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Raise in School Expense

At the recent meeting of the Séminary Board it was revealed by the treasurer's report that the institution was running behind seriously each month on its boarding account. The drought of the past summer had ruined the potato crop so the supply of this vegetable had to be bought at high prices. Flour, sugar, beans and practically every other commodity has advanced so much in price that the financial welfare of the school was threatened unless something should be done to remedy the situation. The Board spent long hours in thoughtful study on the matter and after noting the following counsel from the Spirit of Prophecy in Vol. VI, p. 210-212, they decided to act in harmony with it:

"Debts must not be allowed to accumulate term after term. The very highest kind of education that could be given is to shun the incurring of debt as you would shun disease. When one year after another passes, and there is no sign of diminishing the debt, but it is rather increased, a halt should be called. Let managers say, 'We refuse to run the school any longer unless some sure system is devised.' It would be better, far better, to close the school until the managers learn the science of conducting it on a paying basis. For Christ's sake, as the chosen people of God, call yourselves to task, and inaugurate a sound financial system in our schools.

"Whenever it becomes necessary to raise the prices at any school, let the matter first be laid before the patrons of the institution, showing them that the fees have been placed at too low a figure, and that as a result, debts are accumulating upon the school, thus crippling and hindering its work. Properly increasing the tuitions may cause a decrease in the attendance, but a large attendance should not be so much a matter of rejoicing as freedom from debt.

"In some of our schools the price of tuition has been too low. This has in many ways been detri-

mental to the educational work. It has brought discouraging debt; it has thrown upon the management a continual suspicion of miscalculation, want of economy, and wrong planning; it has been very discouraging to the teachers; and it leads the people to demand correspondingly low prices in other schools. Whatever may have been the object in placing the tuition at less than a living rate, the fact that a school has been running behind heavily is sufficient reason for reconsidering the plans and arranging its charges so that in the future its showing may be different. The amount charged for tuition, board and residence should be sufficient to pay the salaries of the faculty, to supply the table with an abundance of healthful, nourishing food, to maintain the furnishing of the rooms, to keep the buildings in repair, and to meet other necessary running expenses. This is an important matter, and calls for no narrow calculation, but for a thorough investigation. The counsel of the Lord is needed. The school should have a sufficient income not only to pay the necessary running expenses, but to be able to furnish the students during the school term with some things essential for their work.

"Our brethren say the plea comes from ministers and parents that there are scores of young people in our ranks who need the advantages of our training-schools, who cannot attend unless tuitions are less. But those who plead for low tuitions should carefully weigh matters on all sides. If students cannot of themselves command sufficient means to pay the actual expense of good and faithful work in their education, is it not better that their parents, their friends, the churches to which they belong, or large-hearted, benevolent brethren in their conference, should assist them, than that a burden of debt should be brought upon the school? It would be far better to let the many patrons of the institution share the expense, than for the school to run in debt."

The Board then decided to lay the matter before

the students according to the counsel in Vol. VI, p. 208-209.

"Some have felt reluctant to let the students know of the financial embarrassment of the schools; but it will be far better for the students to see and understand our lack of means, for they will thus be able to help in the practice of economy."

According to the counsel in the Spirit of Prophecy already quoted the managers of a school are to keep close watch of the finances of our schools and as soon as they find them running behind either take immediate steps to remedy the situation or else close the school.

Inasmuch as a solemn promise has been made to those who contributed to the building of the Seminary that it should not be allowed to go into debt, the Board was forced to take action suitable to the carrying out of the promise.

The charge for board heretofore has been \$2.00 a week or 9½¢ a meal. It was evident that the leakage was at this point for board cannot possibly be furnished at such low figures. Board most anywhere now costs from \$4.50 to \$7.00 a week. It was voted to add to the price of each meal 1 1/5¢ from January 1. This would total \$1.00 a month for the remainder of the school year and would enable the institution to come out nearer even on its running expenses. The Board felt that no reasonable parent or guardian would resent this action in view of the situation that confronts the school at present. At least all would prefer this to the other alternative of closing the school. This additional charge of 1 1/5¢ to the price of each meal after January 1 will mean \$250.00 in all and will go far toward enabling the boarding department to keep above debt for the remainder of the year. We trust that the school may continue to enjoy the confidence and help of our people in its effort to train our young people for service.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

In Tune With God

"All stringed instruments quickly get out of tune. The action of the atmosphere, and the constant vibration in playing, relax the strings so that they need to be retuned very often, sometimes many times a day.

"Man is like a violin. He soon gets out of tune with God. The wear and tear of life, and the demoralizing atmosphere which sin creates, so effect his disposition that he needs to be brought into harmony with God every morning. It is not surprising, when we consider the subtlety of sin and the weakness of the flesh; rather it is 'strange that a harp of a thousand strings should keep in tune so long.'

"Nothing else will bring the believer into touch with God so soon as a little taste of the divine

Word. For devotional purposes the Psalms are perhaps the best, because they cover so wide a range of experience. Here we find aspiration and confession, joy and sorrow, adoration and praise. Here we behold the calm confidence which grows out of a sublime faith: 'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.' Again, we meet the bitter anguish which comes from ingratitude or unrequited love; or the ecstasy of sins forgiven, as in Psalm 32; or the passionate plea for mercy, in Psalm 51; or the shout of triumph, in Psalm 68. It is doubtful whether there is any experience in life for which we cannot find a duplicate in the Psalter, and, noting how the man after God's own heart behaved in similar emergencies, we are unconsciously led into the same feeling."

Could any words be more appropriate as an introduction to another admonition to procure the Morning Watch Calendar and form the Morning Watch habit? For your own soul's sake, and for other's sake, we again invite you. For the joy and comfort, for the strength and victory, and for the added power for service that will come to you we urge you to make haste.

"Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong.

Or others, that we are not always strong?"

True, the year has already begun. Wait till next year to begin? Wait? Does anyone dare say that? Another year without the joy of daily fellowship with Him? To some who read these lines, it's "now or never."

M. E. KERN.

Come and Join Us

By the time this paper comes into the hands of the readers the Seminary will have resumed class work in the new year. Our associations and work the past three months have been most pleasant and profitable, and we have richly enjoyed God's blessing. It rests entirely with us to make the remainder of the school year a time of greater blessing by consecrating our all to Christ and his service.

Scattered throughout this Union Conference are many young people whom God is calling to take up work for him. But as Moses needed a preparation in the wilderness of Midian; Paul a period of study in the Arabian desert; and Christ a time to get ready to take up his work, so must you secure a preparatory training before definitely launching into the work. However you are not to withhold your missionary efforts until fully qualified,—this is not God's plan. Greater works will follow the fulfilment of smaller duties. But the better the preparation the better can you carry on the work assigned to you. These young people in our Union I wish to urge to prepare for service.

Our first semester—the first half of the year—closes January 16. On the seventeenth we will open new classes and this will be an excellent time to come in and join us. Here you are under the influence of Christian teachers and associated with Christian students who will give you a warm welcome. Everything possible will be done for your advancement. We earnestly invite you to share these blessings with us.

If you have not a calendar, or if you have any questions concerning the school you desire to be answered, do not delay but write at once to the Principal,

F. A. SPANGLER
Box 308, Oshawa, Ont.

ONTARIO

Notice

A Workers' meeting will be held in Toronto, January 9 to 18 in St. Mary's Church, located near the corner of Bloor and Delaware streets, which has been rented for the evangelistic campaign to be conducted this winter by Elder McComas. We desire all conference laborers to plan to be present at the opening service Tuesday evening January 9, and to remain throughout the entire meeting. Rooms will be provided for all laborers and if satisfactory arrangements can be made meals will be served in the basement of the church.

We are doing our best to provide good help for this meeting. It is hoped that Elder K. C. Russell will be with us.

Upon arriving in the city take a Bloor car and come to the above mentioned church where you will be met by the reception committee and directed to your room.

Let both ministers and lay members pray for the success of this meeting. As laborers we all need more divine power and wisdom in our work of soul-saving. We need an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a baptism from above.

A. V. OLSON

Colporteurs' Institute

A colporteurs' institute will be held in the spring, probably sometime in March, in one of our centrally located churches. The object of this institute will be to give consecrated men and women, yes, and boys and girls a training that will fit and prepare them for active service in the Master's work. The distribution of our literature is missionary work of the highest order, and all who take part in it are helping to give the last warning message. The colporteur work is elevating and educational, and is a splendid experience in helping a person to meet people. It will build up your faith in God and add greatly to your spirituality.

There are tests and trials to come to this people in the future, and unless we have a practical experience with God many of us will yield and give up all. There is nothing you can do that will keep you nearer to God than to work for him. As you point others to present day conditions in the light of Bible prophecy, and cause them to search the Scriptures wherein is found eternal life, faith will be imparted to them, and they will find that peace that passes all understanding. Your faith will grow as you exercise it. This work will drive you to prayer and study.

Our books are just what the people need at this time. God has placed them in our hands to be used to His glory. The wonderful invention of printing is to be used in all the world in sounding the invitation to the supper of the Lamb. Many will be saved in the kingdom through the faithful efforts of the colporteur.

We plan to do big things this coming year. We want many recruits for the Lord's army. The fields are white and ready to harvest. The Lord needs laborers. We want you to start thinking and praying about this matter. Shape your plans to go into the highways and byways and give the invitation. Surely all things are ready but you, and this will give you time to get ready. The time has come for the message to go with a loud cry. The books have been prepared. The people are in an equipping frame of mind, and never did our books sell more readily.

Splendid Bible studies will be given and preaching services will be held each evening at the institute. We are promised good help from experienced workers.

The writer recently attended an institute at Buffalo where about thirty persons attended and took the necessary training to enable them to be successful in this line of work. One brother, his wife, son and daughter left the farm. Another brother was a railroad engineer. One left a good position in the post-office. Another was a man with a prosperous business. There were also a number of ladies. Some were stenographers and they with others gave up good positions. All came in with one desire to join their efforts with the ministry and help spread the message.

Surely there are those in this field whose hearts are stirred with present conditions and who will leave their positions. God wants men and women who are busy and who are making a success of the work they are now engaged in to enter his work. I shall be glad to correspond with you and help you plan to attend the institute in March.

JOSEPH CAPMAN.

98 Beechwood Ave. Hamilton.

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE
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ADVENTISTS

Office Address: Edna Leach
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Editor

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Notice

The time for the "Present Truth" January List to close is extended until February 1.

Send us all the orders you can for this special list. Order in the name of "Present Truth" without the words, "sets," "series," or "lists," attached in any way. Give number of copies wanted. Price 25 cents for each subscription. Canadian Publishing Association, Oshawa.

QUEBEC

Quebec Items

Brother McNeill, of Washington, D. C., has been spending a few days the past week with the workers in Montreal.

Some of our people in Quebec are sending in large orders for the Present Truth. The Review office is literally swamped with orders. Without doubt this is one of the most unique and inexpensive methods we have of bringing the truth before the people. Each issue is devoted to one theme, and is well illustrated. The publishers will pay all the expense of wrapping and mailing them from the office to as many addresses as we will send them. This special series will be sent out every two weeks beginning with the first of January, and continue for about six months, covering in the most attractive style every phase of the message. They will send them to twenty addresses for five dollars, or to four addresses for one dollar, or to one address for twenty-five cents. We should order them through the Canadian Publishing Association, Oshawa, Ontario.

Elder G. H. Skinner, president of the Maritime Conference, and Elder Barrett, superintendent of our work in Newfoundland, stopped in Montreal on their way to the Union meeting in Oshawa.

Remember our isolated brethren and sisters who do not have the privilege of meeting with others of like precious faith. They need our prayers. One sister in sending in her Harvest Ingathering money says: "I cannot get out much, but I want to be reckoned as one of God's workers, and hear him say 'She hath done what she could.'"

A sister in our conference who has been unable to leave her home, and is so crippled that she

can scarcely walk across the room, has gathered in nearly \$100.00 from the Harvest Ingathering this year.

F. C. WEBSTER

Greeting

Since leaving Windsor, December 12, we have been travelling almost continually through northern Indiana and are finally located at 124 Garfield Ave., Elkhart, Indiana, for the winter. We wish all our friends a very happy New Year.

MATT. J. AND MRS. ALLEN.

The January Gazette

With the January issue of the *Church Officers' Gazette* begins its fourth year of publication. This plan of a special paper for ministers, church elders, missionary secretaries, and Missionary Volunteer officers has proved to be a great blessing to our work. The paper has become an indispensable tool in the hands of these church workers for the successful accomplishment of their work.

Aside from the regular Missionary Volunteer programs, Junior and Senior, in the January number there are four articles which every Missionary Volunteer officer should read and study—"Senior Society Leaders," "Junior Society Leaders," "The 1917 Goal," "The Budget Plan."

Every church elder should not only take the *Gazette* himself, but should see to it that the Missionary Volunteer officers have it, for whatever pertains to the success of the young people also pertains to the success of the church.

Let subscriptions be sent in to the Canadian Publishing Association at once, so as to begin the new year with the new plans and programs for 1917.

M. E. KEEN.

Improved

You will hardly recognize the *Signs* magazine when you see the January number. From now on, its size and shape will be the same as the Harvest Ingathering special. This is the size that so many magazines have adopted and that has become so justly popular with the reading public. Here are some improvements that you will see: Larger, brighter, better illustrated pages; one size smaller, easily read type; improved, interest-getting headings; more carefully prepared articles, shorn of every non-essential. New life is being infused into the *Signs* magazine. You will say so when you see the January number.

A Morning Watch Calendar for every Seventh-day Adventist in the Eastern Canadian Union Conference.