

not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

The Chairman of the International Sunday School Committee.

AN interesting interview with Dr. Potts, by J. Macdonald Oxley, LL.B., in the March Westminster, gives Dr. Potts' mature views on the importance of Sunday School work. The interview begins as follows:

The General Secretary and Treasurer of Education for the Methodist Church of Canada, and the Chairman of the International Sunday School Lesson Committee, is a big man in every sense of the word. He is big of frame, big of voice, big of heart and big of brain, and he is indubitably one of the biggest figures in the religious life of this country. All of which goes to account for the fact that I found him in so bright and responsive a mood on the occasion of my call, although he had just returned from a visit to that megalotom of humanity, known as the Windy City, where he had been addressing large audiences twice each day for a whole week.

"There is no part of my public life which I appreciate more than my relation to the International Sunday School Committee. I am now the senior member of that committee, having been elected at the Atlanta Convention in 1878, and re-elected at every subsequent convention. Six years ago the honor of the chairmanship was conferred upon me, and my term continues until the year 1912, if I should be spared so long. In the work of that committee I have found great enjoyment, because there I have been brought into close contact with some of the choicest spirits of the Church, and because I have felt that in association with them it has been possible to render service of enduring value, not only to the Sunday School interests of the United States and Canada, but to England, Europe, India, and Australia."

The International Lesson System being at the present time the subject of so much criticism from different quarters, it was natural to inquire whether, in the chairman's opinion, the movement had fully justified itself by the results achieved.



REV. JOHN POTTS, D.D.
Chairman International Sunday School Committee.

"Most decidedly," was his emphatic response. "Any comparison of the Sunday Schools before the era of organized work with what they are to-day can leave no doubt upon that point. The lesson-helpers which have been made possible by the general adoption of the system have had a fine educational value apart from all spiritual teaching. The modern Sunday School is far from perfect because of the untrained material that must necessarily be depended upon for the teaching, but in view of this material the results have been simply wonderful. Much attention is now being given to the use of Normal methods in the preparation of teachers, and a great deal must be done in this direction in order to obtain a higher standard of efficiency. But I do not regard with favor the effort now being made in some places to introduce public school methods of grading the scholars, as it seems to be both pretentious and impracticable. Unless I greatly misunderstand this movement, the educational side is being emphasized rather than the evangelical, and, remembering that quite eighty per cent. of the addition to Church membership comes from the Sunday School the disadvantage