

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CANADA.—Continued.

The chairman of this committee not long ago suggested to his class of young boys the idea of giving something for missionary work. He asked them if they did not spend ONE CENT a week each foolishly, or in some way that they could very well do without. The unanimous answer of the class was, not only one but many every week. He suggested laying one cent away each week for missions. They all agreed to it, and would have agreed to much more. The whole class is now laying away their cent a week, and at the beginning of next quarter, when the missionary collection is taken up, we have not the slightest doubt but that these boys will have thirteen cents each for that collection. This may seem very small, but the boys were interested, they wanted to know how this would turn out. A calculation was made as to how much would be raised, if one cent a week were put away by the members of the Christian Church in the United States and Canada and it was found that if the membership was one million, as many report it to be, that instead of raising \$50,000 or \$60,000 for foreign missions as we do now, we would raise \$520,000 and instead of having 60 missionaries in the field, we might have about 600.

If the 20 schools from whom we have reports were to adopt this plan to help on the work of this co-operation, the children of those 20 schools computing only on the average attendance would raise \$500 to help carry on the work of this co-operation. No more than three schools out of the 20 assisted this co-operation during the past year.

We believe an earnest effort ought to be made to enroll every Sunday School connected with the Christian Churches of Canada, in the work of this co-operation.

It is wonderful indeed what a little systematic work would do, the saving up of the pennies by the many children not only teaches them a valuable lesson, but it will help on the cause marvellously.

We cannot allow this matter of finance to pass, without suggesting the missionary barrels that are used by the Foreign Missionary Society and other Societies, as a means of collecting money in the Sunday Schools.

We now pass on to the management of the schools. We find that nine of the schools have libraries, numbering in all 1,155 volumes, making an average of about 125 volumes for each school that has a library. The importance of providing sound, useful reading for Sunday Schools cannot be over estimated. Great care should be exercised in the choosing of the works placed in the hands of the children, and due prominence should be given to a number of excellent publications of our own Brotherhood, recently issued. A good book will often do more to change the current of a person's life, and to give them correct views, than many sermons, and when these are written in an interesting way, they are often read by persons who would not listen to sermons.

The EVANGELIST could be made the medium of such exchanges of libraries. Such exchanges would furnish fresh reading matter for the school at little or no cost, and two schools would be benefitted by each exchange.

We find that 18 out of the 20 schools are using the International Series of lessons. We think this is as it should be, except that the other two should be using them as well. Excellent notes and helps are published on these lessons, and the teachers are thus enabled to give plenty of fresh information to his class.

Music should form a prominent part of the exercises of the Sunday School. It should be interesting and not too difficult for the smaller scholars. We notice a large proportion of the scholars are using the same hymn-book as is used in the church. We believe that while many of the hymns in these books are very suitable indeed for Sunday School work, yet, we would like to see these Sunday Schools kept abreast with the times, and place in the hands of the pupils the latest Sunday School music books. We might just draw attention to the publications of our brethren Filmore Bros. They have introduced a new style of a note in which there is a figure which tells its place on the staff. With these books all persons can learn new pieces of music with very little trouble. It is highly important that there should be new music, and that the Sunday School be not allowed to get into a rut. We have nothing whatever against the old music, in fact we are very fond of the good old pieces, but advancement should be the word in every Sunday School. The school should be made bright, cheerful and

interesting, and the music is one of the most important items in making it such.

In reply to the question "Do you use a black board or chart?" five answered "yes" and the remaining 15 answered "no."

The blackboard is about as important a factor in Sunday School work as it is in public school work. There is no school teacher who would think for a moment of doing without a black board, nor yet is there any board of trustees who would allow him to dispense with it, if he so desired. It has not, however, yet found the place in the Sunday School that it should occupy, the pictures illustrating the lesson, the division of the lesson, golden text, and other items, can be kept before the eye during the whole time that the scholars remain in the school, and almost indelibly impressed on their mind.

We find that five out of the 20 schools are not open during the entire year. The hindrances mentioned in all of these cases are "scattered membership and bad roads during the winter." We find that all but five schools use prizes, and reward cards, tickets, etc., as incentives to regular attendance and careful study of their lessons, and that every school but one has a picnic or social for the children, and all but two have both a picnic and a social. Many of them report a Christmas tree during the holiday season. These social gatherings picnics are "red letter days" for the children. One secretary in sending in a report says, "They have what the children call a good time," and we see no reason why both children, parents and every person connected with the school should not have a real good social time, at least twice a year. These occasions are looked forward to for months by the children, and if properly managed can be made very useful in procuring a large and regular attendance at the Sunday School. Parents who are not members of the church very frequently accompany their children on these occasions, and are often led to see what a pleasant and profitable time can be spent in christian society and careless persons are often brought to the regular services of the church by an invitation given on an occasion of this kind. While we have nothing mentioned in these reports, in reference to the character of the entertainment given at these Sunday School socials, we would suggest that it is of the greatest importance, that care should be taken in the subject of music, recitations, and other matter rendered on such occasions, and it should be in keeping with Sunday School work, and furnished as far as possible by the teachers and scholars of the school.

We find that only three schools of those reporting, give any special attention to Temperance work, they report a Temperance lesson once a quarter.

We find that about three quarters of all the scholars attending Sunday School in the twenty schools reporting are, children of our own members. While it is important that all the children of members attend the school, every child in the neighborhood, all within reach of the school who is not already attending some Sunday School, should be asked by the teachers or scholars to attend. In many cases they will come by simply being asked, and once they come, if the teacher is interesting they can be kept as regular attendants.

The subject of missions should be kept prominent before all Sunday Schools.

In the one with which the writer of this report is connected, it has been arranged that one lesson in each quarter, deal especially with the subject of missions. It is proposed that two of the collections be for our home work and two for foreign work. We would like to see suitable lessons furnished to the Sunday Schools by the board of this co-operation, with a request that one Sunday in each quarter be devoted to missionary tropics.

It is well always to have the school conducted systematically. Order is just as necessary as in a public school, and this is best secured by beginning promptly at the time, doing everything in an orderly manner and closing at a proper time.

It is of the greatest importance that the teacher should be well prepared for his work, the preparation should begin a week ahead; as soon as one lesson is taught the preparation for the next should be begun, and carried out throughout the entire week. A careful prayerful study of every lesson, as to the scripture to be read, and other scriptures bearing on it, afterwards any available help. Every teacher should have something interesting and instructive to give his scholars at every lesson, and whatever is taught should be in an interesting and pleasant manner, and should be couched in language quite within the reach of the pupil. The language should be adapted to the age and culture of the class.

Simple explanations, simple words, simple sentences, go far further with a Sunday School class, and command their attention much better than a learned dissertation on any subject, spoken in the longest representatives of thought in the Queen's English. Every teacher should in a quiet way endeavor to bring each pupil under his charge to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. None outside of the home, have a better opportunity than the Sunday School teacher.

We trust that not only those who have reported this year, but all other Bible schools will go on during the year 1889, scattering information and light around them, and that they may be the means in God's hands bringing many to a knowledge of the Saviour and building many up in the faith.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. A. FLEMING,  
C. SINCLAIR,  
G. O. BARCLAY. } Committee.

Mr. Spurgeon relates an incident in the pastorate of his distinguished predecessor, Dr. Gill. An old lady of his congregation had a grievance. The Doctor's neck-bands were too long for her ideas of ministerial propriety. After a long harangue on the sin of pride, she produced her scissors and requested to be allowed to clip them. "Certainly, as you wish," replied the amiable pastor. When she had been duly gratified, it was the Doctor's turn. "Now," said he, "my good sister, you must allow me a good turn also." "Yes, that I will, Doctor; what can it be?" "Well, you have something about you which is a deal too long, and causes me no end of trouble. I should like to see it shorter." "Indeed, sir; I will not hesitate; here are the scissors, use them as you please." "Come, then, good sister," said the divine, "put out your tongue."

Sometimes a fog will settle over the vessel's deck and yet leave the top mast clear. Then a sailor goes up aloft and gets a look-out which the helmsman on the deck cannot get. So prayer sends the soul aloft; lifts it above the clouds in which our selfishness and egotism befog us, and gives us a chance to see which way to steer.—Spurgeon.

"Is this a free country?" demanded the Socialist, as he rose to address the assembly. "Yes, sir," replied a voice, "you are free to leave it if you don't like it."—Boston Courier.



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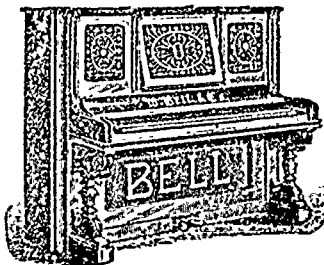
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