consideration of a number of interesting and important questions relative to Sabbath School work. The committee fully recognize the splendid field there is for a wider extension of Sabbath School work. It will be of interest to Sabbath school teachers and workers to learn something of the plans and aims of the Committee. Sabbath school class registers, distinctively our own, are likely to be issued before the close of the year. The committee on Children's Day programme reported that 290,000 copies had been printed, and forwarded in parcels to the superintendents of the different schools. Each parcel also contained a circular letter from the Assembly's Sabbath School Convener, as well as a letter from Rev. Dr. Campbell, General Agent Century Fund. The question of supplying literature to new and mission schools was considered by the committee. A sub-committee was appointed to act in co-operation with the Assembly's Publication Committee, with the view of doing something to meet the needs of such schools as soon as possible.

Teacher training gave rise to an interesting discussion. A committee was appointed to take into consideration the whole question, and report at the next meeting of the committee. The committee was instructed, meantime, to correspond with the Senates of our theological colleges, with reference to the giving of lectures in Pedagogics to students in attendance; during the ensuing winter to provide in as many places as possible a course of lectures on Normal Teaching; and if deemed advisable to outline some course of Normal Bible and Training Lessons.

In respect to the contributions in our schools it was a matter of regret to the committee to learn that so large a percentage of the schools fail to contribute to the schemes of the Church. With the hope of cultivating the missionary spirit among the young, the committee respectfully request Sessions and superintendents to see that all schools under their charge, give some-

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thing to the missionary enterprises of the Church.

Many Sabbath school teachers and scholars will be pleased to learn that in accordance with the action of the last General Assembly, diplomas are to be awarded for the memorizing of Scripture, and of the Shorter Catechism. A diploma will be given by the General Assembly to any pupil in a Sabbath school, who is certified by the Superintendent, or minister in charge, to have accurately repeated Scripture memory verses, to be specially selected, to the number of two hundred, or thereabouts, at one continuous sitting. A similar diploma will be given to any pupil of a Sabbath school, who is certified by the superintendent or minister in charge, to have accurately repeated the whole of the Shorter Catechism, at one continuous sitting: candidates to be eligible for both diplomas.

The memory verses for the present

year are to be selected in line with the Sabbath school lessons.

The committee decided, that, in the case of the primary classes, a simpler certificate of recognition be substituted for the Diploma, for the recitation of the memory passages, prescribed for that grade.

In regard to the closing of schools during part of the year, the Committee are of the opinion that it is of the greatest importance to have the school open every Sabbath in the year. The committee sincerely hope that all the schools in rural districts will continue open during the winter months, where the custom has been to close them, and that the growing and most injurious practice in cities and towns of closing the school during the holiday season in summer may be arrested.

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