

trine that the Pope is supreme in this country, and the civil power must bow to his authority, surely we would be unfaithful to ourselves as a Protestant Church representing the principles of the reformers whose history we inherit and whose names we honour, we would be unfaithful to our country whose best interests we have at heart, we would be unfaithful to that Master to whose services we have been consecrated as witnesses for, and defenders of, that faith once delivered to the saints, if we did not protest against and resent those arrogant assumptions and fierce attacks by which our social welfare and religious rights are being continually assailed. We trust that the future deliverances of this court will not be its past record on the subject of public education.

With these views your Committee would respectfully urge upon the Synod that the Committee be re-appointed, or a similar Committee be selected, and that they be encouraged to continue their watchful supervision of this question as heretofore.

Most respectfully submitted.

C. B. PITBLADO,
Convener of Committee.

Zion Church.

The case of Zion Church, Charlottetown, was brought up, when it appeared that the congregation is ready to assume its own burdens. The matter was remitted to the Board of Education.

Insurance.

With respect to Insurance of Churches, Mr. Patterson reported that if the matter is not more vigorously taken up it better be abandoned. There ought to be 100 on the fund. The whole subject was referred to the first meeting of the new Synod. The subject of Presbyterian Federation was referred to the General Assembly.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The following Report, submitted by Rev. A. Simpson, was adopted:

During the past year your Committee has attended to the work entrusted to its care as well as time and circumstances would permit, though not as well as the importance of the trust demands.

They have provided Scripture lessons for the schools of the Church, adapting the International series for that purpose; and it is with pleasure that they are able to report that these lessons are now taught in all parts of the Church, and in almost all the Sabbath Schools. They are commend-

ing themselves more and more every year; and it is to be hoped they will be continued in all schools in which they have been commenced, till the series is complete, and thus the children of the Church will get a systematic and somewhat thorough knowledge of the whole Bible.

— copies of the lessons have been sold this year.

Brief explanatory notes on the lessons have been furnished month by month in the *Record*, mainly for the benefit of Teachers in the more remote sections of the Church who have not access to the excellent papers and helps that are so abundantly supplied to those who live in our towns and cities. For Teachers who get regularly such valuable papers as the "Sunday School World," the "Sunday School Times," and "the Working Church,"—the notes furnished by your Committee are not required, and may appear very meagre and imperfect, but it must be remembered that the space allotted us in the *Record* is very small, and the work of preparing the notes devolves on very few.

From the statistical tables we learn that Sabbath School work has made fair progress during the past year, perhaps we might say good considering the progress of Church work in other directions. In the number of her families our Church has advanced on last year $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., in her membership $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while in attendance on her Sabbath Schools she has advanced very nearly 6 per cent., shewing that during the year she has been gathering into the Sabbath School from families that do not belong to her, or in other words she has been doing Home Missionary work among the young.

The figures at present are, 400 schools, 1783 teachers, and 14,169 pupils, an increase of 21 schools, 73 teachers, and 760 pupils during the year.

The recommendation of last year, which was adopted by Synod, viz.: "that the Presbyteries of the Church be enjoined to devote at least one sederunt during the year to the work of Sabbath Schools within their bounds," has been acted upon in the following Presbyteries, viz.: St. John, Halifax, P. E. Island, Truro, Lunenburg and Yarmouth.

Sabbath School County Associations are being formed in different parts of the Church. There are already two within our bounds, one in Pictou County, the other in Halifax. These of course are not denominational, they include all the schools in a given district that are willing to co-operate. Some members of your Committee had the pleasure of attending and taking part in the proceedings of the Halifax Association last winter, and believe that such associated