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MAKING THE COUNTRY SUNDAY SCHOOL A SUCCESS

IV.—The Observance of Special Days —These Increase Interest and Offer an Opportunity for Each Class of Pupils to Participate

CHRIStIANS recognize the supreme importance of attracting the children to the Sunday school and so bringing them directly under an influence to which, perhaps



MR. WRIGHT

more than to any other one human instrumentality, the church of the future must owe its existence. "The Sunday school is the nursery of the church," is an old but none the less true saying. Statisticians tell us, if I mistake not, that at least 90 per cent of all the accessions to the churches of this country come from the ranks of the Sunday school. If this statement be true, and it has not been questioned, how very important it is to make the Sunday school services so attractive that the children may be pleasantly entertained as well as instructed.

Among the many ways of keeping up the interest of the children in the work is the observance of special days in the school. Among those which I shall mention here as being worthy of observance is: first, "Anniversary Day." Much may be done through remembering anniversaries to encourage class and school loyalty. Helps have been prepared by the Sunday school publishing houses which make the work of preparing for these occasions simple and insures large results.

Another special day is known as "Anti-cigarette Day." This day is now officially recognized by the International Sunday School Association, and the time for its celebration for each year well advertised in advance. Buttons have been prepared by some of the Sunday school supply houses to be worn by the boys on these occasions. In some respects the wearing of this button is more satisfactory than simply signing the pledge. The wearer shows his colors, while the pledge is not seen by others.

Special Days for the Young Folks

ANOTHER special days is "Boys' Day." The introduction of this feature in the schools has proved quite a decided success, arousing interest, increasing attendance and adding to the membership. On "Boys' Day" the boys and young men have charge of the general exercises, and each feature introduced is on the masculine order. It is customary on these occasions to send announcements and invitations to old friends and absentees to be present. Badges are given to those who, on the previous Sunday, will promise to work for the success of the occasion, will help in securing visitors and in rounding up absentees, etc., etc.

"Girls' Day" is another occasion which quite a number of schools of late are celebrating. On these days the girls and young ladies have charge of the work and each feature introduced is such as they usually delight in. The "Girls' Day" colors are blue and white. Booklets containing suggested exercises for these and for "Boys' Day" together with appropriate decorations may be obtained for almost a song.

Perhaps one of the most important of these special days is "Children's Day." This is observed on the second Sunday in June of each year, and is, in all probability, the most generally observed of all the special days named. On these occasions the star feature is the exercises by the children and younger members of the Sunday school and the collection which is usually taken at the close of the program is forwarded to the mission boards of the denomination for the

purpose of purchasing Bibles to give to those who are unable to buy them.

Another special day which is observed in nearly all of the schools is Easter. This day is ordinarily observed with appropriate exercises consisting of recitations, declamations, readings and songs pertaining to this holy festival.

Another special observance in the average Sunday school is "Missionary Day." This, unlike the others which have been mentioned, is observed each quarter in the year. It is customary for a committee to have general charge of this work and to see that it is always conducted in the interest of missions, the pastor being expected to be present and make a talk. The funds obtained are sent to the mission boards of the denomination participating.

The last Sunday in September is usually chosen as "Rally Day." This is the time for a grand round-up after the summer vacation. This occasion, if properly managed by the superintendent and teachers, can be made a gala day for the Sunday school. I want to urge its observance in places where it has never been tried, as I feel that much good may be accomplished by the proper observance of this special day.

Other special days commonly observed in the Sunday school are as follows:

Red Letter Day.—All special occasions of the Sunday school may be called Red Letter Days. It is common however to provide an occasional day when some speaker or singer or other attraction is secured and to advertise this as Red Letter Day.

Temperance Day.—This, like Missionary Day, is observed once each quarter in the year.

Valentine Day and Washington's Birthday are celebrated in a great many schools on the Sunday nearest February 14 and February 22, respectively.

Some schools celebrate Thanksgiving Day usually on Sunday following the last Thursday in November. Frequently the day is celebrated by an evening entertainment.

Tag Day.—The success of this day in the interest of various enterprises has led a number of Sunday schools to take it up as a means of encouraging visitors, etc.

Home Department Day, Visitors' Day, Promotion Day, Cradle Roll Day and Decision Day are observed by many Sunday schools, the latter frequently once each quarter.

On Mothers' Day the school pays tribute to mothers, and the members of the Mothers' Department endeavor to impress the school with the importance of the mothers' work.

Flag Day (or Patriotic Day) is usually celebrated on Sunday following the 14th day of June (National Flag Day). Frequently a patriotic evening entertainment is given during the week of flag day.

Another, and the last special day I shall mention, is Christmas. No school should think of closing the work of the year without a Christmas tree and appropriate exercises.

My next letter in this series of articles on the country Sunday school will deal with organized classes in the school. C. C. W.

Six Suggestions for Handling Dynamite

MY EXPERIENCE with dynamite leads me to suggest the following rules:

1. Take care of the caps. They are simply concentrated danger.
2. Read all that the manufacturers say about "safety first." They give full instructions about handling, about frozen dynamite, etc. After reading, remember to handle the caps as if they were asleep and you didn't want to wake them. You don't!
3. Use only fresh dynamite. Try to do your work in early fall before freezing weather, and when the ground is usually dry.
4. Plan the work so that you will

use all your explosive so that none will be kept on hand.

5. Use rubber or leather gloves, (rubber preferred) in handling the sticks. Avoid wiping the face with the hands or with a handkerchief that has been used in wiping the hands. Avoid inhaling fumes of the fresh-opened dynamite or the fumes after an explosion. "Dynamite headache" is a dreadful thing, and is made worse by the common headache "dopes."

6. Never break land with dynamite unless it is dry. If the subsoil is even plastic it will pack off toward the sides of a blow hole, or "pot hole", instead of cracking and crumbling as it should do to permit deep moisture to rise and rainfall to sink in.

Don't think dynamite offers a cheap scheme for working. Ground broken by explosions will cost more than the deepest plow subsoiling. But it is a fact that ground subsoiled under right conditions with dynamite will stay broken a long time. Trees planted in dynamited holes will thrive and grow better than in dug holes, if the soil is clay or hardpan, and if blown when the subsoil is not wet—but it costs more money. It costs more to blow than to dig stumps—but blowing tears and loosens the ground, and does the work quickly. Figure it out. I have blown out a growing liveoak tree 28 inches in diameter that stood in a three-acre "patch" I needed for nursery work, beginning at 9 a. m. and having my hands planting pecan seed where the tree stood at 4 p. m. of the same day. It cost \$2.60, broke the ground well, killed all the roots and left no unsightly stump. I could have cut the tree and lopped off the limbs and dragged it away for a trifling cost.

Figure it out. Experiment conservatively. Do not act until you have full and competent instructions—and follow instructions closely. Use fuse at first rather than the battery. Make notes of all work and compare with old methods for results.

And don't be "scared". Dynamite is not nearly so dangerous as a mule—or a box of matches. All three must be used right.

W. W. CARROLL,
Watkinsville, Ga.

HARD ON CHILDREN

When Teacher Has Coffee Habit

"Best is best, and best will ever live." When a person feels this way about Postum they are glad to give testimony for the benefit of others.

A school teacher down in Miss. says: "I had been a coffee drinker since my childhood, and the last few years it had injured me seriously.

"One cup of coffee taken at breakfast would cause me to become so nervous that I could scarcely go through with the day's duties, and this nervousness was often accompanied by deep depression of spirits and heart palpitation.

"I am a teacher by profession, and when under the influence of coffee had to struggle against crossness when in the school room.

"When talking this over with my physician, he suggested that I try Postum, so I purchased a package and made it carefully according to directions; found it excellent of flavour, and nourishing.

"In a short time I noticed very gratifying effects. My nervousness disappeared, I was not irritated by my pupils, life seemed full of sunshine, and my heart troubled me no longer. "I attribute my change in health and spirits to Postum alone."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Postum comes in two forms: **Postum Cereal**—the original form—must be well boiled. 15c and 25c packages. **Instant Postum**—a soluble powder—dissolves quickly in a cup of hot water, and, with cream and sugar, makes a delicious beverage instantly. 30c and 50c tins.

Both kinds are equally delicious and cost about the same per cup. "There's a Reason" for Postum. —sold by Grocers.