

This memorial expressed the petition of the Conference on Religious Education, representing the Anglicans, Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists, of the province. It requested that the government should make obligatory the reading of selected passages of Holy Scripture at the opening of every morning session, and the memorizing of selected passages—examination to be held upon the passages memorized.

The Committee submitted a syllabus of suitable readings for daily use, and offered to select the passages to be memorized.

The Roman Catholic Bishops of St. John and Chatham declined to give their adhesion to the proposal.

The official reply to the memorial, given in February, is as follows:

"That the present regulations have been in force for upwards of forty years, and on the whole have worked out in a manner which is fairly satisfactory to the people of the province, and the Board of Education is of the opinion that the change requested by the memorialists might afford excuses for requests looking for further departures from the spirit of the law, and eventually result in a violation of the principle of non-sectarian education which is the basic feature of existing legislation."

RECENT BOOKS.

Outlines of Scripture History, by H. Clive Barnard, M. A., B. Litt., is intended for children from eleven to thirteen, and aims at giving the bare essentials of the record of the Bible, from the Creation to the death of St. Paul. It is written in simple and reverent language and seems well designed to link together events which are too often known only as isolated units. At the end of each chapter is a list of references to passages from the Bible for the study of details, and also one of passages to be memorized. The little book is made attractive by good print and clear illustrations, and we commend it to parents and Sunday School teachers. [120 pages. 1s. 4d. Adam and Charles Black, Soho Square, London.]

The Best Private Schools is a handbook of the best private schools in the United States and Canada, and the 1915 edition is believed to be the first book attempting a critical description of such schools on this continent. It fulfills its purpose very thoroughly, and is far from being a mere directory. There are interesting historical sketches of the private school for boys and for girls and of the summer camp. Chapters are given to special classes of institutions, as schools of art, music, household science, kindergarten training schools and others.

Seventy-nine Canadian schools are described, as well as several summer camps located in Canada. The very

careful arrangement and indexing of the book make it admirably easy to refer to. As an annual publication it is of great value to parents and educational people, and should be found in every public library. [514 pages. Sargent's Handbook Series. Porter E. Sargent, 50 Congress Street, Boston, U. S. A.]

WITH THE MAGAZINES.

"The German War Woman," an intensely interesting article by Eva Madden, is the first item in the April number of *The Canadian Magazine*. It is followed by a fine north country story by Judith Kingdon, an historical article suggested by the Parliament Buildings at Ottawa, by H. O. Hammond; "Prehistoric Remains in Canada," by Day Allen Willey; "Richard Hakluyt: The Spirit of Our Race," by Prof. W. P. H. Kennedy; "A Woman's Heart," a short play, by Arthur L. Phelps; "Historic Cap Rouge," by Q. Fairchild; a sketch of Mrs. Lally Fitzgibbon, by Ethel Cody Stoddard, besides several good short stories. The illustrations are even better than usual.

The March number of *The Round Table*, (Macmillan & Co., Ltd.) contains the usual able review of the politics of the British Empire, and the usual strong and sober discussion of the war and its results. The contrast between democratic government and the autocratic rule of Germany is clearly shown in the leading article, "The War for Public Right;" and it is argued that the fundamental difference of thought upon which these two forms of government are based is the real cause of the war. Which shall prevail, the policy of government by the people, or that of submission to arbitrary rulers who believe that they were born to rule? The future of the world, the writer says, depends not only on the Allies. It really depends no less upon the neutrals. And the conclusion is that where a war is a struggle between right and wrong neutrality is a neglect of duty towards humanity. If a quarrel arises in which there is no great principle at stake, all nations should combine to insist on its being settled by judicial means. In principle, then, there should either be no neutrals or no war. Another article deals at length with "America's Reaction to the War." Following the same line of argument, it holds that the United States missed its opportunity and failed in its duty by remaining neutral when questions of good faith and international law were at issue; and it closes by quoting the opinion of the American Rights Committee that the time has come when the people of that country ought to take some definite stand on the great issue of civilization versus inhumanity now being decided on the European battle-fields.

RED ROSE TEA

"is good tea."