## SUNDAY SCHOOL COLUMN.

### GRADING.

The Baptist Sunday school of Fredericton has been thoroughly graded without causing the least friction, and much to the satisfaction of all. In a letter recently received it was referred to as the "beauty spot" of the church. It is the testimony of all who have graded their schools that it raises the standard and leads to better attendance and better work in the classes. The work of grading is not so difficult as many imagine, and no school that has tried it would think of going back to the old hap-hazard method.

The most feasible way of beginning seems to be to take the age of the scholars for the basis and afterward to promote on examination. Any schools having graded their scholars will confer a favor by reporting the same to editor Sunday School Column, care Daily Sun, with any particulars that would be of general interest.

The field secretary returned last week from Plainfield, N. J., where he attended the field secretary's conference. On Friday he met members of the central committee at a meeting called for the purpose and made a very interesting report of the work done. Although we have much to learn, and many improvements can be made in our organized work, yet from comparison with others he feels that the work we are doing is on as good a basis as that of any other province or state.

From Marion Lawrence's notes in February Evangel:

Look up, lift up, but never give up. Be orderly if you would have order.

Make February a month of soul winning.

Don't pull away from your pastor, but pull with him.

Sing for worship and praise, and not to fill up time.

When the school is singing let nothing else be going on.

It is high time you were thinking about your Easter exercises.

Carry a mental photograph of your Sunday school before your eyes all the week.

When you have visitors in your school insist upon them giving you their kindly criticisms, and thank them for it.

The February lessons are most admirably adapted for pressing home the personal claims of Christ upon the scholars.

Once a month is not too often to have your officers and teachers together at your house to talk and pray over the interests of the school.

### TEACHERS' PRAYER MEETINGS.

It is a most excellent custom for teachers to come together either before or after the Sunday school session for a few minutes of prayer concerning the work of the day. We have seen splendid results come from this. The St. George's Episcopal Sunday school of Winnipeg has such a meeting after their session, and I can speak from personal testimony that it is most helpful.

The International Field Workers' Conference at Plainfield is over and we shall by next week be able to give some interesting features of the gathering.

The following paper was read by Mrs. D. A. Morrison at the meeting of the city S. S. association on the 13th ult.:

### LIVING FOR THE CHILDREN.

The Sunday school of the future, the outgrowth of the primary classes of today, will know what is the relation they bear to the primary classes of their time, but our Sunday schools of the present are only awakening to the fact that the primary classes—above all—should have their earnest care and oversight. The great need of the work today is for more primary teachers and assistants. These children's classes are lights "to be set on a hill" shining far down into the ages. Oh, if you have but a chance of tending and trimming such a light do not turn away and "hide it under a bushel." "Not fitted!" Are you not questioning His very wisdom, as He calls you to teach the little ones? "Not fitted!" while you hold Christ's promise of aid. "Lo, I am with you always." They are His little ones first of all.

You have not thought that this work touched you perhaps. You have been pleased to see the children interested in the Sunday school lessons and apparently growing in knowledge, but circumstances have removed the primary teacher, and you lamented, with others, that the children's class was falling off in attendance and interest, for no one could be found fitted to take her place. Why is this? While there may be one in a church pre-eminently suited to teach and guide the little ones, yet in every community there must be others having undeveloped talent for this work. Let each one feel this burden laid upon her to aid in some way the primary work in the Sunday school. Put yourself at the command of the superintendent, and when necessity compels the primary teacher to be absent, she will know that some one is ready and willing to supply her place. I hear some one say, "Oh, I could not teach a primary class; I don't understand child nature." Then go and study some child. Whoever has learned thoroughly to understand one child has gained solid ground on which to rest while he studies the world of children. And may it not be that you are magnifying the difficulties? When Israel of old sent spies to spy out the promised land and bring a report again to the congregation, some there were who returned saying, "The land is a good land, but the walls are high and the giants are tall," and the people listened to the faint-hearted ones, and lost hope themselves. But two of God's children stood out from among them and said, "The walls are not high and the giants are not tall. Let us go up and possess the land, for the Lord is with us." And you can echo and re-echo their triumphant words. Difficulties there are in the work of the primary teacher. Walls of self-consciousness to be broken down—giants of timidity and shrinking to be overcome, but an earnest, determined effort to work for the children and with them, will soon prove to you that the walls are not high and the giants are not tall.

This is all new and strange that children and the consideration of children's work should play such an important part in our deliberations. And yet almost nineteen centuries ago the Saviour paused in the midst of a deep and solemn discussion when He saw the children coming, and waving the older ones aside, said, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, of such is my kingdom." God's interest in children is shown by the fact that throughout the Bible they are spoken of as His direct gift. When God sent His son to be not wisdom only but salvation to a sinning world, He sent Him as a child. In that beautiful vision of time when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord," it is not the strong nor the mighty man who shall control this embodied strength and might, but a "little child shall lead them." While it is true of future generations that a "little child shall lead them," is it not our God-given privilege and duty now to lead the little child? Twenty years hence will not the children of today fill many of our places? God help us to appreciate the responsibilities and privilege that are ours as parents and Christian workers in church and school. Can we comprehend the vast and far-reaching blessing to be gained by us and to be bestowed upon humanity if we will but live for our children! If we as Canadians will live for our children this dominion of ours will be the purest land beneath the skies. Each law that goes upon the statute books will have for its end the safety and happiness of the young. Every ballot cast will mean pure men in office. Some one has said, "The world's manhood is secure when you have gained its childhood." A nation is safe just in so far as it lives for its children.

We hope and pray for the day when the whole church shall be living for the children, when the older members, the parents and teachers, shall be full of zeal for the primary classes, the mission band, and all departments of young people's work, when, in a word, we shall have the co-operation of the home.

It will not do simply to pray for our children. We must work. And we must pray for ourselves that our lives may be pure and right in their sight. Their little hearts very early receive impressions, and how careful we should be to make these impressions the right ones.

Living for the children! We are all doing that either in one way or the other. We must take the world as we find it; we should not leave it so. May we leave it in better hands than ours. May we leave it to the control of a generation of consecrated young men and women—a world living in the light of the Saviour's love—a world all of whose children are fit for the kingdom.

## WOODSTOCK.

### Meeting of Farmers Addressed by Hon. C. H. Labillois,

### Col. McCrea of Guelph, Ontario, J. Simeon Armstrong, C. E., of St. John, and Others.

WOODSTOCK, Jan. 31.—A large and representative meeting assembled in the Town hall to listen to Hon. Mr. Labillois and his associates discuss the question of agricultural advancement. Jas. Good of Jacksonville presided, and on the platform were, beside the minister of agriculture, Col. McCrea, Messrs. Hopkins and Armstrong and the local members, Dibblee, Smith and McCain. Mr. Labillois was the first speaker. He argued that a discussion of cheese making had led to an increase in the output of the province from sixty tons ten years ago to between 500 and 600 tons. He put in a word for wheat raising, and said that the city of St. John would soon become a great market for pork and poultry raised in the province. Men were now in England studying the market with a view of placing New Brunswick products there. The government had adopted a strong agricultural policy. He urged upon the farmers of Carleton the advisability of devoting themselves more to butter making. He quoted the case of the Sussex butter factory, where over 40,000 pounds were turned out last year, its patrons getting 16 1-2 cents and having their skim milk returned. If Carleton county decided to establish such a factory, a bonus would be given to the promoters. He spoke of the apathy of farmers in their associations, and said that it was a notorious fact that it was hard to get enough farmers at an annual meeting to form a quorum. It was also a fact that agricultural papers were not in the farm houses as they should be. He made a strong appeal to every farmer to subscribe for the Co-Operative Farmer. They were not asking support as liberals or conservatives, but on the ground that it was the proper policy for the farmers of the province.

Col. McCrea of Guelph, Ont., spoke on Tuberculosis and Farm Life. Tuberculosis in cattle was the same as consumption in the human family. While consumption generally attacked the lungs in the human family, only about 40 per cent. of tuberculosis was on the lungs of the lower animals. Among wild animals in the wild it was almost unknown in wild animals confined it was very fatal. It was true that at the present time the disease was decreasing. In spite of that in Ontario they have it in every county. More danger to the human family resulted from milk than from meat, danger from the latter being practically nil. Boiling milk would do away with the danger and kill the germ.

John Harper—By what outward signs may this disease be known?

Col. McCrea—There is none that I know of.

To another question the speaker said that freezing would not kill the germs.

On the farm life question he spoke favorably of farm life. He advised farmers to go slow and not be too hasty in adopting new ideas. The drudgery should be lessened on the farm. Farmers lacked system and planning, and they did too much with their hands and too little with their heads.

J. S. Armstrong, C. E., spoke on Good Roads, and was given a cordial reception. The government while interested in this good roads question would probably move slowly unless the farmers impressed upon them the urgency of the question and the need of improvements.

Other speakers followed, and it was nearly 11 o'clock when the meeting broke up.

## THE CHINESE TROUBLE.

LONDON, Feb. 1.—Sir Richard Webster, the attorney general, speaking at Ventnor, Isle of Wight, this evening, on the Chinese trouble, said that the United States was supporting England's policy with surprising unanimity. He declared that if Great Britain were compelled to fight for this cause and should lose, the British people would have a "quick and glorious death instead of the slow starvation which the loss of trade would mean to the nation."

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## RACE FOR AN EMPIRE.

### England Leads All the Field in the African Handicap.

### Cecil Rhodes and Delamere Forging North and West—Rapid Railway and Commercial Conquest of the Dark Continent.

(N. Y. Mail and Express.)

The reported arrival of Lord Delamere's private expedition at Fashoda, on the Upper Nile, is the most important piece of news of the year in regard to the struggle now going on for the mastery of the Dark Continent. Upon the events of the next twenty-four months seems to depend the political future of Africa. In the amicable partition of the territory of that continent, which took place but a few years ago, only six powers in reality participated—Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain. At that time vast tracts of unexplored land were left outside of dividing lines. Some of it was conveniently termed Hinterland, a very appropriate German wold, meaning the territory just beyond; but a larger amount was left for apparently the first power to appropriate who could invade its boundaries.

The whirling of time has already made many changes in the original plans of European statesmen. The Abyssinians, instead of proving docile as they should have done, turned out to be warriors as fierce as the old hordes of Mohammed. They utterly vanquished the nominal owner of their territory, Italy, and the latter country, with commendable wisdom, relinquished all claim to the great kingdom which was once allotted to them.

Portugal, whose claims were once ignored by the great powers in the delimitation, has suffered still further losses both in the east and the west. In the east Cecil Rhodes advanced the limits of the great province known as Rhodesia, or Zambesi, to beyond the thirty-first degree of east longitude, while Great Britain, by taking Tongaland and a part of Swaziland, has carried her territory to within a few miles of Delagoa Bay, and is now believed to have some understanding with the Lisbon foreign office in regard to the remainder of the former Portuguese possessions.

On the northern side, Mr. Rhodes, with rare statesmanship, carried his province southward along the Shire River until it reached a point where ocean steamers of medium draught could ascend from the sea. In this way he established water communication with Lake Nyassa independent of Portuguese authority. Germany has seemingly remained content with her two kindgoms on the east and west of the African continent, while poor Spain has a small strip of land on the western edge of the Sahara and one or two points on the coast of Morocco. As if to make up for the lethargy of the four European powers mentioned, England and France have been straining every nerve to increase their already enormous possessions.

### ALL RIVALS DISTANCED.

The struggle is phenomenal. It is more imposing than the conflict between Portugal and Spain for the New World in the sixteenth century. France has relied upon her troops, ships, emissaries, agents and gold. England has used all these, but has added to them two modern forces of great efficiency, commerce and colonies. Not that France has ignored these agencies of progress and peaceful conquest. She has established posts along the Niger and Senegal, has built and is building railways in Algeria, has surveyed the route for a great railway starting at Algiers, running eastward to Constantine, thence southward to Biskra-Wargla, thence across the Sahara to Tintellust and thence southeast to Konka, the capital of the Kingdom of Bornu, on the shore of Lake Tchad, which is connected by a short caravan route with a navigable branch of the Niger. But of this great railway little or nothing has been done save on paper. At the present rate of progress it will be finished about the year 2000.

England, far more practical, is pushing her railways untiringly. The Nile railway, starting at Alexandria, is following the English armies as rapidly as it is possible to supply the materials. A second railway, from Suakim, on the Red Sea, is building southwestward to Berber, at the junction of the Nile and Atbara. A third railway is building from the Zanzibar coast westward to the shores of Victoria Nyanza, where there are already British settlements and British forts. The surveys of all three roads are practically complete, and a rough survey has been made from Khartoum, following the Nile and the White Nile to Wadelai, in Emin Pasha's province, which is no great distance from the Victoria Nyanza.

On the south, thanks to that extraordinary genius, Cecil Rhodes, the Cape Colony railway system is going northward more than a mile a day. Its progress may be estimated from the fact that in 1896 the terminus was at Tati, in Kharma's country, while last August it had moved on to Bulawayo, the Matebele capital, nearly one hundred and fifty miles beyond, and at the present time has moved northward another hundred miles.

### RUSHING THE RAILWAYS.

This in itself would be a wonderful achievement, but it is merely a part of the great system which Rhodes and his colleagues are bringing into being. The Natal railway now connects with this road at one point, soon to be increased at two, and, more important still, another road, starting at Vetra, on the African coast, is building toward Fort Salisbury, 370 miles to the northwest, and about the same distance to the northeast of Bulawayo. This road had reached Mtala, in Matebeleland, in November and is expected to reach the fort, 180 miles away, before the year is done.

This carries the railway system of South Africa up to the Zambesi River. Already the surveys have been started from the Zambesi to the South of Lake Tanganyika, and from the northern end of that lake to the southern end of Victoria Nyanza. The British occupation along these lines is very thorough. It may be pronounced scientific. Instead of compelling the natives to work at the point of the bayonet, they hire them at what may be termed first class wages to labor on the roads, and at the present moment they probably have 20,000 stalwart blacks in their employ. They have stations and forts at regular intervals. They open travel and traffic upon the road as fast as these progress, so that English civilization and influence, authority and ownership are moving steadily to the north through some very dark districts in that part of the world. What is more important, they take the ablest and most intelligent of the negro tribes, teach them military and police duties, give them a uniform, and soon they have about the best guardians of the peace a savage land can possess. These, in turn, act as soldiers when necessary, and have already proved invaluable in preserving order, in preventing what might have been insurrection and in establishing a wholesome respect, if not a love, for the British ensign.

### VAST COLONIAL SCOPE.

How many posts Mr. Rhodes has established in northern Zambesi is not known, but that he has posts there appears from the reports of recent travellers and the political agents of other countries. On the shores of Lake Tangamyika are Ujiji, where Stanley found Livingstone, and other native cities. In each of these the British flag is flying, and on the lake are five steam launches or small steamboats sent out from England.

It is evident from this that the colonial empire will soon extend from Cape Town northward to Emin Pasha's province, which is north of the equator, a distance of thirty-eight degrees of latitude, of 2,280 miles, as the crow flies. In the north their rule reachts from Alexandria to nearly Khartoum, a distance of about sixteen degrees, or a thousand miles. The territory, which up to the arrival of Lord Delamere was in dispute, lies between Wadelai in Emin Pasha's province on the south and Khartum on the north. This district is absolutely necessary to the British programme, but for the past year and a half France has seemingly bent its energies to obtain this district absolutely to herself or as a diplomatic vantage ground against England in other questions. They have sent expeditions from the French Congo country up the Congo, the Aruwimi and the Welle rivers, but seemingly with but poor success. The one about which we know the most is the expedition commanded by Capt. Marchand, which has been reported on several occasions to be defeated and annihilated by savage tribes.

### ON TO FASHODA.

It is not even certain where this body of daring soldiers went after it parted direct communication with civilized life. One report put it in the Aruwimi wilderness, another in the deadly country of the Niam-Niams, and a third on one of the branches of the Nile. Had it reached Fashoda, which is midway in the disputed territory, and there made an alliance with the Mahdi's troops, it would have been a very serious stumbling block to British progress and British plans. The arrival of Lord Delamere puts an end to such possibility. He is at the head of 200 well-armed men, and if he travels in the fashion in vogue, he must have with him 1,000 porters, a force large enough to defeat Marchand's or any other expedition.

But there is no necessity for any such engagement. If Lord Delamere takes possession of the place as an English representative and raises the British flag, it confirms both the former Egyptian and the present British title to that district. Fashoda is easily reached from Khartum, and it is probable by this time that native messengers are carrying orders of the British foreign office from Berber along the east side of the Nile to Fashoda.

It is also possible that one of the light draught steel gunboats which are accompanying the British forces up the Nile has managed to get over the sixth cataract and is progressing southward to meet the intrepid explorer.

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## THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

### The Meeting in the Town Hall, Woodstock, Monday Evening.

### Speeches by Hon. C. H. Labillois, Col. McCrae, J. S. Armstrong and Others.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., Jan. 31.—The agricultural meeting in the Town hall this evening was a great success. There were present: Rev. Mr. Neales, Mayor Hay, T. Allan Dibblee, M. P. P., C. L. Smith, M. P. P., Henry McCain, M. P. P., C. P. Bull, Robert Brown, Stephen Peabody, John Harper, Councillor Henderson, J. A. Rodgers, Jas. Wilbur, Frank Myles, Hugh Hay, Frank Slipp, E. S. Slipp, B. Vale, Robt. Philipps, John Lindsay, Robt. Hemphill, John Oldham, F. B. Bull, Gray Waterville and Stevenson, Judson Briggs, Sam Watts, U. S. Consul Denison, Col. Dibblee and many others.

James Good, vice-president of the Farmers and Dairymen's Association, was called to the chair.

Hon. C. H. Labillois, commissioner of agriculture, was the first speaker. He spoke of the pleasure it gave him to visit such a lively, flourishing town as he knew Woodstock, the shire town of Carleton county, to be. He recounted the steps that had been taken after he accepted office to arrange for this series of meetings. He had to look into the best methods for advancing agriculture, and studying the question, he found that in Europe the most advanced countries were those that had organized such meetings as these. Scotland and Denmark had specially taken the lead in such matters and they now stood in the very front rank of agricultural countries. He found that shipbuilding was gone. Fishing was not what it formerly was and lumbering had declined. Now we have to look to agriculture. Having decided to hold such meetings, the dominion government were asked to furnish speakers who were able to address such meetings, and Hon. S. A. Fisher had sent Col. McCrae, who was with us tonight, and also speakers from the Nappan farm, and we have here tonight Mr. Hopkins to speak on Dairying. We have also Mr. Milbery from your own county, and he had been of great assistance also. W. W. Hubbard of the Co-operative Farmer was a valuable man to the staff and had done great work. He asked all to join in helping this agricultural policy quite apart from any political consideration. Let all join in striving to advance all New Brunswick along the lines of better agriculture. This will enable our province to keep at home the young men and young women, and not only to keep those who are still here, but also to bring back some of those who have gone to the United States. Grow more wheat, more pork, more poultry, and have enough of all those not only to supply our own province but to have at least some of the latter for export trade. Fruit is another line, and he hoped to have an expert on fruit from the Nappan farm to help show our farmers how to grow better fruit and have better orchards. He advocated co-operation in dairy matters, the establishment of butter factories. The government were giving a bonus for the establishment of such factories. He spoke of the apathy that had been shown by the farmers in supporting agricultural societies and the necessity for agricultural literature, and urged that good agricultural papers should be read aloud in every farm home in the land and thus give the young people who are being brought up on our farms, to be better farmers than their fathers and thus better fitted to fight the battles of the future; be able to build up this province and make it one of the finest spots in the Dominion of Canada. (Cheers.)

Col. D. McCrae gave a talk on Tuberculosis, detailing the best methods of combating the disease by attending to better light in our stables and better and purer air. He also spoke on farm life, giving a few anecdotes which were much appreciated, to emphasize the points as he went on. He said we should: (1) Lessen the drudgery on the farm; (2) improve the products by growing only the best; (3) beautify the home.

J. S. Armstrong, C. E., Rothesay, N. B., spoke on Our Roads and Road-Making. He explained the origin and purpose of the New Brunswick Good Roads Association, and the proposal to hold a representative good roads meeting in Fredericton about the middle of next month, at which it was proposed to discuss all matters pertinent to road work. We had not succeeded in making good roads generally, and the object was to find out the reason and the remedy.

All were urged to think over the matter—to talk about it, and in every way to try for better roads. After the railway, engineers think that a macadamized road is the only good road, for on the level you can haul three times as much over it with the same team as you can on a dry earth road. The macadam road will be considered too expensive in many cases, but it is the only proper road for our smaller towns, villages and richer districts, and would certainly pay.

New Jersey took the lead in highway improvement laws on this continent, and their plan has been largely copied with variations. The part of their law referred to provides that when a proportion of the inhabitants in the neighborhood of and to be benefitted by, the improvement of a certain road, petition for said improvement a survey and estimate is made and submitted; then if a considerable majority petition for the work to proceed, and the yearly expenditure has not been exceeded, the state orders contracts to be made, pays the bills and charges itself, the county and the benefitted district, each with a certain portion of the cost.

Said Mr. Armstrong: The chief object of my talk is to impress you with the need of good roads. In England and on the continent of Europe, they have the best of stone roads. They did away with statute labor many years ago, and have since gradually obtained these fine roads. In many cases we may not be able to follow these examples for some years to come.

In most cases we continue to build roads with whatever dirt comes handiest. We throw in turf, rotten dung and loam, and expect them to last. We mix clay and gravel and think we are improving them. We take little pains to avoid hills, and don't half drain the roadbed.

Mr. Armstrong read an extract showing how a large city had grown up and what would be the losses in the value of a certain building and its site if the different improvements were done away with.

He then showed the losses the farmer was incurring through bad roads—time, hauling several loads instead of one, distress of body and team, wear and tear of wagons and harness, by missing markets, high prices when travel was bad, a glut afterwards. The loss in the United States, through bad roads has been computed at about $600,000,000, nearly five per cent on the value of all farm property and equal to nearly two-thirds of the revenue of all the governments—national, state and local.

In road making we must have good location; proper, well-drained foundation; proper form; as hard, smooth surface as possible, with continued care to keep it in order.

The effect of hills in decreasing the load was described, and under drainage, wherever the frost would heave the road was strongly dwelt upon.

A narrow stone or gravel track combined with an earth one, side by side, was recommended for country districts.

Finally, all were urged to see that good work was done while at statute labor; there must be no picnic, no lying under trees.

Both road machines and road rollers, properly managed, are necessary to good, rapid work.

Mr. Hopkins was the next speaker, and he gave a most interesting talk on butter and cheese making, and showed how necessary it was to adopt the latest and most scientific methods. This can best be done by co-operative creameries, which make a good uniform article.

The meeting closed at 11 o'clock, the whole audience singing the National Anthem.

During the afternoon a well attended meeting was held at Debec.


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