

arate from it, but they have not formed the habit of uniting with adults in worship.

At Easter of last year the plan was adopted by the Sunday School teachers of Gordon Church, Reserve Mines, N. S., of taking a record at each School session of those present who had also been present at the morning service, the responsibility being placed upon the scholars to be present in the afternoon to see that their morning attendance was registered. This was done by means of a dash or dot over or after the attendance mark for the Sunday School. [The Class Register published by the PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATIONS, price 6 cents, contains a special column for marking church attendance, etc.—EDITORS.] The pastor frequently asked for the parents' sympathy and assistance in this matter, and a children's sermon and hymn formed part of every morning service.

The results have been most encouraging. Before the scheme was launched not more than ten or fifteen per cent. of the Sunday School enrolment were present at the morning service. The year's attendance indicates a growth of thirty-five per cent., while, on entering the second year, it has gone up to about fifty-five per cent., and at present has become one of the most encouraging features of the work in this mining town.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Sydney held for a visitation in Gordon Church after Easter, the pastor presented two from each class to the Moderator of Presbytery who, on behalf of the teachers, presented them with Bibles and Testaments as an acknowledgment of faithfulness in church attendance. One member of the Primary class had an unbroken record, while a large number had very good ones.

For the more general promotion of this work, the teachers and officers have in view the securing of a suitable certificate, which would indicate by means of seals the attendance for a number of years. They would classify attendance into four ranks. The first would be for full attendance at the morning service for the year, the second for forty-five Sundays and upwards; the third for forty to forty-five Sundays, and the fourth for thirty to forty Sundays' attendance.

These ranks would be indicated on the certificate by a gold seal, a silver seal, a red seal and a blue seal respectively, on which or underneath which may be recorded the year in which it was granted. Thus a record could be kept for ten or twelve years and the seals affixed at the close of each year by the pastor or superintendent.

Reserve Mines, Nova Scotia.

### Schools Closing for the Winter

By Rev. W. A. Cameron, B.A.

It should be the aim of every Sabbath School to keep open the year round. This aim, however, is not realized in many country Schools. Some are closed for the winter, because such has been their custom. Others have real reasons which prevent their being evergreen Schools. As for the Schools which close unnecessarily, the aim ought to be to seek to prevent this. For those that must be closed, there is an opening for the Home Department, which might very well be styled The Sabbath School at Home.

For the successful carrying on of this Department there is no need of more machinery than that which has been in operation during the summer in the Sabbath School. The superintendent of the School may very well become the Home Department Superintendent, and the teachers may become the visitors, while the Secretary-Treasurer may continue in the same relation to the Home Department. The only change that is necessary is that the congregation be so divided, that the teachers have families under their supervision instead of individuals. However, severe the winter may be, the visitor can scarcely be prevented from making the two visits that are necessary for the guidance of the work during the winter six months. Especially if, as is likely to be the case, there is only one service on the Sabbath, the day is not so crowded that time cannot easily be found for the half-hour's study required of the Sabbath School at Home. At the service in the church the Home Department might very well be kept before the people by the minister in setting apart five minutes