

There are 5,573 Methodist scholars attending Union schools. Including all departments, the total Sunday School force of our church is 321,492, an increase of 8,341.

4. THE CRADLE ROLL.

This is a plan for enrolling the names of children who are too young to attend the sessions of the school. The object is to identify children with the school from their earliest infancy, that they may be under the care of the primary teachers, and also to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of parents.

We now have 8,241 names on the Cradle Roll, an increase of 1,600 for the year.

Those who desire fuller information concerning this department will be supplied free by applying to the General Secretary.

5. THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Home Department shows 14,204 members, an increase of 1,915. This department is intended to enlist all who are willing to study the Sunday School Lessons, but who are not able to attend the sessions of the school regularly. The only thing necessary to become a member of the Home Department is to undertake to study the International Sunday School Lesson for half an hour each week.

The Board strongly recommends all our schools to conduct this department, if at all practicable. A free leaflet will be sent to any who ask for it.

6. DECISION DAY.

The returns show that 12,086 scholars from the Sunday Schools joined the church during the year, an increase of 2,322. This was the cause of much gratification to the Board, as it manifested that, to some extent, the primal purpose of the Sunday School was being realized.

Probably many of these young people came into the church through Decision Day, which has been frequently commended to our schools. It was felt that the greatest possible vigilance should be exercised to make sure that the children who sign Decision Cards, and are received into the church, have consciously given themselves to the service of Christ. The General Secretary will be pleased to send (free) a leaflet on Decision Day and how to make it effective.

7. OUR PERIODICALS.

Our Sunday Schools take 336,416 copies of the splendid periodicals published by

the Methodist Book Room, under the able editorship of Rev. Dr. Withrow. This is an increase of 15,721, indicating the great popularity of these publications.

Considerable conversation took place on this item of the report, the members of the Board emphasizing the importance of our schools being provided with literature that will strengthen the bonds of national and denominational loyalty.

8. MISSIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS

The contributions for missions by the Sunday Schools amount to \$24,134, an increase of \$1,725.

In a few schools all the collections are given to missions, the running expenses being paid by the Official Board of the church, in many places one collection a month is given, while in others mite boxes or contribution cards are used.

9. THE SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON COURSE.

The General Secretary reported that descriptive leaflets concerning the Supplemental lessons had been sent out to all the Methodist Sunday Schools in Canada, and that repeated articles on the subject had been published in the connexional papers. Recognizing the importance of this feature of our work, the General Secretary was instructed to again send out the leaflets to superintendents and ministers. One will be found enclosed with this report. It is worthy of careful perusal.

It is hoped that next year many of our schools will be conducting this course.

10. PLEDGE-SIGNING CAMPAIGN.

A communication was presented to the Board from Rev. Dr. Chown, conveying a resolution passed by the Temperance and Moral Reform Committee at its last meeting, relating to a pledge-signing campaign among our young people.

By resolution it was decided to observe Sunday, November 26th, as a general pledge-signing day in all our schools, with a view to securing the signatures of the scholars to a pledge of total abstinence from strong drink. This movement has untold possibilities for good, and it is hoped that officers and teachers will put forth an earnest effort to make it successful. A roll of pledge abstainers should be kept in the secretary's book. Very attractive pledge cards can be obtained at the Methodist Book Room.