

School who cannot attend. In other words, either bring the people into the school, or take the school to them. This is the purpose of the Cradle Roll at the one end and of the Home Department at the other, of the Sunday School line of membership.

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We are especially glad to see that an increased number of our schools have kept open the whole year, but regret that 822 found it necessary to close up during a portion of the time. We dare not say that there are no places where it is justifiable to close the doors during the winter months; but we doubt if there are a hundred such places in all our Territory. We know of schools where it was taken as a matter of course that the sessions should cease for several months; but where by the persistence of one man the plan was changed and the school would not think of closing now. Do you belong to one of the 822 schools that went out of business last winter? If so, think it over, pray about it, and see if you cannot persuade the management to keep open next winter. There will be difficulties, perhaps hardships; but if you have "grace, grit, and gumption" enough, you can do it. Don't go to sleep. Don't take in the sign. Don't close up the shop. Keep open, and do your best. You will be surprised at the results as many others have been before you.

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Look at these figures—"One hundred and twenty-one (121) schools out of 3,590 have some form of Teacher Training work in hand. These by Conferences, are as follows: Toronto 14, London 7, Hamilton 14, Bay of Quinte 6, Montreal 7, Nova Scotia 22, N. B., and P. E. I., 16, Newfoundland 4, Manitoba 20, Saskatchewan 5, Alberta 4, British Columbia 2. This is a serious state of affairs. Four years ago our Schools have been recommended to take the Teacher Training Courses advised by the various Provincial S. S. Associations. A Teacher Training Department with its exclusive Secretary, has been at work; but for some reason we have not taken hold of the matter. Why? Not because we do not feel and admit the need of a more adequate preparation for Sunday School teaching, not because our teachers are wholly indolent, not because the Central office has not encouraged all to co-operate with existing agencies; but for some reason our teachers have not taken advantage of the opportunities presented. We are not satisfied. Do you think we ought to be? Are you? And we are not going to be until a far greater number of our teachers and prospective teachers are equipped with a systematic course of reading that will give them a better preparation for their work. If, as seems to be the growing opinion, the Church itself must push this department, we are not content to lag behind. It is time for us to get down to study all the way from the Central office to the remotest School in our extended field, and we assure you that the best methods of pushing the Teacher Training Department are receiving the attention of your chief executive officers. Of this more will be said later on.

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We have endeavored to push our Supplemental Lessons both by correspondence and on the field and are pleased that 90 additional schools have adopted the plan during the year. There are now just 400 schools following the system. The largest number of these is in Newfoundland, which leads with 77 out of 245 schools doing supplemental work. London Conference comes next with 54 schools. An excellent system has been adopted by our General Board and is recommended to all. Descriptive leaflets will be freely furnished to any one desirous of studying the plan.

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If anyone wants a better line of Sunday School publications than is being provided for our Schools, we really do not know where it may be found. For quality and variety of contents, appropriateness to the various grades, as well as general style and price, we believe our periodicals are equal of any and superior to most. They are increasing in popularity as is evidenced by their growing circulation, and yet there are some schools that find it desirable in their judgment, to purchase supplies elsewhere. We think it must be because of lack of knowledge of our own. If your school has been sending to some outside supply house for what they need, we would ask you to send to the Book Room for a sample package of our own. Look these over, compare with others, in a fair and just way, and you will be convinced of the worth of our present line of papers and helps. That over 50,000 copies of foreign publications should come into our schools is no evidence of either good taste or loyalty on the part of our people. We want 500,000 for our own publications very soon. See that your order helps toward this number.

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A growing practice of observing Rally Day is evident. 1,418 of our Schools held it last year. That is nearly 300 more than the year before. Each successive year finds the number increasing. It is a commendable custom. During the heated term most schools are very much depleted in numbers. In the early Fall when vacations are over and everybody is settling down again to steady work, what better than to issue a call for everybody who is at all interested in the school to gather together for a good Autumn start?

We have prepared a Rally Day Programme for our Schools, entitled "The Bible; Life's Guide Book." In these days when so much is being said about the Book we study, it is well to turn from other books about it to the Book itself. This we have endeavored to do, and to remind ourselves of some things the Bible says about itself, and our use of it. If you have not seen this Rally Day Program, we shall be pleased to send you a specimen copy. But you will be safe in ordering a sufficient number of copies from the Book Room to supply all the congregation. They are inexpensive—50c. per 100. Get enough, follow the programme, and do not forget the offering.

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We mark that a decrease of 3,529 of those learning the Catechism is reported. What is the matter? Only 18,512 of our scholars are studying it. Is the trouble with the catechism or with the method of using it? We shall be glad of your opinion.

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The report shows that 141,558 of our total membership are pledged abstainers, but that only 18,132 have taken the pledge during the year as compared with 19,909 the year previous. We regret this. Every one of our responsible members should be pledged to total abstinence, and to the prohibition of the legalized liquor traffic. Make your school an aggressive Temperance Society. Keep the pledge prominent. Present it regularly, and be not content until all your members have committed themselves to its principles.

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For Missions our Schools report an aggregate amount of \$40,223, an increase of \$3,057 over last year. This does not by any means represent the amount of money given to Missions by the members of the School; but only the sum given by the Schools as organized bodies. Nor does it represent the ability of the schools. When the Sunday School awakens to the true place of the Missionary enterprise, our scholars everywhere will systematically give to the support of the work and the aggregate givings will be multiplied many times over. That day cannot come too soon. If your school is contemplating a more aggressive Missionary policy, write Rev. F. C. Stephenson, M.D., Wesley Buildings, Toronto, and he will gladly advise you as to the latest methods of procedure to make the most of your field.

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Our S. S. Aid and Extension Fund is the most important of all to our Department. We are dependent on it for the support of our general work. The General Board has asked each year for an average of five cents a member from our schools for the carrying on of our work. We have never had this amount. We are not getting it this year. The total givings are \$6,494, or an average (excluding the Cradle Roll and Home Departments) of almost exactly two cents per member. We can use more. We need more. We ask for more. You can give us more. The work of the Department is growing. The support of poor schools and the equipment of new ones, are but a part of our bill of expense. The General Conference of 1906 mapped out a big programme. The General Board is trying to carry it out. But your staff of Secretaries is handicapped for want of funds. We have an office to maintain. It is not equipped as it should be. We have three Secretaries giving their whole time and thought to this work from ocean to ocean. They have not work well without an adequate equipment. This they have not. We have 140 District Secretaries who need supplies. An average of \$10 a year each for this item alone is very meagre. We cannot afford even it. We must have a full line of leaflets for the proper extension of our work. These cost money. But it is money well spent for without a well stocked Literature Department, little can be done of permanent value.

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We are not begging. We are simply stating the case of our need and that in the most meagre manner. Will you help us with your Contribution? Every other Department of the Church has the whole congregation to which to appeal. As at present constituted, our Fund is wholly dependent on the collection taken annually at the Sunday Schools. We find that nearly one-third of our Schools do not even give a collection. We want the whole Church to help us. For this, we have two kinds of envelopes prepared, one for use in the Sunday School, the other for the congregation. If you are a minister or in the charge of some circuit, we request you to aid us. How? Send for a bunch of envelopes. Use these in either congregation or what you can for the Fund and send it in early to the General Treasurer, Mr. E. A. Caswell, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, or to the General Secretary, Rev. S. T. Bartlett, 30-35 Temperance St., Toronto. In either case, your offering will be gratefully acknowledged and as wisely used as the combined judgment and good sense of your General Board may determine.

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While we thank God for the past year with its measure of success, let us pray and work for a season of unprecedented prosperity during the current year. We may have it. Will we pay God's price?