

Sunday Schools Add Million and Half Members in Three Years

DELEGATES GIVE DRAISE FOR SIGN OF GOSPEL FRUIT

Growth in Ranks Every Day of Year Averages Almost 1,500 Children

Total Enrollment, as Shown by Report, Now Reaches More Than 15,000,000

There was cause for gratification among the workers present as delegates yesterday at the session of the International Sunday school convention.

Churchmen had expressed their grief over the admitted fact that the church is, numerically at least, losing ground. The Sunday school workers, forming an important section of the church organization, have no cause for dismay. Marion Lawrence, general secretary of the International Sunday school association, reported yesterday morning that during the three years since the last triennial convention of the association there has been a gain in Sunday school enrollment of 1,507,178, that the total enrollment was now 16,617,350. For every day in the year 1,576 members join the Sunday schools. Of the total number of Sunday schools in the world, 14,946,564 are pupils, a gain of 1,412,098; and 1,670,846 are officers and teachers, a gain of 16,172 in that department.

PRESIDENT ELECT ILL

It was a matter of deep regret that the president elect, who is in San Francisco, could not be present at the meeting yesterday morning to receive the greeting of the delegates when they unanimously adopted the report of the nominating committee and placed him in the high office. He was confined to his room in his hotel by an illness, with which he was stricken Wednesday night. The president of the association, J. S. Stiles of Louisville, Ky., has not been able to come to San Francisco, and his report was not presented yesterday.

William N. Hartshorn has been the chairman of the triennial sessions of the association for the last three years and has devoted himself most closely to the work of the association. His report was read yesterday morning by his secretary, George W. Penniman.

Three sessions were held yesterday at the Coliseum. The morning meeting was devoted to a triennial session of the work of the association since the last convention, which met in Louisville, Ky., in 1908. The afternoon session was given to a discussion and consideration of three important departments of the work—the home department, the home visitation department and the question of religious education in the home. The afternoon session was held in the First Congregational church.

BIBLE TRICENTENARY HONORED

Last evening at the Coliseum the tricentenary of the first printed version of the Bible, was celebrated by the religious workers, whose chief book is the Bible which in the year 1611 was prepared in its present form for use in the Protestant churches during the direction of King James.

This volume, which contains what is best in English diction and what is richest in the treasures of literature, was honored last evening as it has never been publicly honored before in this city. Its great and benign influence on the people was eloquently extolled.

PRAYERS FOR MADRID

Sein stated that he had in his possession a letter from the acting provincial president of the republic of Mexico. Sein said that he wrote to the president of the republic, asking him to assume the responsibilities of the provincial government, saying that he spoke for the Sunday schools of Mexico, and that the Sunday schools of Mexico were praying for the people of Madrid. Sein said that he would give his power and courage to help them to do his will in Mexico.

SONG ENGINEER RULES

Professor Excell does not count himself with merely giving the song and leading the singing in his deep, strong voice, which shows the vigorous treatment he has given it. His throat is main traveled road of song, well defined, rugged, but always clear and true. He is a virtuoso on playing on the spirit of his congregation.

DOMINATES CONVENTION

Professor Excell is really the dominant figure of the convention. Whatever good may come out of the addresses made and theories expounded, the real religious fervor is stirred by Professor Excell, a tall, large man, with wide, plastic hands, a high head and an iron gray mustache. He favors the gospel hymns of the modified camping meeting school, a type of music higher in class than that which the Salvation Army musicians blast in their energetic Christianity on the street corner, but probably not so "fine" as are sung in the more "modern" metropolitan churches. Whatever its class as music, it reaches the rafter and thrills the singers from Canada, from the south, from the north, from New England, from the northwest from every part of the North American continent.

MESSAGE FROM HARTSHORN

"When I left Mr. Hartshorn this morning," said Penniman, "he said to me: 'I want you to give to this convention my Christian love and my prayer that I can not be with it today, that I can not look them in the face and give them my message.'"

MUST STEP TOGETHER

The International Sunday school association is strong and helpful only so long as it has the intelligent, loyal, enthusiastic confidence and co-operation of the denominations. It can not exist as a separate entity, apart from its relations to the various denominations.

THROUGH THEIR ORGANIZATION

Through their organization, which is very fraternal, the international association can maintain by conference and council, desirable relations with the denominations. Some of the misad-

WILLIAM HAMILTON TORONTO ONT.

REV. MERLE N. SMITH DURHAM COLO.

REV. GEORGE W. PENNIMAN CHICAGO

REV. MARION LAWRENCE CHICAGO

REV. J. S. STILES LOUISVILLE KY.

REV. W. N. HARTSHORN BOSTON

REV. J. S. STILES LOUISVILLE KY.

standings of the past may be corrected, and mistakes of policy may be avoided in the future.

An intelligently planned conference, where all difficulties can be considered, becomes a royal highway, along which all the Sunday school agencies of the world may pass safely and keep step together.

The report of the secretary of the International association, Marion Lawrence, was also presented in book form. In this report were contained interesting figures of the growth of the Sunday schools on the American continent during the last three years.

HOME DEPARTMENT WORK

The morning session closed with an address by Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman on "Soul Winning and Christian Service." Rev. N. W. Pendleton, pastor of the Covenant Baptist church of this city, delivered the prayer and benediction.

The afternoon was devoted to a discussion of the work of the home department, the home visitation department and religious education in the home. William Hamilton of Toronto, Canada, chairman of the visitation committee, presided.

The first speaker was W. A. Duncan of Syracuse, N. Y., founder of the movement and chairman of the home department.

Duncan stated that the home department was first made a part of the International association in 1881 at the convention in Toronto, when 10 departments and 100 members were enrolled in the work. At the Denver convention an enrollment of 250,000 was reported, and at the Louisville convention in 1908, 15,900 departments and 551,000 members were reported. Now, the speaker said, there were more than 1,000,000 members enrolled in the work.

He said it was not necessary to sign any pledge to belong to the home department. Duncan argued against changing the name of the department.

REACHING THE PEOPLE

Home visitation is a new department of the International Sunday school association, and the superintendent is J. Shreve Durham, introduced by the presiding officer as "the youngest member of the organized workers and in charge of the youngest department."

The Home visitation department was established at the Louisville convention three years ago and this was, Durham announced, the first report.

The object of it is announced in the slogan, "You can never teach the people until you reach the people." This Durham showed to have been done in a remarkable degree.

Within the last three years 14,200,000 people have been visited approximately under this department, the increase being as follows:

First year, 1,200,000 people; second year, 3,200,000; third year, 9,700,000.

The work has extended rapidly, and now 34 states and provinces have established visitation departments with superintendents to direct the movements.

October 5, in Chicago, 1,500,000 persons were visited in Chicago and the suburbs, and those who were unable to complete the work did so on the following day. Between 12,000 and 15,000 were worked.

BISHOP GIVES ADDRESS

Rev. Matt S. Hughes, D. D., Pasadena, pastor of the First Methodist church, was on the program for yesterday afternoon, but he did not appear. The next speaker, J. Shreve Durham, Chicago, introduced by the presiding officer as "the youngest member of the organized workers and in charge of the youngest department."

He said that he was not necessary to sign any pledge to belong to the home department. Duncan argued against changing the name of the department.

"Soul Winning and Christian Service" was the subject of an eloquent appeal made by Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman. In part, he said: "The sanctity of the home seems to be a thing of the past. The Sunday school may be perfect, but if the home is not right, the situation is all wrong. There used to be a family altar in other days. But it is not there now. Now is the exception to find one in a home. When the altar is down, the home loses its power. The family of new times is the family of the past. When I was a boy I went to church with my father and the mightiest impressions which were made upon my life were made in the old family pew."

If we are to be soul winners, our hearts should begin not in public, but in our own homes. The whole purpose of Christ is to win to him the heart nearest to the public, but in our own homes. The whole purpose of Christ is to win to him the heart nearest to the public, but in our own homes. The whole purpose of Christ is to win to him the heart nearest to the public, but in our own homes.

BROUGHT MANY TO CHURCH

The movement has proved of value not merely among the people visited but it has brought more closely into work many members of the churches who had never before taken an active part.

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BUILD UP FAMILY ALTARS

Now the tendency is also, Bishop Hughes declared, to leave too much of the religious instructions of children to the Sunday school. This would be a great disaster, he said, and no movement of the present is more hopeful in nature than that of placing the responsibility on the home.

"No better influence can come out of this Sunday school convention," he said, "than the building up of family altars, torn down by the rush of modern conditions."

He then made an eloquent plea that the family altars be re-erected and that they be heard in the homes at least once daily.

OUTSIDERS ARE REACHED

In speaking of "The By Products of Home Visitation," Hnugo Cook of Chicago, assistant general secretary, said in part: "Multitudes of workers, who heretofore have been doing little or nothing to forward church activity, find themselves and gladly enlist in active work like reading from the Hartshorn report."

Local church forces getting read for the visitation are so banded together that they are left the way of a snow organized for future work to be directed by the pastor.

"Finding a refuge for each local church, the movement thus outlines the parish for those churches which are ordinarily what is considered a parish. For after all, the parish of a church is really the homes which prefer that church."

There is no method of completely organizing a county as that of having a co-operative house visitation without talking of organizing the county for a visitation as regards districts and officers is mean there can be turned undoubtedly into the association channel.

Andrew Stevenson, general secretary

of the Chicago laymen's evangelistic council, told still further of the Chicago home visitation, touched upon by J. Shreve Durham in his address.

Stevenson explained that if any one thought Chicago was thoroughly evangelized by this and other movements, they were mistaken, there are a few left despite the great number of home visitation workers and the fact that Chicago has a record number of members of adult bible classes.

He then explained the origin among business men of this great visitation day and when the question arose as to whom it was to be entrusted to, the International Sunday school association was chosen at once. "These business men were captains of industry, he declared, and whatever may be said of business men in other cities, he can vouch for the fact that the captains of industry of Chicago are men of high ideals and consecrated lives."

There must be new emphasis on the manliness of Christianity. Christianity is not a girlish affair, though much that we see of it is. The Christianity of Christ is manhood and seeks the high life of the high hills. The Son of Man was the manliest man that ever walked this earth.

The evening session in the Coliseum was given over to addresses on the subject of the Bible, under the heading, "Tricentenary of the King James Version."

One of the largest gatherings of the convention arose at the word of Prof. E. O. Excell, leader of the song service, to join in the opening hymn. Rev. T. A. Boyer, pastor of the First Christian church of Oakland, offered prayer before the first speaker, Rev. William Rader of Calvary Presbyterian church of San Francisco, was introduced.

Doctor Rader had been substituted on the program in place of Rev. Charles F. Aked, who is ill. He took the subject assigned Rev. Mr. Aked, "Three Hundred Years of the English Bible," and in a masterly fashion described the changes that have been wrought in the English speaking peoples within that time. The bible as a civilizing force Doctor Rader declared to be the most powerful of all.

PRAYER FOR ROYAL PAIR

Before the next speaker was introduced, Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman was called upon to make a prayer. After asking a blessing upon the meeting, Rev. Chapman prayed that heaven would guide the hands of the new king and queen of England, adding them to bring about international peace.

Prof. H. H. Bell of Nashville, Tenn., chairman of the international committee on education, delivered one of the best addresses heard before the convention on the subject of the bible and the common people. Professor Hamilton was a soldier with Lee and had carried his militant spirit through the years of his church activity. He struck right at the heart of hypocrisy, declaring he liked most of all the simple stories in the bible the common people. Professor Hamilton said:

There are times when the condescending attitude of those who hold influence and power is a disgrace to the name of Christ. For myself, I had rather the miner would lay his grimy hand on my bible than hear all the praise and eulogies a corrupt congressman or corrupt judge could frame about it.

"CURL DARLINGS" TABOOED

The English bible has been the great educator we have ever known. The bible is not losing its strength. When it can draft from the common people within the space of a century man like Abraham, Lincoln, Stonewall Jackson and William Jennings Bryan we may know that its power is going on and the prince of the people will come into his own.

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BIBLE BEST SELLING BOOK

As the closing address last night Rev. Robert F. Coyle, D. D., Denver, Colo., pastor of the Central Presbyterian church, spoke on "Men and Nations as Affected by the Teaching of the Bible." He said that no book had ever been so bitterly assailed as the bible, ridiculed and fought against by every means. Yet today, he said, it is the best selling book. In 1910 more than 29,000,000 copies were sold—more than 50,000 every day. It was, he said,

the most persistent of books because it was the most alive; that it can no more die than can God.

"This is," he continued, "the most wonderful year of its history. The attention of the world is directed to it just now in an unprecedented way. Preachers are discussing it. Statesmen are delivering addresses about it. Learned articles from eleven papers concerning the book are leading down the pages of the leading magazines."

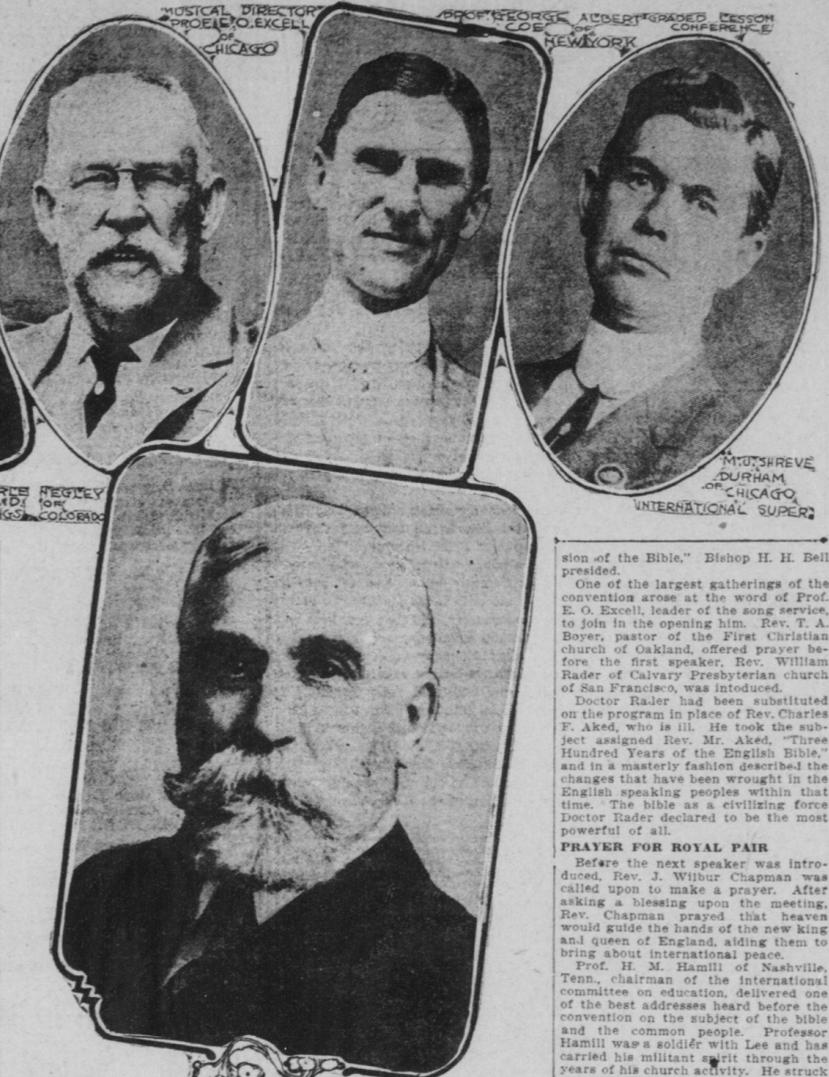
All the good of the nations of the world comes from the bible, he said, and if the map of the world is taken, it may be seen that those countries where all beastliness, cruelty, vice and wrong prevail are those untouched by the bible.

PREDICTS SALOON'S FALL
"If long, upward steps," the speaker said, "are taking place in our own day, it is owing to the effect of the bible. And when at last the saloon falls, as fall it will, and child labor vanishes, and industrial injustice flees away, and politics becomes an agent for human uplifting and ceases to be a hunting ground for office-seekers—just men, fair minded men, discriminating men capable of linking effects to causes will say: 'The bible absorbed and obeyed brought these changes.'"

In closing he made a strong protest against the exclusion of the bible from the public schools, and an equally strong plea that it be placed there in the near future.

The following additional nominations were made last night:
First vice president, Rev. H. H. Bell, San Francisco; second vice president, E. H. Nichols, Chicago; third vice president, A. B. McNeill, Providence; fourth vice president, George W. Barton, Philadelphia; fifth vice president, Rev. George W. Watts, Durham, N. C.; sixth vice president, Charles D. Maser, Toronto; seventh vice president, Fritz Salomo, recording secretary, D. Mass.; treasurer, Augustus A. McCaffery, Pennsylvania; recording secretary, A. Wells, Chicago; assistant, William Peterson, Chicago; secretary, W. F. French, Milford, N. H.; Rev. Alexander Henry, Philadelphia; George W. Watts, Durham, N. C.; Rev. William Prael, Evansville, Ind.; H. I. Rank, Louisville, Ky.; Rev. J. H. McHenry, C. K. Betts, Seattle; Henry Martin, Oakland; Rev. Victor Mendez.

Many conventions assemble at the



Speakers and delegates prominent in convention work.

WILLIAM N. HARTSHORN, OF BOSTON, PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

REV. MERLE N. SMITH, DURHAM, COLO., PASTOR OF THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF COLORADO SPRINGS.

REV. GEORGE W. PENNIMAN, CHICAGO, SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

REV. MARION LAWRENCE, CHICAGO, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

REV. J. S. STILES, LOUISVILLE, KY., PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION AT THE LAST TRIENNIAL CONVENTION.

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