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Sunday School Banner

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor

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How Ministers Help to Plant New Schools.

IN almost every one of scores of schools recently planted, the chief agency in so planting them has been the minister in charge. We are persuaded that in few ways can they better promote the growth of Methodism in this land than by planting these germs of future churches.

We take the liberty of urging the brethren, wherever a handful of children may be gathered together and a loving hand found to lead them to the Saviour, that there a new school should be founded. It is in helping such schools that the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund has been helpful in the past and promises to do much in the future. A grant of books and papers will be given free wherever needed to schools, and the fund will aid and foster already established schools which may need such help.

We have pleasure in submitting extracts from a few of the many letters received, showing what the brethren have accomplished in this and how the assistance from this fund has been appropriated.

A minister at a young town in the North-West writes: "This place is worth helping. I would not be surprised if there is a population of 1,500 there before a year, and as this is the only school in town, we wish to make it as attractive as possible."

A minister in Newfoundland writes: "Our new school started in September last. I am happy to say the venture is quite a success. On the opening day two married women came, saying they wanted to learn to read well enough to be able to use the Bible for themselves."

A minister in North-West Ontario writes: "I can only get this school going by taking hold of it myself in connection with the public service. The place is very isolated, and is twenty-five miles from here. I teach the lesson for twenty-five minutes; then we sing and I preach a short sermon. The adults present also take part in the lesson study. This is preferable to no school at all, which would be the case if I did not adopt this plan. I have just started another school on the same plan."

Another minister writes: "I have to appoint a woman as superintendent of the school. It will be only with difficulty that a school can be kept up at all, and, therefore, anything to encourage will be helpful."

A minister in the North-West Territories writes: "This is a new country. At some appointments there are so few children that we have not been able yet to organize schools, the settlers being bachelors or young married people without children, or with very small ones. In other places again the settlers have larger children, but only a quarter or one-third are Methodists or Methodist adherents, and then union schools must be organized. Many of these union schools are getting libraries from the Methodist Book Room, and are taking the Methodist Sunday School papers, but we cannot report them as Methodist schools."

A minister in New Brunswick, to whom a quantity of second-hand books were sent, writes: "They were in good time for the winter's reading, and you could have no idea what good they have done, for there are many in our school who are not able to buy books for their own use, much less to help purchase a library, and your books are just as good as new, to