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Sunday School Banner.

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

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1891.

The Sunday-school and Epworth League Board.

The joint meeting of the Sunday-school and Epworth League Board, held in Toronto, in September, was a very successful gathering. Never before was there so numerous an attendance, such a prolonged session, nor such thorough discussion of the different aspects of Sunday-school work. The Association of the League section of the Board, increased the number and broadened and deepened the interest felt. In every department, marked progress was shown all along the line.

The number of scholars enrolled is 233,047, an increase during the year of 8,997. The

number of officers and teachers is 29,204, an increase of 846. These, together, make up a great army of 262,217 Sunday-school workers; the number of schools is 3,048, an increase in the year of 74. The number of scholars reported as having signed the Temperance Pledge is 60,463, an increase of 10,984, as compared with the previous year. The most gratifying fact of all is, that through the blessing of God, and the self-denying labors of the devoted teachers, 10,797 conversions are reported during the year, with 47,747 meeting in class, an increase on the previous year of 10,589.

The expenditure of the Sunday-school Aid Fund during the year has reached the large amount of \$4,357.78. The fund had thus been enabled to assist, with grants of books and papers, a very large number of very poor schools, and to promote to a great extent the establishment of new schools in destitute neighborhoods, where none previously existed. This fund pays also for the printing and mailing of Sunday-school schedules and reports, and for express charges and postage on donations of Sunday-school libraries. For these there are always numerous requests, and schools replenishing the libraries can do much good by sending their old books to the Secretary of the Board.

The circulation of our Sunday-school periodicals continues steadily to increase year after year, till now, we think, no Church in Christendom so largely supplies its schools with its own authorized Sunday-school periodicals. Onward, the new paper for senior classes and Epworth Leagues, has met with a very gratifying success, having already attained a paying basis, with a circulation of 25,300 a week. In these papers, special prominence is given to missionary and other interests of the Church. Missionary intelligence and letters from missionaries in the high places of the field serve to bring the young people into sympathy with this important department of Christian work. The valuable co-operation of teachers and officers in so largely extending the circulation of these periodicals in our schools is thankfully acknowledged.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE.

The statistics of this new society of young people in our Churches, for the first time, make their appearance in the Conference Schedules, as reported in the Annual Minutes. From these we learn that for the year ending April 30th, 1891, the number of Leagues organized was 390, with a membership of 17,230. These are distributed throughout the Conferences in the following proportion:—Toronto, 48 Leagues, 2,293 members; London, 41 Leagues, 2,195 members; Niagara, 45 Leagues, 1,780 members; Guelph, 66 Leagues, 2,689 members; Bay of Quinte, 60 Leagues, 2,782 members; Montreal, 49 Leagues, 2,070 members; Nova Scotia, 25 Leagues, 841 members; New Brunswick and P. E. Island, 19 Leagues, 874 members; New-