

I realize, too, as a Sunday School worker for the last twenty years, that this great work has been growing greater and greater and more important. When I find upon your programme the names of such men as Hon. Mr. Blake, the Hon. Mr. Ross, Mr. J. K. Macdonald, and other eminent men whom I see here, when I find these men taking part in this work, is it any wonder, I ask myself, that we find this work is making rapid and substantial progress?

My heart was touched by the report from the northern part of Muskoka, and by the accounts which Mr. Abraham gave us of the little children there walking four and five miles, and sometimes travelling that distance by water, to attend their Sunday School; my heart was also touched when I heard that there was a little girl in that district thirteen years of age who had never seen a copy of the Word of the living God. Should not the recital of such things as these stir us up to send the Word to these far districts, to the dark places, and have we not a responsibility to send the Word of the living God all over this land? I wish that I had that little girl here that I might give her a copy of the Bible, that she might learn from it the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a glorious work, but the teaching of the young clothes us with a great responsibility, and especially is this true of the younger classes. The infant class is the most important of the whole school, and he or she who teaches that class must be very careful to sow good seed in the young hearts of the children; first impressions are the strongest, and outlast those of later life. The infant class teacher occupies the most important position of all the teachers in the Sabbath School; much more so, indeed, than the teacher of a class of young people seventeen or eighteen years of age. In the infant class the teacher must take the place, to some extent at least, of father and mother; for as the child passes through the Sunday School, and finally arrives at the Bible-class, it will carry with it the lessons learned and the impressions received from its infant class teacher.

Now, we pass on. It is my pleasing duty to be here this evening for a special purpose, and here I am, appointed to extend to you a hearty welcome on behalf of our citizens, and so I do; and this to all of you, whether infant-class teachers, Bible-class teachers, superintendents, officers, delegates, or whatever you may be, coming as you do from the whole Province, I extend to each and all of you a very hearty welcome to our city of Brantford.

There is one thing I wish to mention, and that is to state my belief that the use of the International Lessons has done a very great deal towards bringing us together as denominations. I think the line of demarcation between us is in many places very vague indeed, and I am sure that the use of these International Lessons will do a very great deal more yet to draw us closer together; and I am sure that the thought that we are all teaching the same thing must inspire us and bring us nearer together as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.