

out Canada, is the clear indication they afford of the movement from the East to the West of entire families, including, of course, the children. West of Lake Superior, our Sabbath School enrolment has increased about 4,000 during 1907, while in all the East, outside of the large cities, it has not much more than held its own.

To the Sabbath School workers in the East this may seem somewhat discouraging, but there is in it also a very clear message of encouragement which should not be overlooked, namely, the evidence it affords that our Sabbath School work in the East is being well done. For it is not overstating the case to say that very many of the scholars in the Sabbath Schools of the West to-day are in them mainly because of the faithful work done for them by their Sabbath School teachers in their homes in the East, and of the habit there formed of attending Sabbath School and church services.

For the Sabbath School workers in the West, the message undoubtedly is that we must redouble our efforts. Much has already been done and well done; but it is evident that very much more is urgently pressing upon us. For example, in Alberta we have now about 300 preaching places, but as yet only 90 Sabbath Schools, and in Saskatchewan 500 preaching places, with 125 schools. This will give some idea of the work that should be done at once in organizing Sabbath Schools wherever there are young people to attend, and of the possibilities of very materially increasing the present enrolment. All this work, both East and West, calls for the very best gifts of all who are willing to engage in the service.

Toronto

### Needed Improvements

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One of the strongest points of the International Sunday School scheme is the splendid organization which keeps its management in close touch with the pulse of the Sunday School world. This enables the management to adjust the International work to the growing needs of the Sunday School. At the

present time, there are five directions in which the International work requires to be extended and strengthened:

First, a graded course of instruction is required, in order to meet the needs of a number of our larger and more progressive Sunday Schools. The interests of a large majority of our Sunday Schools will continue to be best served by the Uniform Lesson for all classes in the School. The best interests of a certain number of our larger Schools will be served by more regular and detailed grading; and steps have already been taken to provide a graded scheme of Lessons, in the interests of such Schools.

The second needed improvement of our present system has already been brought under the notice of editors, lesson writers and publishers. It concerns the material and illustrations for the Beginners' Course. It is generally agreed that a Beginners' Course for the little ones in our Sunday Schools is absolutely necessary, in order to secure satisfactory results; but the absence of any large wall pictures, suitable for illustrating the several Lessons of the Beginners' Course before a large class, renders it difficult to get this Course into effective operation. Until large colored pictures similar to those provided for the general Lessons are available for the Beginners' Course, no substantial progress can be expected in this department.

A third need is a more definite recognition of the importance of Supplemental Lessons, for the purpose of securing continuity in teaching and effective reviews of great truths and facts of scripture. Even when our lesson schemes are wisely and systematically prepared, the schemes are weak in regard to these two great principles of continuity and frequent review. In order to protect these weak points, a scheme of Supplemental Lessons is needed, in order to bring the great facts and truths of scripture under the notice of the scholars, and fasten them in the memory by frequent repetition.

The fourth needed improvement in our International work is greater emphasis upon missionary work in our Sunday Schools. If the scholars are to grow up into the idea that they are members of a church that is essentially missionary, they must be brought