

Sunday School ain't missions, what is it? do you know that in this here one Conference there's just exactly eighty-six heathen places, poor bits of places without a single bit of a Sunday School—and young people growin' up with no knowledge of the Bible and no carlin' for it, either—goin' about to rough dances and the like, an' then we talk what a great country we're makin' of Canada! I tell you!"—and here he turned again to the ministers—"It's time our Methodist Church wakened up to this here business, for we're losin' our young people, not only for the Methodist Church, but worse—a thousand times worse—losin' them for Christ! I tell you, people, if I was rich, right away I'd start a 'Sunday School chair'—or whatever you call it—you'll know what I mean—over in the college here, where our ministers is trained, and instead o' teachin' them so much Hebrew and Greek and stuff, I'd teach them how to work from the Sunday School end o' things—this here big new Adult Bible Class business, and Home Department, and all the rest of it—do they know how to teach a class of men and women in the country and make things interestin'?" Do they know how to get all these people agoin' on the Sunday School hustle? Do they know how to teach little children with pictures and things, or teach other people to teach 'em? And I'd make 'em work examinations on it, too—every single candidate for the ministry. And, what's more, I'd train some o' 'em just to be Sunday School Missionaries and nothin' else. Now, I think this here Conference had better shoulder this missionary prob'um right away. I know there's a General Conference and Board and a lot of red tape to go through first; but let's start it movin', and the sooner the better." With that the speaker sat down.

The chairman arose—"Brotheren, I thank God, and I thank Bro. Singleton for bringin' Mr. Charles Mitchell from Marksville here to-night to say what he has. Let's go home to think over it he has said—to pray over it. If a Sunday School revival has done this for Marksville, it will do for other similar circuits. And, brotheren, we've been praying for a revival in the Canadian Methodist Church—and I believe God has sent Brother Mitchell here to-night to show us how to bring about this revival."

And back in the church sat a man "taking it all in," a stranger in the Conference city. He was fast coming to a conclusion. And three weeks later Mrs. Singleton received a letter from this same man. "I heard Mr. Mitchell at the Conference on Sunday and he told the story of your Sunday School work in Marksville, and I've decided to contribute the necessary funds to establish that very 'Sunday School Chair' in your college to which he referred, providing that your 'power that be' are willing. And more—I will pay the entire college expenses of the first two students who care to offer for the Sunday School course—as Sunday School Missionaries. I leave the matter entirely with you and your husband. Write me as soon as you have consulted your Conference and have their decision in regard to my offer,"—and there was signed to the letter the name of a philanthropist Toronto millionaire of whom Mrs. Singleton had often heard.

It was the following September, Rev. Harry Singleton and his wife were at the railway station. They were seeing someone "off."

"Good-bye, Tom! Good-bye, William! I believe this is one of the happiest days of my life," said Mrs. Singleton, very much excited.

"I'm sure it's one of our happiest days, isn't it, Tom? And if it hadn't been for you and your husband there would never have been any two Marksville boys starting out for college," answered William Peters, also very much excited.

"Get through as fast as you can, boys—for there's going to be lots of places anxiously waiting for the arrival of the first 'genuine Sunday School Missionaries,'" called out Mr. Singleton, as the train began to move.

"And to think our little effort started it all, Harry!" softly spoke Mrs. Singleton, as she took hold of her husband's arm and moved down the station platform.

"Your little effort, you mean, dear." "No, I don't mean anything of the kind. I could never have gone on but for you—it was all 'ours.'"

"Yes, God's effort through us."

The District Sunday School Secretary

On the 133 Districts of our Church we have as many Sunday School Secretaries, whose work has been of much value to the Church during the Quadrennium soon to close.

Many of these officers have nobly co-operated with the General Secretary in promoting the work from ocean to ocean. Some have labored under difficulties, but have overcome them. Others have not hurt themselves by any over-exertion on behalf of the cause. To those who have done their best the thanks of every friend of the Sunday School are due, and that the others, if continued in office, may do better, everybody will wish.

Many excellent reports were given at the Annual District Meetings, and we have pleasure in submitting one as a specimen. We wish we had one as good from all the other districts.

A DISTRICT MEETING SAMPLE REPORT.

REPORT OF THE MOOSOMIN DISTRICT, SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE, SUNDAY SCHOOL SECRETARY.

To the Chairman and Members of the District:

Dear Fellow-Laborers—Your Secretary, in presenting his report for the year, notes with pleasure the general increase in our Sunday School work. Three new preaching places have been opened, and three new Sabbath Schools established, making a total on 11 circuits of 191 on the District, 86 on the Sabbath School, 22 on the Home Department, and 4 Union Schools. Twenty-seven more Methodist Teachers are reported, and two fewer non-members than a year ago, the present number being 136 of the former and 23 of latter.

Among the scholars there is an increase of 181 on the District, the total being 1,276, including the Home Department,—three circuits, Fleming, Wolesey and Wapella, reporting a membership of 67 in this Department. This 67 is all "increase," no "Home Departments" being organized a year ago. Your Secretary is pleased with this increase, and would earnestly commend this Department to all our Schools.

In attendance at Union Schools, 151 Methodist scholars are reported, an increase of 113 over last year. We do not think this means that our people are less loyal to our own Schools than formerly, but that more careful enquiry was made and more faithful report given.

Eight out of 1,276 are now studying the Catechism. None were reported last

year, but evidently there is room for much improvement here.

Notwithstanding the emphasis given to Decision Day, to Schools observing it during the year, in comparison with two a year ago, there have only been added 72 to the membership of the Church from the Sabbath Schools, whereas 87 were so added last year.

Contributions to the Schools were increased by \$11.00, and to Connexional Funds \$5.00. To S. S. Aid and Extension, the Sabbath Schools of the District increased their givings by \$12.00, but the total for the latter is only \$57.00, whereas after deducting the members of the Cradle Roll and those attending Union Schools, we should have raised at 5c. per member the sum of \$65.00.

For School purposes, \$1,198 were raised; increase \$156.

For other purposes, \$125 were raised; increase \$58.

For all purposes, \$1,523 were raised; increase \$267.

We desire to commend our Schools for their loyalty to our own publications: 1,692 such were procured from the Book Room, an increase of 268, while only 158 other publications find their way into our Schools. For acquainting our young people with our own work and to foster a healthy patriotism, we believe the Schools show excellent wisdom. The S. S. Libraries of the District have also grown—254 volumes added, making a present total of 1,196 volumes.

Four Adult Classes are reported and promise well. Two Schools hold teachers' meetings 7 have observed Rally Day, and 10 Decision Day, while 16 out of the 19 report their School open all year.

The Temperance Pledge has been signed by 346, as compared with 57 a year since, though there appears some discrepancy between this large increase and the small increase of 4 under "Total Numbers of Abstainers." It may, however, be that we have urged carefulness here, and that where records were kept too much "guessing" had been done heretofore.

Since last Conference a very successful District Convention was held in conjunction with the Epworth Leagues of the District, at Elkhorn, August 25th and 26th, 1909.

Three Institutes were also held—Fleming, Dec. 8th, 1909; Summerberry, Dec. 9th, and Elkhorn, March 3, 1910.

We would recommend the holding of the next Convention at Grenfell at the time of F. D. M., or, if such date be found unsuitable, the date to be arranged by the District League Executive Committee. S. S. Secretaries, who also, with the Chairman of District, shall have charge of all arrangements for the Convention.

Re Missions, we would recommend the appointment of a Missionary Secretary in each School, whose duty it shall be by brief yet frequent references to Mission work, to keep that subject ever before the School. We would also recommend that on the last Sabbath of each month the offerings of the School be given to Missions.

No Teacher Training Classes are reported. We would, therefore, earnestly commend the organization of such classes and the study of the text-book, "The Teacher and the Child."

Bro. Doyle, our excellent Associate Secretary, has rendered valued service to the District through the year, and we trust he may be long spared to this work in which he has proven such an expert. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. B. TAYLOR.

Elkhorn, Man., May 24, 1910.

—“Take trouble that you may be saved trouble.”