

57TH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Oct-1909

Methodist Sunday School, Golden Square.

IN connection with our Anniversary Celebrations we have pleasure in submitting the report of work done during the past twelve months.

We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for the mercies of the past year and can testify that God's blessing has been with us all through the term.

Although the Chapman-Alexander Mission has been a blessing to many, yet our school did not derive much direct blessing, but the hearts of our Teachers and Officers have been gladdened by seeing their scholars deciding for the Christian life, and giving practical evidence of such decision by offering their services for work in the Sunday School.

The general efficiency of the School has been well maintained and we still hold the coveted position of "Premier" amongst the Union Schools of the Bendigo District in the Senior Division, thus securing the Library Prize for 1909.

As in last year we would again impress upon the parents and guardians the necessity of getting their children away promptly to time for School Sessions, as the number coming late is a very weak spot in our School system.

Mr. R. Nicholson is still in charge at Diamond Hill School, assisted by Messrs. A. Tredinnick and J. Francis.

Mr. J. M. Roberts is "holding the fort" at Golden Gully, assisted by Mrs. Rodda and Miss L. Saunders.

The hand of death has been heavy on us during the year under review and our hearts have been saddened by the blanks left in our ranks, by those who have left us, after many years' service, but who, we are assured, are with their Redeemer in the Father's home.

Willie Romer, age 17, in Miss James' class, met his death by drowning on January 18th, 1909, thus cutting a young life short, with every prospect of usefulness for years to come.

Early in February Mr. John Hawken passed away, age 63, a Teacher of 23 years standing, a good man, true as steel, outspoken and well read in all matters pertaining to the Christian faith.

On February 19th, our School Artist, Mr. A. Beeson, passed away, 85 years of age, a great friend to the School for many years, and by actual work and cash one of our greatest benefactors. No monument is required for him in Golden Square Church or School, as evidences of his life and work are seen on every hand.

Mr. Wm. James Hosking, aged 70 years, has also gone on before after many years service. A Teacher for over 40 years, he was one of our best valued helpers, having occupied the position of Superintendent for some time and an enthusiast in musical matters. He was of a kindly and genial disposition and well beloved by all.

The late Mr. David Lanyon, one of the Trustees of the School and formerly a Teacher, was a generous supporter of the School, and we sincerely regret his decease.

These brethren have all made their mark, they have done their duty nobly and their work lives and will live for ever, and undoubtedly they have left their "footprints on the sands of time."

Then on May 27th, Mr. W. H. Johns, a member of the Senior Class, passed away at the age of 48 years. Born in the district and living here all his life, he was a well known figure and ever ready with his help and assistance in any good work. One of his last kindnesses was the erection of our anniversary platform without any charge to School.

All these friends have only passed on before a little earlier to their reward, and we are following on.

We tender our heartfelt sympathy to the relatives of those referred to and pray that God will comfort and sustain them.

Presentation Teachers' Bibles were made to the families of the late Wm. James Hoskings and John Hawken in memory of splendid services rendered by them as workers in the School.

Our Pianists and Organists have given every satisfaction, and we here record our thanks to the Misses Francis, M. John, E. Jack, M. Akehurst, Cadwallader, and Messrs. Uren, Lees and Washington.

The teaching staff now stands at 40.

29	teaching	Afternoon only.
8	"	Morning
3	"	Morning and "Afternoon.

We commenced our School year with 38 teachers, during the year we have received eight new ones, viz :— Misses B. James, R. Mitchell, N. Armstrong, L. Saunders, A. Mamouney, and Messrs. A. Bradbury, Wm Griffin and J. Mamouney.

During the same term the following have left—Mrs. Geo. Richards, neé Miss Mitchell; and Mrs. Akehurst, transferred to the occasional list, Messrs. W. James Hosking (deceased), H. Cadwallader, R. Nankervis, and J. Francis. The latter teacher is assisting Mr. Nicholson at Diamond Hill.

To all these retiring teachers we return our thanks for past services and trust to again have them in active work.

The attendance of our Teachers and Officers has been as usual very good, and, with few exceptions, our staff are regular and punctual.

The average afternoon attendance for the year is 29.5 out of a possible 32, or a shade over 92 per cent. which I think is as near perfection as we are likely to get, and a slight improvement on last year.

The attendances of morning teachers has also been first-class, and almost on a par with those for the afternoon session, viz. : 90 per cent. for the last quarter.

If we could only get the scholars to copy the example of their teachers we would have a record of which any School could be proud.

The number of scholars on our roll at present is 465, we started the year with 430, thus showing a nett increase of 35 scholars.

The total attendances in the afternoons for the year has been 14,658, or an average of 299 per Sunday, being very nearly 68 per cent, wich is not nearly good enough, although it shows a slight improvement on last year's percentage.

The morning school has been well attended, the average for the year being 80 as against 58 for last year.

The record attendance for the year was registered on November 8th, when 379 scholars were present, and the lowest on April 18th when only 171 were present. The large attendance was probably accounted for, by the fact that it was the Sunday prior to the Picnic, and the poor attendance by the very wet weather.

The monthly prayer meetings have been kept up, also a ten minutes meeting after every afternoon session.

The International Bible Reading Association numbers 120 members in the School branch.

The Christian Endeavour Societies are working away with a member's roll of 33 active and 20 honorary in the Senior Society and 80 in the Junior.

The usual collections have been taken up for Home and Foreign Missions, and special for Hospital Sunday, British and Foreign Bible Society, Austin Hospital, Italian Disaster Fund.

Special Addresses have been given during the year by Revs. Worrall, Bradbury, Holden, and Messrs. Rees, Pethard, J. M. Roberts, R. Harkness and E Thomas.

Three Young People's Services have been held during the year, the one conducted by Hon. W. H. Edgar being specially memorable, as after the evening service five of our young men publicly decided to live the Christian life.

On May 23rd, Empire Day, a Patriotic Service was held in the School. Rev. Vivian Bradbury gave the address and a musical programme was rendered.

In June last our young people interested themselves very heartily in assisting the Trustees to carry out a Fair for the purpose of reducing the Trust Debt. This was carried out very successfully, resulting in a cheque for over £70 being handed to Church Treasurer.

Since our last report we have had to incur an expense of £18 for the extra seating accommodation required. The addition of twenty new forms with reversible backs has been a great convenience.

Our Scholars have done well in the V. and T. and Local Union Examinations, having secured good prizes and positions.

A word of praise is due Mr. H. Beers who has conducted the training class for some considerable time, and to whom in a great measure the success of the scholars at the examinations is due.

One Teacher, Miss Akehurst, has secured the highest position the local competitors at the Normal College Examinations, also first prizes in Teachers' Essay and Teachers' Examination.

During the year successful entertainments have been got up by the young ladies of Miss Henderson's and Miss Noble's classes to raise funds for the furnishing of their class rooms, which when completed will be quite up-to-date, and will no doubt assist in keeping up the attendance and in attracting scholars to the School.

Our School buildings are in good condition; the principal want being a new fence around High Street and portion of Laurel Street.

The Annual Picnic was held at Ravenswood on King's Birthday, 1908, and passed off successfully.

The Children's Cot is still maintained in Livingstone Home, and many a poor little waif has had the benefit of its use.

At our Annual Teachers' Meeting, held September 27th, the following officers were appointed for the next twelve months:—Superintendents, Messrs. R. Saunders and F. B. Brimacombe; Secretaries, Messrs. J. H. Crump and J. Hawkey; Treasurer, Mr. W. Akehurst; Librarians, Messrs. T. Armstrong and E. Bruns; Mission Secretary, Mr. E. Buley; Auditors, Messrs. J. M. Roberts and E. H. Williams; Secretary, I.B.R.A., Miss May Saunders; Representatives S.S. Union, Messrs. Brimacombe and Cadwallader; Organists and Pianists, Misses Francis, M. Johns, E. Jack, M. Akehurst, and Cadwallader, Messrs. Uren and Washington; Monitors, Messrs. H. Cadwallader, M. Mamouny and Geo. Saunders.

The Librarians report that an increased interest is being taken in the library. We have 1100 books on the shelves, with an average issue of 67. Fifty new books have been added during the year, and the Library is now in splendid working order.

In conclusion we tender our sincere thanks to all retiring Officers and Teachers, and to all who have assisted the School in any way during the past year.

J. R. BRADBURY, MINISTER.

R. SAUNDERS,
F. B. BRIMACOMBE, } SUPERINTENDENTS.

JAS. H. CRUMP,
JOHN HAWKEY, } SECRETARIES.

W. AKEHURST, TREASURER.

Golden Square,

September 30th, 1909.

BALANCE SHEET

— OF THE —

Methodist Sunday School, Golden Square,

FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30th, 1909.

INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance brought forward	... .. 0 16 11	Anniversary	... .. £18 16 9
ANNIVERSARY—		Picnic	... .. 51 4 3
Collections, Sunday	... 21 15 9	School Requisites	... .. 18 10 6
" Public Meeting	... 1 15 11	Home and Foreign Mission Boxes (less expenses)	... .. 11 14 4
Biograph	... 7 2 11	Special Collections and Subscriptions	... 11 18 6
	30 14 7	Library	... .. 6 16 0
Donations	... .. 18 19 9	Printing and Advertising	... .. 3 16 6
Picnic	... .. 45 1 4	Tuning	... .. 2 0 0
COLLECTING BOXES—		Bank Charges and Sundries	... .. 3 7 6
School	... .. 13 9 2	PROPERTY—	
Missions	... .. 12 3 4	Caretaker	... .. 22 12 0
	25 12 6	Interest on Loan	... .. 6 0 0
Special Collections	... .. 9 8 0	Gas	... .. 6 1 8
Book Sales, etc.	... .. 4 17 11	Rates and Insurance	... .. 7 1 10
Nett Proceeds Young Peoples' Social, etc.	... 3 4 0	Repairs, etc.	... .. 12 17 4
PROPERTY—		Refunds	... .. 1 0 0
Transferred from Renovation Fund	... .. 6 4 7	New Reversible Forms	... .. 18 0 0
Rents	... .. 37 8 2		73 12 10
Donation from June Fair, etc.	... 2 8 0		
	46 0 9		
Dr. Balance	... .. 17 1 5		
	£201 17 2		£201 17 2

LIABILITIES.

Loan, School Building at 4 per cent. ... £150 0 0

Examined and found correct,

1st October, 1909.

J. M. ROBERTS,
E. H. J. WILLIAMS, A.F.I.A. } AUDITORS.