

SUNDAY SCHOOL COLUMN.

OUR PROVINCIAL WORK.

In considering this subject we will first of all consider the work of the Sunday school in our province. What has been accomplished? What remains to be accomplished? What is our work? Christ tells us: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, teaching them to observe whatsoever I have commanded you." True, New Brunswick is but a very small portion of the "all nations," but we are only a small band of workers as compared with all those to whom the command has been given. The whole is equal to the sum of its parts. If the parts are such that their work is well done, we can safely leave the whole to take care of itself. The part of the world for which we are responsible is the whole world to us. God has a definite duty for each of us individually, and for all of us collectively. This work our Provincial Association has before it is the evangelization of New Brunswick, the Apostolic exhortation: "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved." That is the supreme thought—salvation. Let us organize, let us appropriate to our use the enlightenment of the age as we have tested and tried advance methods of Sunday school work. But as we talk of the organization of our province, of our counties, of our parishes, of our home classes and our normal classes, let us always remember that these are but means to the end, and may our hearts' desire and prayer to God for New Brunswick be that all may be saved. This is our work.

And what has been accomplished? We cannot measure accurately spiritual results. The last day will reveal them. But given certain premises, we are safe to a greater or less extent in drawing conclusions. If we can show that God's word, which we are told in Isaiah "will not return unto Him void," is being read by a greater number by more workers with greater intelligence and consecration, then we can safely argue that advance has been made.

We will go back only to the date of the forming of our Provincial Association in October 1884, a little over thirteen years ago. In this report of the first convention, held in St. John, October 20th and 21st, 1884, I find a letter from the executive to the Sunday school workers of the province, a part of which I quote:

"Dear Fellow-workers: In issuing this report of the proceedings of the first convention of the International Sunday School Association, the executive committee would earnestly impress upon you the desirability of forming an association of the Sunday schools within your county. By this means a general interest in the Sunday school work would be aroused amongst the Christian public; many schools which are now closed during the winter months might be encouraged to continue in session all the year; steps could be taken to organize Sunday schools in sections at present unsupplied with this most essential agency for the religious education of the young; and mutual conferences would be the blessing of the Spirit increase largely the real efficacy of all."

This letter, of which I have read but part, is signed by T. S. Simms, L. W. Johnston and Rev. T. J. Fisher. As I have examined this matter I have been much impressed with the literal fulfillment of these words, and I have felt that truly the hand of God has been in the movement, and that to bless.

First, they say a general interest in Sunday school work would be aroused. That this has been the case no one who has attended our conventions or who has noted the attention given to the Sunday school work by the press of the province can doubt. The press keeps its finger on the public pulse and publishes only what is of interest to its readers. This interest has been aroused almost entirely, or at least very largely, by means of meetings and the reading of literature under the auspices of our provincial, county and parish organizations. The following comparative statistics speak eloquently:

Table with 3 columns: Year (1884, 1892, 1897), Schools in Province, Teachers and of Home, Scholars, etc.

But this does not tell the whole story. This "mutual conference with one another has by the blessing of the Spirit largely increased the real efficacy of all." What a revolution has been wrought in our methods of instructing the young ones. What the kindergarten is doing for our public schools, the primary department will do for our infant S. S. classes. Look at the normal movement. It began with the instruction given by the old mother, Chastiqua, for a long time our only source of Sunday school knowledge and wisdom, the alma mater of many thousands of plain Sunday school people. In 1896 the home department was made a department of our provincial work, and during the first year we enrolled over 1,000 students, sixty-three of whom had completed the course, passed the examination and received the diploma at our last convention. Take the home department for another instance—the S. S. equivalent of the university extension movement, also made a department of our provincial work in 1896, and which had enrolled 2,347 members at the close of the first year. Grading and many other matters might also be considered, but space forbids.

Such has been done; much more remains to be done. Our home departments, normal classes, etc., are not found in every school. They ought to be. We have 56,000 in our schools; there are about 275,000 outside. We can get very many of them in by con-

P. E. ISLAND.

Contracts Let for New College and New Hospital.

Christian Endeavor and S. S. Conventions—Great Grain and Hay Crop—Wise Conservative Policy.

CHARLOTTETOWN, July 18.—The second convention of the Provincial Union of Christian Endeavor was held at Miramichi July 15 and 16. A large number of delegates and Endeavorers were gathered here, one of the prettiest spots in the province. Several prominent speakers were unable to be present, and their place was supplied by Rev. Geo. M. Campbell of Charlottetown, president of the Maritime Union, and Rev. E. M. Dill of Summerside. A resolution was adopted referring to the great loss sustained by the death of Rev. D. Sutherland, late vice-president of the union. The officers for next year are as follows: President, C. D. Turner, honorary president, ex officio, Rev. W. J. Kirby and G. M. Campbell, county vice-presidents, King's, Rev. John Gillis; Queen's, Rev. C. W. Corey; Prince, Rev. E. M. Dill; secretary, Rev. Geo. M. Campbell; treasurer, Rev. F. A. Wightman; general superintendent, Rev. J. M. Fisher; county superintendents, Mr. Campbell, Montague; J. K. Ross, Charlottetown; A. S. Mackay, Summerside; superintendent of districts, Mr. Ethel B. Connors, Summerside.

The contract for the erection of the new Prince of Wales College has been let to J. K. McDonald of New Glasgow, N. S., and Mr. Schurman of Summerside. The cost of the building will be about \$28,000. The plans for construction were drawn by R. P. Lemay of Quebec. The building will be of brick and stone, two stories high, with a frontage of 130 feet on Weymouth street and extending 100 feet on Queen's. It will be heated by steam and fitted up according to modern ideas. As soon as it is ready for occupation the old college will be closed.

The Sunday school convention for Queen's county was held at the new hall on the 18th inst., President Rev. D. B. McLeod presiding. Papers were read by Rev. J. C. Spurr on Difficulties of Sunday School Work, and How to Overcome Them; by M. J. McPherson, on The Bible in the Sunday School; by Mr. Spurr on The Bible Class and How to Conduct It; Rev. J. W. McConnell gave an address on the International S. S. Association, Rev. McLean Sinclair on the Sabbath School Superintendent and His Work; and Rev. J. C. Spurr on The Object of Sunday School Work. Papers were also read by Rev. W. J. Howard, Rev. D. B. McLeod and Layton McCabe. A full programme and interested workers made a very profitable convention.

The old brick school building, with twenty acres of land, situated opposite the new exhibition buildings, was offered to the trustees of the P. E. Island hospital by Rev. Dr. Brecken of Sackville, N. B., on the 18th inst. The site is an ideal one just outside the city limits. The building at present used for that purpose has long ago proved inadequate.

A movement towards economy in the public service on the part of the provincial government is being made. It is regretted in view of the fact that this year promises to be one of the most successful in the history of the province. The incentive to better methods in farming and improvements in live stock and farm produce generally, when the best of the province can produce is exhibited, far outweighs the expense required to give such annual exhibitions. As a result, there will be a larger attendance and more exhibits from this province at both St. John and Halifax exhibitions this fall.

The lobster fishing season has now closed down without any extension of time for this year. During the past few months the industry has been carried on around the island shores with varying success. In some cases there was a neat profit, but in many others a loss. The decrease in size as well as quantity warns the fishermen that the industry is being raised a longer close season this industry will soon be doomed to extinction.

An excursion party of 120 came over to Charlottetown from Stellarton, N. S., on Saturday last. A cricket match took place in the city park between the Charlottetown and Stellarton teams in the afternoon. In the first innings Stellarton scored 23, Charlottetown 35. In the second Stellarton declared their innings closed with six wickets down and a score of 55. In an attempt to close the game before it was necessary to leave the grounds. When time was up Charlottetown had eight wickets down and a score of 41. The game was therefore declared in favor of Charlottetown on the score of the first innings, as previously agreed. If the second were not finished.

From all over the province come reports of an excellent prospect of full crops this season. Haying operations are now the order of the day. Very heavy rains have been seen on a drive through the country almost anywhere. If there is a continuance of fine weather for the next week or two, one of the largest crops of hay on record will be stored. Grain crops also look well and give signs of being ready to harvest two earlier than usual. The impetus given to dairying on the island by the support of the late dominion government is bearing much fruit. The new methods, inaugurated then, have succeeded in completely changing the system of farming in the province. The result can be seen today in greener pastures and more fertile lands. The drain upon the fertility of the soil by the export of dairy products is much less than by the export of large quantities

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EDMONTON, Alberta, Canada, July 20th, 1898.

To the Editor of the Sun:—By your able and wonderfully correct articles about Edmonton and the north in last winter's Sun I know you must be interested in the subject. You and S. T. Wood of the Toronto Globe have certainly the right conception of the north in general, and the north in particular, and your articles are very encouraging when one is seriously thinking of erecting another there. Our farmers are now rathly awake to the idea that successful farming in these days depends more upon the adoption of modern ideas and plans of work than upon alterations in the tariff.

MAKING GREATER BRITAIN. About 3,000 Square Miles Added to the Empire.

LONDON, July 11.—Reuter's Agency has received particulars of the successful but hazardous mission undertaken by William C. Cowie, managing director of the British North Borneo company, against the rebel chief Mat Salleh.

At considerable risk Mr. Cowie, alone and unarmed, went through the dense Borneo jungle, and personally interviewed Mat Salleh. As a result of his visit the chief tendered his submission, and himself hoisted the company's flag. He subsequently sent in his sword and a bundle of hair cut from his victims.

During his stay in Borneo Mr. Cowie also settled a long-standing difficulty with the Sultan of Brunai, as a result