

Our Church's Lesson Policy

To remove misunderstandings which there seem to be in some quarters, and to make the whole matter quite clear, it seems necessary to state afresh our Church's policy in regard to Sunday School Lesson Courses.

Our Church, as represented by its Sunday School Board and the General Assembly, approves both the International Uniform Lessons, so long familiar, and the International Graded Lessons instituted some ten years ago.

The Uniform series takes the same Scripture passage for all the classes in the School, the teacher adapting the Lesson to the various ages of the scholars as he may be able. The Graded Series presents Lessons specially chosen for the various ages. Its governing principle is the needs of the pupil. These Graded Lessons may be treated in booklets and leaflets for each year, and the pupils may be so classified. Or the Lessons may be treated by Departments, all the years of a Department (as, say, of the Primary Department, the ages 6, 7, 8) being served by the same Lesson. In other words, the treatment is Departmental, instead of each year by itself. The topics are the same for either method of treatment.

The Departmental method of treatment is the method followed by our Church; also by the Canadian Methodist Church. It has been developed in Quarterlies and Leaflets for the Beginners, Primary, Junior, and now for the Intermediate, Departments.

The plan has had a trial of three full years. It has met with high approval. The Schools are satisfied; stronger words indeed may be used—they are grateful and enthusiastic.

The Departmental method of handling the Graded Lessons is, therefore, no longer an experiment. The Departmental Graded Lessons have come to stay. They are being extended to the higher Departments as rapidly as the demand for them appears. There is no thought, so far as we know, in any quarter, of exchanging this method of publication for any other.

The Boys' Conferences

"There is more being done for the boy in Canada than there is in any other country at War." This statement was made the other day by an outstanding Sunday School worker, and it looks as though, in this country at least, the boy were coming to his own. In the fall of 1916, as a result of Conferences held from coast to coast, hundreds of men attended Training Classes for boys' work, of from four to five weeks' duration. Last summer eight Summer Training Camps were held, at various points, at which the attendance was over 200 men and boys. This fall there has been "The Fall Drive of the Allies in Boys' Work," during which twenty-two great cooperative Provincial Leadership and Boys' Work Conferences were held between the Atlantic and the Pacific, with the result of bringing many additional leaders into the work, and winning many boys to "forward steps" in Christian life and service.

The losses of the War have thrown a larger portion than ever of the Dominion's future upon the shoulders of the now growing boys. Canadians have reason to be grateful for the provision that is being made, in the Boys' Work, for their right training.

The 1917 and 1918 Budgets

As a powerful element in religious education, not less than for the financial aid that may thus be given, the Budget of the church's Missionary, Educational and Benevolent enterprises should have a place in every Sunday School.

The Sunday Schools are expected to raise one-tenth of the whole Budget. By proper plans, energetically carried through, the task should be a very simple one. It is an entirely reasonable expectation that this proportion should be raised by the Schools.

What about the 1917 Budgets? The time is now almost up. December will be a month of carrying through to the finish, the plans adopted earlier in the year, or of making some special effort where no plan has been followed throughout the year. No School should be deprived of its privilege of giving to the Budget.