

School committees in each Conference, after the analogy of the General Missionary Board and the Conference Missionary committees.

2. That this Board shall have authority to enter open doors of opportunity, to engage special Sunday School agents, or sub-agents, to adapt with flexibility varied means to the common end of promoting, extending, and improving our Sunday School work.

3. That a representative, or representatives, of the Missionary Board, of the Epworth League Board, and of the Book and Publishing Committee, all of which are so intimately related to Sunday School Extension, be associated with the Sunday School Board in its important work.

4. That this Board have authority to appeal to all the schools throughout our church for a Sunday School Aid Fund of not less than two per cent., and if possible of four per cent., of the amount raised for all Sunday School purposes, such fund to be used in planting new and helping weak schools.

#### A SPECIAL AGENCY.

The question of a special agency for carrying on this great work is one for General Conference initiative. The only difficulty will be that of providing ways and means. Our indefatigable Epworth League and Sunday School Secretary has accomplished marvels in his journeyings throughout the country, in the establishment and successful conduct of the Epworth Era, which he edits "on the wing," and in the supervision and inspiration given our important League interests. These are enough to engross the energies of any man. Under his vigorous administration the cost to the Sunday School Aid Fund has been very small—only about \$700 a year. If there were a special Sunday School agency, the cost to that fund would probably absorb the whole of its present income (\$2,840). One element in the past success of the Fund is that almost the entire givings of the schools were devoted directly to the planting of new, or helping of weak ones. If an agency were created, the S. S. Aid Fund should be at the least trebled.

There can be no question that a vigorous agent could be of incalculable benefit to this great forward movement. Yet the area to be covered is so vast that it is only by the simultaneous and hearty co-operation of the entire pastorate, that the work can be overtaken. The pastors, especially in the mission fields, and throughout the great North-West, are those

upon whom the chief dependence must be placed. They intimately know the field. They know its needs. They can stimulate local initiative. They can induce the scattered settlers to gather their children together in prairie cabin or barn, or school house, and assure them of liberal aid in planting a school. They can, where schools are already flourishing, encourage generous effort to plant them where they are so urgently needed.

If the policy of a special Sunday School agency should be adopted, the agent might, with great advantage, render important service to improved teaching by attending District Sunday School Conventions, holding teachers' institutes, establishing travelling or local libraries, introducing our Sunday School literature, and generally stimulating Sunday School interests. But the most important work in the present emergency is the planting of new schools in the new settlements.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.

An urgent need of the times is still better teaching in the over three thousand (3,425) schools which we have. None are more conscious of this than the earnest souls who give their time, their toil, their best endeavor for the instruction of the children. The Toronto Conference recommends, as a means to this end, that the General Conference be memorialized to pass legislation empowering Annual Conferences to adopt a method, of which the essential features shall be as follows: "(1) A general curriculum of studies, harmonized, as far as possible, with the Normal Course, chosen for the purpose of instructing our teachers in teaching methods in the Word of God, and such other things as may seem desirable or possible; all from the point of view of our church. (2) Written examinations. (3) Diplomas. (4) Gradual introduction of this plan; with the ultimate object of equipping schools with certificated teachers."

The American Institute of Sacred Literature also provides special courses of Bible study and facilities for affiliation.

The Methodist Episcopal Church is organizing a People's College for

1. More thorough and efficient study of the Sunday School lessons.

2. The latest methods of Sunday School work.

3. Of general Biblical study.

4. Study of the principles of pedagogy and general normal work as applied to the Sunday School and other Bible schools.

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