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UNION

Church School Finances

It is along about this time of the year that church school finances begin to drag and school boards are put to their wits' end to find money to meet current expenses.

The teachers in our elementary schools as a rule are none too well paid and they should be paid what is due them promptly each month. They ought not to be put to any embarrassment of having to wait unduly for their wages receiving their pay in uncertain dribs.

A few suggestions with reference to ways and means for raising the money to maintain a school may be in order at this time. When an elementary school is planned for, each member of the church should be personally interviewed and subscriptions to the school fund for certain amounts a month be secured. This obligation when once assumed by a member should be met as faithfully as the house rent or the grocery bill. Every member of the church should contribute toward the school fund according to his ability. See *Testimonies Vol. VI, p. 217*.

If this plan has not been set in operation at the beginning of the school year or if it has been imperfectly carried out then the thing to do now is to get right after it and make a thorough job of it. This responsibility rests on the school board. Do not call on the teacher to do it. It may not be a particularly pleasing task, but it is a necessary one and it should be taken hold of without delay so that the board may know what to count on in the matter of income. If this does not bring in the necessary funds, other methods must be resorted to.

Bookmarks may be made of silk ribbon on which the Lord's prayer, the ten commandments or any other choice matter may be printed. The Canadian Publishing Association has done considerable of this

sort of printing for our churches. These book marks may be painted with pleasing designs if there is someone in the church that possesses that kind of talent or if some friend is willing to do it for the help of the school. These can then be sold by the children and considerable money raised for the school. Last year one of our schools was largely financed by this method.

The sisters of the church can form a sewing circle and make quilts and other articles to sell. Ingenious members of the church can often plan activities that will produce an income for the school fund.

Some years ago in a conference where the writer was carrying administrative responsibilities, a sister decided to start a church school. Members of the church who were able to help were hostile to the project, and those who favored it and had children to send were quite poor, so the amount realized from tuition was very small. Not to be daunted the sister went at it, giving a room in her home for the class room and boarding the teacher herself. She devised several plans to bring in funds. One was the making of a number of black and red quilt blocks to send out to her friends and acquaintances with the suggestion that they work the names on them of as many as would contribute ten cents toward the school. The pieces came back well decorated with names and about \$40.00 in cash was realized in this way. The quilt was then made up and it was a unique affair. Toward the close of the school year it was found that the finances were in a bad way, so that quilt was mortgaged to a friendly doctor for \$40.00. At a gathering of our people held later in the season enough money was solicited to raise the mortgage on the quilt and it was presented to the writer who was then leaving that conference for another field. It is needless to say that I prize the quilt very highly. It had been the means of raising \$80.00 for the cause of Christian education under the able management of that plucky sister.

This article is simply designed to be suggestive of ways and means by which something can be done for our church schools. Do not allow the schools to run behind. As soon as it is evident that enough money is not coming in to meet the requirements of the school call a halt and get everybody busy on the job of lifting the proposition to a safe financial level. Never talk discouragement, however. That will kill the best thing that ever existed. We must never let our courage fail. Unlimited resources are at the command of the One that called for the establishment of church schools. He will help us in our endeavors to carry out his requirements.

M. N. CAMPBELL.

Backward and Forward Glimpses

As we take a retrospective view of the year 1916 our hearts are filled with gratitude and praise to our Heavenly Father for his manifold mercies and blessings. The lives of our workers have been spared and only a very few of the lay members have been removed by death. Though it marked the second year that our country has been engaged in a terrible war no one has suffered from want or starvation, nor has the work of God been hindered in our field. There have been difficulties to overcome, perplexing problems to solve, and obstacles to surmount, but the Lord has helped us through it all. In every department of our conference work there has been encouraging growth. As the result of the faithful labors of ministers, Bible workers, canvassers, and home missionary workers, the Third Angel's Message has been brought to the attention of thousands of people, and many have been converted to the truth. During the year, one hundred and fifty were baptized, two new churches were organized and several of the old ones were materially strengthened by the addition of new members. Both in Toronto and Hamilton the congregations have outgrown their houses of worship.

The canvassers, under the efficient leadership of Brother Capman, made an excellent record, their sales amounting to \$11,966.60 (not including magazines) which was an increase of \$4,265.80 over the previous year.

Financially the year 1916 was a prosperous one. The tithe reached the splendid figure of \$15,999.30 which was an increase of \$4,976.82 or 45% over 1915. Miscellaneous donations and gifts for work in Ontario amounted to \$3,298.00, an increase of \$2,560.94 over the previous year or a total increase in local funds of \$7,537.26. The offerings to foreign missions amount to \$6,663.82 or \$943.82 over and above our quota, which means that Ontario gave more than twenty-three cents a member. Had all the churches sent in their remittances on time instead of a day or two late, as did several for the month of December, the tithe

would have been more than sixteen thousand five hundred, and the mission offerings would have showed a surplus of more than twelve hundred dollars instead of a little over nine hundred. Most of the gain in mission offerings came through the Sabbath school, the Sabbath school donations showing an increase of \$899.82.

We have greatly appreciated the hearty cooperation and loyal support of both workers and people, which with the help and blessing of God have brought about these splendid results.

The prospects for the work in Ontario were never brighter than now. A spirit of earnestness and good will prevails from one end of the conference to the other and our laborers are full of courage and determination to press the battle with vigor, and win more souls for God than ever before. We enter upon the new year with the assurance and confidence that the God of Israel who has blessed us so abundantly in the past will go with us and help us accomplish even greater things during the year 1917 if we all remain faithful at our post of duty.

A. V. OLSON.

Hamilton Sewing Circle

The Ladies' Missionary Sewing Circle was organized February 23, 1916, with ten members. The Lord has blessed the efforts of this society far beyond our expectations. We meet every Thursday afternoon and put in two or more hours of hard work. Several sisters return after supper to help finish work that is pressing and needed in order to fill orders promptly.

We now have twenty-two members and most of these sisters are wholly devoted to the cause of the Master. We believe that "the light that shines the farthest shines the brightest nearest home," therefore we put the saving of our children first. The sewing circle plays an important part in maintaining the church school. The Lord has said through his servant that he blesses the church that conducts a church school, and we realize the truthfulness of that here in Hamilton.

We have a flourishing school of twenty-two pupils, and the burden of financing the school has not lessened any of the various offerings. The treasurer's report showed a decided gain in tithes and offerings over the preceding year. Souls are being won to the truth by the efforts of the members. Recently a Catholic family decided to obey the commandments of God through the efforts of Brother Sharp who started giving them tracts to read. They have taken their two children from the Separate school and placed them in our church school.

The following is a report of our sewing circle to Dec. 31, 1916:

Money paid on church debt	\$68 53
Money paid to church school.....	85 00
Total	153 00

Quilts sold.....	18
Quilts given away.....	3
Garments given away	70

M. M. CAPMAN, *Pres.*
C. M. DUCHENO, *Secy.-Treas.*

Conference Committee Actions

At the time of the Workers' Meeting in Toronto, the Conference Committee took advantage of the opportunity to meet and counsel over various questions relative to the work in Ontario. Believing that they will be of interest to our people in the conference, we publish herewith a few of the more important actions:

Voted that our coming campmeeting be held in Toronto from June 21 to July 1.

Voted that we purchase a new campmeeting pavilion, and six new family tents.

Voted that Brethren Beazley, Manuel, and Cardey, constitute the camp committee, and that Brother and Sister Hurdon take charge of the dining tent.

Voted that the Ontario Conference in connection with the Union Conference engage an Educational and Missionary Volunteer secretary who can devote all his time to the interests of our children and young people.

Voted that we send all our church school teachers to the summer school at Berrien Springs, Michigan, on condition that they teach in our conference the coming school year.

Voted that in harmony with the instruction contained both in the Bible and in the Testimonies, we encourage our churches, especially in the cities, to provide themselves with neat, commodious houses of worship.

Voted that a Canvassers' Institute be held this coming spring, and that entertainment and transportation to the Institute, and from the Institute to the field, be paid for each individual attending, on condition that he spends eleven weeks in the colporteur work, including delivery; time and place to be decided upon by those in charge.

Voted that as soon as proper arrangements can be made we establish a tract society to be known as the Ontario Tract Society, and that we take steps to provide permanent quarters for our conference office.

We solicit the prayers of all our people that these plans may be judiciously carried out to the glory of God and the advancement of his cause.

A. V. OLSON.

Hamilton Church Yearly Report

The members of the Hamilton church thought that readers of the MESSENGER would be interested in seeing what we are doing by the help of the Lord to forward the gospel message:

	Received	Disbursed	Balance
Tithe	\$1969 72	\$1969 72	\$
Missions	339 54	339 54	
Harvest Ing.	253 29	253 29	
Church School	308 86	267 04	41 82
Needy Poor	48 30	36 26	12 04
Mortgage Fund	202 78	200 65	2 13
Tent Fund	127 50	127 50	
Home Miss.	49 12	46 25	2 87
Church Exp.	166 47	149 56	16 91
Miscellaneous	18 35	12 59	5 76
	\$3483 93	\$3402 40	\$81 53

J. D. ROBERTSON, *Treasurer.*

Notice

We wish to call the attention of our people once more to the change in our conference address from 486 Montrose Avenue to 1114A Dufferin Street, Toronto. Our phone number has also been changed from College 7765 to Junction 999.

We trust that all will bear this in mind when writing to our conference office.

A. V. OLSON.

MARITIME

The "Win the War" Loan

"Win the War" loan is a favorite phrase used with reference to the big loan that was recently launched in England. Great enthusiasm was manifested when Bonar Law struck the keynote in the following words: "Will it ever be said that this country is willing to give her sons and not her money?" These words are quite as significant when applied to the people who are engaged in determined conflict with the enemy of all righteousness and who are looking for the appearing of the Saviour in the clouds of heaven.

Frequently word comes to us of persons who are trained and ready for service in the cause of God, but it is not possible to employ them because the treasury is lacking the necessary means. Sometimes it is necessary to lay off those already employed because of the scarcity of funds that should be available to carry on the work of the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, this deplorable state of affairs should not be and would not be if the money that rightfully belongs to God was placed in the treasury by those who profess to be looking for him to appear in the clouds of heaven. There are at the

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present time at least twenty-one thousand young people enrolled in our institutions of learning preparing to enter some branch of the work. What shall be done for them when they graduate? Are they to be forced into the world and out of the truth? Shall it ever be said of this people that they were willing to give their sons and daughters but not their money? It is indeed a grave charge that is brought to view in the third chapter of Malachi, verse eight: "Ye have robbed me." Someone stands indicted before all the heavenly intelligences of withholding the means that would supply the bread of life to those who are starving for spiritual food. There are those who excuse themselves from paying tithe on the ground that after they have paid their debts they have nothing left. The trouble with such persons is they have overlooked the fact that their tithe is the most important of their debts and should be paid out of the first-fruits of their increase. If you, dear reader, should happen to be one of those who has been defrauding the Lord, begin now to bring your tithe into the storehouse and receive the promised blessing. If you are having financial difficulty you will find help by reading the first chapter of Haggai especially verses three to eleven. WM. WABELL.

Use The Mails

Christ began his work in A. D. 27. This was the beginning of the preaching of the gospel of the present dispensation, the gospel of Jesus Christ. The disciples continued it after Christ's death, and about A. D. 64, when the epistle to the Colossians is supposed to have been written, Paul was able to say, "The hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven." Col. 1:23.

How did these few people manage to make the gospel known to all the then known world? The world was not as big then as it is now, but it was big enough for a problem of that sort. The important thing is that they did it.

Once again there is a world to warn, much bigger in territory, but infinitely easier to reach, because of the wonderful facilities of the last days. So let us make more use of them.

Why not use the mails more? We have two of the finest possible papers for this purpose. There is *Signs* weekly in its new form, now so much

more within the reach of our people by reason of its lower price. Save a dollar, subscribe for a year, and send the paper away every week after you have read it. Watch for opportunities to save another paper to send out after another soul. Perhaps you can spare several dollars for this work. Write a letter full of Christ love to send with the papers, and pray for God's blessing on them. You will surely see results some day.

The other paper is the *Present Truth*. For twenty-five cents you can have this sent every two weeks for a year to any name and address in the North American Division territory. Why not use the mails, and send in a long list of names, writing a letter to each one yourself to introduce the paper. God's chief purpose in these wonderful mail facilities has been to enable his people to give this last message quickly. Let us be God's fellow-laborers in using facilities he provides to good effect.

EDITH M. GRAHAM.

Three Necessary Books

"There are three books which I think every Christian ought to possess.

"The first, of course is the Bible. I believe in getting a good Bible, with a good plain print.

"Then next I would advise you to get a Cruden's Concordance.

"Thirdly, a Topical Text Book. These books will help you to study the Word of God with profit. If you do not possess them, get them at once; every Christian ought to have them." — D. L. Moody in "Pleasure and Profit in Bible Study," pages 53, 54.

The above statement may be used by colporteurs for "Bible Readings" with profit. Cut it out and paste it in your prospectus to use when occasion offers itself.

C. J. TOLF.

Maritime Tithes and Offerings for December, 1916

Churches	Tithe	Miss.	Misc.	Total
Conference Church:				
Barrington	\$26 83	\$ 9 60		\$ 36 43
Yarmouth	8 56	3 30		11 86
Amherst	5 00	8 10		13 10
Scattered Mem.	76 54	108 80	\$ 50	185 84
Hopewell Cape N B	36 85	30 35	1 00	68 20
Halifax N S	45 03	46 17	3 24	93 44
Indian Harbor N S	4 62	24 54		29 16
Moncton N B	81 64	61 99		143 63
N Sydney N S	37 04	68 46		105 50
St John N B	76 88	48 65		125 53
Scotts Bay N S	5 00	55 06		60 06
Sydney Mines N S	33 35	25 15		58 50
Tantallon, N. S.	25 25	34 23		59 48
Tiverton, N. S.	16 30	30 40	3 50	49 20
Williamsdale N S	48 06	5 85		53 91
Total	\$526 95	\$545 65	\$6 34	\$1078 84

L. VANBUKIKK, Treas.