

REPORT AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Toronto Sabbath School Union.

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TORONTO:

MACLEAR, THOMAS & CO., PRINTERS, 16 KING STREET EAST.

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FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1871

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FIRST ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
TORONTO SABBATH SCHOOL UNION.

TORONTO, 9th February, 1857.

The First Annual Meeting was held in Zion Chapel, at half-past seven o'clock, p. m.

The President in the Chair, commenced the services of the evening by giving out a hymn, after which the Rev. F. H. Marling offered up prayer.

The object of the meeting having been stated, the President called upon the Secretary to read the Annual Report, which being done, the following resolutions were moved and unanimously adopted:

Moved by Mr. J. Rowell, seconded by Mr. Geo. A. Pyper,

“That the Report now read be adopted, and together with the Constitution of the Union, be printed and circulated, under the direction of the Committee.”

Moved by Rev. F. H. Marling, seconded by Mr. James Wickson,

“That the following gentlemen be the officers of the Society for the current year:

A. T. McCord, Esq.....	<i>President.</i>
Geo. A. Pyper, Esq.....	<i>Vice-President.</i>
Geo. Morphy, Esq.....	<i>Treasurer.</i>
Geo. Harcourt.....	} <i>Secretaries.</i>
J. Joseph Woodhouse.....	

*Committee*:—Messrs. J. Sissons, F. T. Parson, Edward Childs, Robert Wilks, Joseph Rowell.

At this stage of the proceedings a collection was taken up, which,

together with one or two donations since received, amounted to £3 12s. 6d.

The Chairman apologised to the meeting for the absence of the Rev. T. S. Ellerby, who, on account of indisposition, was prevented from attending.

Mr. J. D. Foote, of Buffalo, State of New York, Agent of the Massachusetts Sunday School Society, then addressed the meeting, giving much encouragement to those interested in the progress of the Union, by instancing the success of various institutions of the kind in the United States.

The services of the evening were closed by singing and the pronouncing of the benediction.

A. T. McCORD,

*President.*

MEM.—The Secretary stated that no funds had been received by the Treasurer, at the same time several small amounts were owing by the Union.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
TORONTO SABBATH SCHOOL UNION,  
FOR THE YEAR 1856.

In reporting the state and progress of the Union, for the six months it has been in existence, it will be well to commence with its origin, and the auspices under which it was commenced.

In the month of March last Mr. J. D. Foote, Agent of the Massachusetts Sunday School Union, visited this City, and on the afternoon of Sunday the 30th of that month, several of the Sunday Schools of this City assembled in Bond Street, Baptist Chapel, when they were addressed by that gentleman, on which occasion, he announced his desire to meet the teachers of the various Sunday Schools on the following Monday evening, in the New Connexion Methodist Chapel, Temperance Street. The meeting was well attended, about two hundred individuals were present; and after listening to an interesting address delivered by him, the following resolution was adopted, viz :

“That the Superintendents of Sabbath Schools of this City be a committee to consider the propriety of forming a “Sunday School Union for the City of Toronto,” and if such be deemed advisable, “to prepare a draft of a constitution to be submitted to a general meeting of teachers to be hereafter convened for that purpose.”

That committee met on the 25th of April, in the committee room of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and, after prayer and considerable conversation, it was decided that, if such an Union could be established, similar to those of Montreal, the United States, and

England, its results would be highly important and beneficial to the cause of Sunday Schools in general, having for its object, the concentration of effort on the part of Sabbath Schools in training up the youth of the land in the great doctrines of the Bible; to stimulate and encourage teachers in their work; to improve the methods of instruction; to organize new schools in destitute places, and to aid others when needed; and to adopt means to bring all children, as far as practicable, under Sabbath School instruction. Accordingly a draft of the constitution of this Union was prepared and submitted at a meeting of teachers, held on the 7th May, when, after some slight alterations, it was adopted, and at a subsequent meeting the Union was formally organized, and the following persons were elected office-bearers until the first annual meeting should take place:

- President ..... A. T. McCord,
- Vice President ..... Geo. A. Pyper,
- Secretary ..... Geo. Harcourt,
- Treasurer ..... J. J. Woodhouse,

COMMITTEE.

Messrs. M. Sweetnam, J. Sissons, J. Shaw, F. T. Parson, E. Reynolds.

At this time we were encouraged by the prospects of the Union, six schools having appointed delegates to your committee.

The first quarterly meeting of the Union was held in the Second Congregational Chapel, Richmond Street, July 21st. The Rev. Alex. Sanson addressed the meeting on "The importance of Christian union as arising from union with Christ by faith, and maintained by united and private prayer."

The Rev. F. H. Marling, afterwards addressed the meeting on "Spirituality of mind as the foundation of all successful Sabbath School teaching." The meeting was well attended, and a spirit of interest and good will was evinced by all present.

The second quarterly meeting was held in Bond Street Baptist Chapel, October 20th. The Rev. R. A. Fyfe delivered a very animated address on "The importance and necessity of establishing mission-schools, particularly in the western part of the city." The

attendance, on account of unfavorable weather, was very small and exceedingly discouraging to those who were desirous of carrying out the objects of the Union.

Your committee have to report the appointment of two sub-committees, one on statistics, and the other to "ascertain what districts in the city are in most need of Sabbath Schools, and to take the necessary steps for the establishing of schools in such districts," but as neither of these committees has yet reported, we cannot say to what extent their labors have been successful.

In the absence of any regular report from the different schools connected with the Union the following imperfect table can only be furnished for the past year :

CHURCHES.	STREET.	SUPERINTENDENT.	Teachers.	Scholars.	No. in School.
Baptist Church .....	Bond Street.	} A. T. McCord, J. Lyon. ....	32	232	625
New Connex. Meth..	Temperance "		E. McPhail.....	14	110
Zion Chapel .....	Adelaide "	G. Harcourt....	33	240	480
2nd Congregational..	Richmond "	J. J. Woodhouse	18	110	250
Trinity Church .....	Kingston Road ....	} Rev. A. Sanson.. Geo. Morphy ...	26	307	400
				123	999

Your committee feel conscious that the labors and duties assigned to them remain to a great extent unperformed. They would, however, hope for and claim a portion of the sympathy of the christian public in their feeble efforts to establish an institution which they feel to be of incalculable and momentous interest to the well-being of our youth.

The infancy of the Union; the inexperience of your committee, the want of a considerable number of active, zealous, disengaged christian individuals, who are willing to take the initiatory steps in the various contemplated fields of usefulness; and the want of pecuniary means, were difficulties that stood in the way of a more successful result than is now exhibited.

In addition to the above, we would suggest to our successors, the importance of adopting some means to secure the co-operation of the

other schools in the city; and also, the devising of some plan for a thorough canvass of the city for scholars to our various schools, similar movements to those which have been made, and attended with so much success in London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, and in other cities and towns of our native land.

In concluding our report, at the present time, we would avail ourselves of this opportunity to congratulate those friends of the young, who purpose taking part in the Convention of Sabbath School Delegates, which is to take place in Kingston during the present week, and while, as a body, we have refrained from taking any part therein, we wish them success; and trust that a calm, deliberate and prayerful spirit may possess each soul; that the peaceful and heavenly influences of the Holy Spirit may rest upon them; and that they may have God speed.

A. T. McCORD, *President.*

GEO. HARCOURT, *Secretary.*

CONSTITUTION  
OF THE  
TORONTO SABBATH SCHOOL UNION.

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I.

That this Society shall be designated the "Toronto Sabbath School Union."

II.

The objects of this Society shall be,—1st. To encourage and promote the efficiency of all engaged in Sabbath Schools. 2ndly. To disseminate Bible instruction. 3rdly. To organize Schools in destitute places, and aid others when necessary. 4thly. To adopt means to bring all children, as far as practicable, under Sabbath School instruction; and 5thly. To enlist the prayers and efforts of churches generally in behalf of the rising generation.

III.

This Society shall be composed of Sabbath School Superintendents, Officers and Teachers, who assent to the terms of this Constitution, and are engaged in schools recognized by any evangelical denomination.

IV.

The Officers of this Union shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, with an Executive Committee of five, elected by the Union at their Annual Meeting. Superintendents, and one delegate from each School in connection with the Society, shall be *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

V.

The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held on the third Monday in January, at which time the Office-bearers and Committee shall be elected for the ensuing year.

VI.

There shall be a general quarterly meeting of the Society, on the third Monday evening in January, April, July, and October, for

united prayer and supplication for the prosperity of the work; for mutual confidence, hearing reports from the various Schools, and discussion on questions for promoting the general objects of the Society.

## VII.

Pastors of Churches, whose Schools belong to the Union shall be *ex-officio* members of the Committee.

## VIII.

To provide the necessary funds, the Committee may take such steps as they may deem proper.

## IX.

The Committee may adopt such by-laws, for the management of the affairs of the Society, as they may deem necessary; provided such by-laws be not repugnant to this Constitution.

## X.

This constitution shall not be altered or amended, except at the quarterly meeting of the Society, and then only when at least one month's notice of such intention has been given to the Committee.

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